Dear Families,

UMBC’s historic win over the University of Virginia during the 2018 NCAA Men’s Basketball March Madness tournament shook up the world and illustrated how the “unimaginable” can be accomplished with hard work, commitment, and a strong belief in the possibilities. We are extremely proud of our Retrievers for their outstanding performance!

Our athletic victory also cast a bright shining light on the long history of academic success at UMBC. In fact, in this same year, UMBC student Naomi Mburu was one of 32 students in the country named a Rhodes Scholar, a prestigious international award for students to study at the University of Oxford.

We know that this level of success, both inside and outside the classroom, is not by happenstance. It takes the support, nurturing and guidance of an entire community, including the support of family members. At UMBC, we believe that students benefit tremendously from the help and support of their families, not only to get to UMBC but also to be successful while they are here.

We have created a guide we hope you will find helpful as you and your student join the UMBC community. It contains information about services at UMBC as well as some helpful hints about making the transition to college. Along with the information we have shared with your student, we hope this guide helps to make joining UMBC a positive experience for both you and your student.

Finally, as I’m sure you know, it takes much more than just information to make a successful college experience. We know that engagement is critical to student success. We invite you to become an active part of our community by joining our Family Connection. For more information about Family Connection and opportunities for families to get involved, visit familyconnection.umbc.edu or contact Fritzie Charnè-Merriwether, Office for the Vice President of Student Affairs, at 410-455-2395 or families@umbc.edu.

Welcome to UMBC!

Sincerely,

Yvette Mozie-Ross, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Planning
410-455-3799
mozie@umbc.edu
## Table of Contents

**Month by Month at UMBC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June/July</td>
<td>16 January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>18 February</td>
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<td>November</td>
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**25 Welcome to the UMBC Family: A Resource Guide from A to Z**

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<td>410-455-2729</td>
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<td>410-455-2292</td>
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<td>ocss.umbc.edu</td>
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<td>Parent Programs and Services</td>
<td>410-455-2393</td>
<td>studentaffairs.umbc.edu/parents-families</td>
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**29 Academic Terms**
Welcome to UMBC and our Orientation programs!
June and July are months for planning for your student’s smooth introduction to campus and college life. UMBC students find that learning at an honors university takes place in many different settings. In addition to Orientation, we offer a variety of Dawg Days options and opportunities to support students as they begin their first year on campus is an academic and personal success. To learn more about these opportunities, please visit fye.umbc.edu.

The New Student Book Experience (NSBE) connects new students with faculty and staff members during Welcome Week through small group discussions, and is required for all new freshmen and transfers. The experience is a first exposure to the caliber of discussion that is prevalent in many courses, providing intellectually stimulating interaction that welcomes new students to the UMBC community.

Our 2018 - 2019 NSBE selection is Kindred by Octavia Butler. NSBE discussions will take place during Welcome Week. Encourage your student throughout the summer to get a good start academically by being prepared for this lively and engaging discussion. We hope you are as excited to become a part of this UMBC community as we are to welcome you!

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Important Dates
• June 11 – 12 Honors College and Scholars Program Orientation & Overnight
• June 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28 Freshman Orientation
• June 14 Transfer Orientation
• July 2, 16 Freshman Orientation
• July 9, 11, 12, 18, 19 Transfer Orientation
**TIP:** UMBC allows students the ability to share grades, class schedule information, and billing and financial information with others via myUMBC. To access information shared with you via Profile Sharing, you must have a Google or Facebook account. This feature allows the sharing of information such as grades with family members, and class schedules with study group members. To learn about profile sharing, please visit umbc.edu/go/profilesharing.

## Important Dates

- **August 1**  First Fall Bill Available Online
- **August 1, 20, 24**  Transfer Orientation
- **August 20**  Transfer Orientation
- **August 25 - September 2**  Welcome Week
- **August 27**  New Student Book Experience Discussions
- **August 28**  Convocation
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### August 2018

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**Welcome Week and Arriving on Campus**

We know everything your student needs to know couldn’t be covered in one day, so Welcome Week is designed as a follow up to Orientation. Over the course of the week, your student will have the opportunity to learn more about campus and what life as a UMBC student will be like. Whether your student is coming to UMBC from across the country or right down the road, encourage them to attend events and be open to opportunities and experiences as a new student and throughout their time at UMBC. To learn about Welcome Week, please visit welcomeweek.umbc.edu.

**Resources for Living on Campus**

Students can check their housing assignment through myUMBC, available the first week in August. Please remind your student to get in touch with their new roommate and memorize their new address. Residential Life is the best resource for living on campus. Check reslife.umbc.edu for the most up-to-date information on what to bring/not to bring, move-in times, and residential community regulations.

**Resources for Commuters**

UMBC is a vibrant campus for residents and commuters alike. Off Campus Student Services (OCSS) offers programs, academic and social support, and educational opportunities to help off-campus students successfully navigate UMBC. For more information about OCSS and the First Year Commuter Retreat, designed to help commuter students take part in Welcome Week, please visit ocss.umbc.edu.

**Tips:**

- Students can check their housing assignment through myUMBC.
- Residential Life is the best resource for living on campus.
- OCSS offers programs for commuters.

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**Resources for Living on Campus**

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**Welcome Week**

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Coping with Homesickness
According to the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment, more than 25 percent of students have felt homesick. Experts offer a few tips to help parents cope with their student’s emotions during what, for many, is the first time away from home.

Don’t ask if your student is homesick. Keeping busy with adjusting to new surroundings, making new friends, and managing their time often keeps thoughts of homesickness away. Asking them if they’re homesick often introduces a thought they have not considered.

Be prepared for emotional phone calls home. Students will often turn to family first when they experience difficulties. Try not to view this as a problem to be fixed, but as a chance for your student to vent.

Trust your student. Your students will face many tough decisions on their own, maybe for the first time. Knowing that you fully trust and support them will help your student be confident in their ability to make the right decision.

Expect change. Your student will face many new challenges, and will learn things about themselves that they may want to change or keep the same. Remember that at their core, they are the same person they were when they went away for school.

Source - universityparent.com

TIP: Involvement Fest is your student’s first opportunity to learn about the nearly 300 student organizations. Learn more at campuslife.umbc.edu.
TIP: Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trips are student-run, volunteer service trips designed to challenge students and address civic and social concerns such as homelessness, health care, animal welfare, and the environment. If you think this would be a better fit for your student than a trip to the shore, encourage them to attend an information session in the fall, as applications for ASB are due in November.

### Important Dates
- **October 1, 2019 - 2020 FAFSA Available**
- **October 3 - 13 Homecoming**
- **October 24 Spring 2019 Schedule of Classes Published Online**
- **October 31 Advanced Registration Begins for Spring 2019**

#### October 2018

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* TIP: Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trips are student-run, volunteer service trips designed to challenge students and address civic and social concerns such as homelessness, health care, animal welfare, and the environment. If you think this would be a better fit for your student than a trip to the shore, encourage them to attend an information session in the fall, as applications for ASB are due in November.

**Homecoming**

Do you have Retriever Fever? Join your student and make plans to visit campus October 3 – 13. Homecoming is an exciting event for students, families, and alumni to catch a big wave of UMBC school spirit.

By October your student will start to feel connected to campus and want to share some of their new experiences with you. Students love to show off their new room, friends, organizations, and college life to loved ones. A visit to campus for Homecoming is a great way to show you support your student!

Homecoming highlights in the past have included top-notch comedy shows, a packed soccer stadium, pep-rallies, a 5K Dawg Chase, a community picnic, and lots of activities for families and children. For a complete listing of events check [homecoming.umbc.edu](http://homecoming.umbc.edu).
**Academic Resources**

Now that your student has settled into campus life, they will start to experience the reality of a challenging academic environment. Get to know some of our campus academic resources and suggest that your student make use of them. The Retriever Learning Center (RLC) is UMBC’s best place for lively group study, scholarly discussion, collaboration, and academic coaching. It provides a socially connected space for learning in the Albin O. Kuhn Library. The Learning Resources Center (LRC) is UMBC’s comprehensive academic support program. The LRC collaborates with faculty, administrators, students, and staff to offer programs that maximize academic success by offering tutoring, success courses, and study skill materials. Talk with your student to make sure they are acclimating to their work load, in touch with their professors and peers, and utilizing campus academic resources.

### Important Dates

- November 7: Internship Success Conference
- November 13: Last Day to Withdraw from Individual Courses with a Grade of “W”
- November 22 - 25: Thanksgiving Break

**TIP:** Now is an especially good time to check in on your student’s academic progress and success. Ask about favorite study spots on campus, peer study groups they meet with, and favorite professors. Remind them to meet with their advisor, which is required for spring semester registration. If they missed taking an FYE class in the fall, encourage them to consider taking one in the spring.

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Preparing for the End of the Semester

Although UMBC students typically excel in high school, they now find themselves in a period of adjustment and transition. They are being challenged in new ways emotionally and academically. December will include your student’s final exams, end of semester projects, and final presentations, so this time is often met with increased stress and apprehension.

To ensure a positive experience during this time, UMBC is committed to providing diverse and dedicated resources and events that help students cope with the end-of-the-semester stress and workload. The Learning Resources Center offers walk-in and appointment tutoring, and supplemental instruction for traditionally challenging courses. The Retriever Learning Center is open 24/7 for collaborative study. Every exam season, The Commons becomes the Stress Free Zone—a way to ease the anxiety of final exam week. With free snacks, music, games, and giveaways, the Stress Free Zone provides an opportunity to blow off a little steam, hang out with friends, and commiserate about final exams, papers, and projects.

TIP: Students who complete at least 15 credits per semester or, on average, 30 credits per year remain on track to complete their degrees in four years. Visit advising.umbc.edu/finish15 to learn more about the many strategies and the many benefits for completing the degree in four years, including tremendous cost savings.
TIP: Winter break is a chance for your student to rest, think about their first semester at UMBC, and get excited for 2019! What opportunities would they like to explore during second semester that perhaps they didn’t know about or find time for during the first? Have they attended a UMBC Athletics event? Would they like to try a club sport? Join a service or social action group? There is a group or club at UMBC for nearly every interest or passion, and joining a student organization will deepen your student’s connection with campus. Visit campuslife.umbc.edu for a growing list of student organizations.

Planning for Next Year: Housing, Scholarships, and Financial Aid

Although your student may not be on campus until the end of January, now is a good time to start thinking about next year. There are a couple of important dates in the next few weeks that you don’t want to miss!

- The 2019-2020 Free Application for Federal Student Aid became available October 1st. Apply online by February 14th to meet UMBC’s preferred deadline: fafsa.ed.gov
- Scholarship Retriever is an online database to help students identify additional scholarship opportunities. These scholarships are sponsored by UMBC departments and organizations as well as sources outside the university. Retriever is updated regularly so search often! financialaid.umbc.edu/scholarships/retriever
- Current students who want to live on campus during the 2019–2020 academic year should get ready to apply for housing. Check out reslife.umbc.edu for housing selection, rates and important deadlines.

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Important Dates
- January 3 Winter Session Classes Begin
- January 21 Martin Luther King Day, Campus Closed
- January 25 Last Day of Winter Session
- January 27 Residence Halls Open
- January 28 - February 3 Winter Welcome Week
- January 28 Spring Classes Begin

JANUARY 2019

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*Last Day to Enroll in Spring Payment Plan 3-Pay

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### TIP:
UMBC is committed to building a student body with a global outlook and the cross-cultural skills necessary to excel in today's world. If your student is interested in Study Abroad they should attend a Study Abroad 101 session held every Monday and Thursday. Check [studyabroad.umbc.edu](http://studyabroad.umbc.edu) for information.

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**Financial Smarts 101**

The transition to college comes with tremendous decision-making responsibility, including making important financial choices. UMBC’s online Financial Smarts CashCourse teaches students critical money management skills such as:

- Establishing S.M.A.R.T. Money Goals
- Developing effective budgeting strategies
- Understanding the Rule of 72 (investments)
- Discerning good credit from bad credit
- Negotiating salaries
- Planning for retirement... just to name a few.

Visit [financialsmarts.umbc.edu/cash-course](http://financialsmarts.umbc.edu/cash-course) for more information on the online Financial Smarts CashCourse and how your student could win a $500, $300 or $100 UMBC Bookstore voucher!

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**Important Dates**

- February 8: Last Day to Add/Drop a Course Without a Grade of “W”
- February 14: UMBC’s Preferred Deadline for Current Student’s 2019-2020 FAFSA
- February 15: Spring Career and Internship Fair
**TIP:** The summer months provide countless opportunities for UMBC students. Taking summer courses is a great way for your student to get ahead, boost their GPA, or focus on a difficult course. Learn more at [summer.umbc.edu](http://summer.umbc.edu). Students can also get an edge through summer research and internship opportunities.

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### Keeping on Track
UMBC seeks to support students in their studies and campus lives by encouraging success and retention through a variety of initiatives. Besides staying up-to-date on their academic requirements through regular communication with their advisor, UMBC suggests your student participate in the Faculty Mentor Program. This program is based on research that students who have contact with faculty outside of the classroom are more likely to graduate and generally are more satisfied with college. The Freshman Year Intervention Program connects students that are identified as struggling with the appropriate campus and academic support programs.

UMBC Extra Credit ([my.umbc.edu/groups/credit](http://my.umbc.edu/groups/credit)) provides tips, checklists, ideas, and links to information that will keep students on track for graduation. Extra Credit communications encourage students to take full advantage of all that UMBC has to offer and be ready to move into a meaningful career after graduation. This is probably what you want, too!

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### MARCH 2019

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**Important Dates**
- March 16–24 **Spring Break**
- March 26 **Residence Halls Reopen 12 p.m.**
- March 29 **Spring Break**
- March 31 **Fall 2019 Schedule of Classes Published Online**

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**Ash Wednesday**

**Daylight Savings Begins**

**Fall 2019 Schedule of Classes Published Online**

**Residence Halls Close 8 p.m.**

**Residence Halls Reopen 12 p.m.**

**Reverse Career Fair**

**Spring Break**

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**St. Patrick’s Day**

**Spring Break**

**Spring Break**

**Spring Break**

**Spring Break**
TIP: After all the hard work and studying, your student will be ready to unwind at Quadmania! This weekend-long event is a time-honored tradition where students cut loose on campus to celebrate the semester. Quadmania is one of the many events where your student will be forming lifelong bonds with their fellow Retrievers.

Career Center Events at UMBC
April brings warmer weather and big excitement to UMBC! Held annually on campus, Career Month offers an opportunity for current students to explore their professional options and get connected with employers through presentations, workshops, and one-on-one mentoring. In today’s economic climate it is important for students of all class rankings (even your new student) to understand graduation preparedness through internships, professional connections, and career development training.

The Career Center offers parents tips on how to effectively support your student through career development timelines, campus career-related support services, and resources available to job searching students. For more information, please visit careers.umbc.edu.

### Important Dates
- April 1 - 30 Career Month
- April 8 Last Day to Drop a Class with a Grade of “W”
- April 25 - 28 Quadmania
- April 24 Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day

### APRIL 2019

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**TIP:** Get Outside! Although May is full of exams, final projects, and other events, there is no better way to relieve stress than a deep breath of FRESH AIR! Remind your student that UMBC is adjacent to Patapsco State Park walking and bike trails. The waters of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor or the cherry blossoms of the D.C. Mall are only a short ride away.

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**Our UMBC**

Graduation may seem like a lifetime away to a first-year student. But it’s not! Your student is already preparing for graduation (and what comes after) through their course work, research, internships, and professional relationships. Graduation will be here before you know it, so you’d better start practicing this song:

Hail alma mater! OUR UMBC,
Boldly bearing your colors, the whole world to see,
Striving together in true unity,
Black, gold forever we’re reminded of thee,
Proudly we hail to thee, OUR UMBC!

Throughout the ages, OUR UMBC,
Songs and memories still echo with true clarity,
Knowledge and wisdom and truth we found here,
Friendships we treasure that will last through the years,
Proudly we hail to thee, OUR UMBC!

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**Important Dates**

- May 14 - Last Day of Spring Classes
- May 15 - Study Day
- May 16 - 22 - Final Exams
- May 22 - Residence Halls Close
- May 23 - Spring Commencement

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Welcome to the UMBC Family: A Resource Guide from A to Z

Academic Advising
The Office for Academic and PreProfessional Advising provides assistance in a wide variety of topics pertaining to academic life—such as course registration, choosing a major and identifying academic resources. Students will work with an advisor in this office or their major department beginning with course selection during Orientation and throughout each succeeding semester to ensure academic and degree progress. For more information about Advising services, please visit advising.umbc.edu.

Academic Integrity
Integrity is at the core of the UMBC experience. The Undergraduate Student Academic Conduct Policy defines and strives to ensure academic integrity at UMBC. The underlying philosophy of this Policy is that members of the UMBC community view academic integrity as a serious institutional value and that academic misconduct should be resolved by faculty members and students in a cooperative manner. All members of the UMBC community, including your student, are expected to make a commitment to academic honesty in their own actions and with others.

For the complete Undergraduate Student Academic Conduct Policy, please visit umbc.edu/policies/pdfs/lli-1.10.03.pdf.

For more information on the topic of Academic Integrity, please visit uwu.umbc.edu/home/academic-integrity/

Club Sports
Club Sports, which features 26 teams, are an exciting option for students who want to learn a new sport or continue to test themselves in a competitive environment. Participation in the UMBC Club Sports program is open to all UMBC students. Members will not only get to engage other students, but also interact with experienced staff and coaches in settings far removed from the classroom. The objective of the Club Sports program is the development of successful and quality teams, which focus on enhancing the college experience through teamwork, leadership, sportsmanship, and diversity, while supporting a healthy lifestyle. For more information, please visit recreation.umbc.edu/club-sports.

Counseling Center
The UMBC Counseling Center is located in the Student Development and Success Center. The center provides free and confidential short-term individual and group counseling for personal, emotional, relationship, substance abuse and occasional concerns. Psychiatric services are available for students engaged in counseling at the Center. Referral assistance is provided for students who require services beyond those available at the Center. If your student is currently receiving mental health services and will need assistance arranging for ongoing mental health care, contact the Counseling Center prior to the start of school. In addition, the Center offers workshops on a variety of topics including, healthy relationships, how to help a friend, you are concerned about, stress management, time management, procrastination, test anxiety, motivation, and preparing for finals.

Counseling Center staff recognize the impact of emotions and stress on academic performance and college adjustment. Download the mobile app for families that provides tips and resources to better support your student. For more information and online resources, please visit counseling.umbc.edu.

Degree Audit
Detailed information about requirements associated with a student’s degree programs, degree progress and graduation requirements are available throughout UMBC’s online Degree Audit. The “What If” degree audit allows students to see how completed and planned coursework would fit into alternate majors and degree plans. To learn more about degree audit, please visit registrar.umbc.edu/services/degree-audit.

Dining Services
Dining Services at UMBC are provided by Chartwells with meal plans administered by the Campus Card Center. A wide variety of healthy options are offered at True Grit’s and various retail spots located across campus. Various meal plans are available to satisfy individual student needs and preferences. Resident Hall students are required to select a mandatory meal plan; apartment and commuting students have additional voluntary plans available for selection. For more information about meal plan options and campus dining locations, please visit dineoncampus.umbc.edu.

Accessing Grades
UMBC allows students the ability to electronically share grades and class schedule information with others via myUMBC. For a student to share this information, you must have a Google or Facebook account. This feature allows the sharing of information such as grades with family members, and class schedules with study group members. To learn about profile sharing, please visit umbc.edu/go/profilesharing.

Athletics
The Retrievers have 17 varsity sports programs that compete in the NCAA Division I and are members of the America East Conference. Sixty percent of UMBC’s student-athletes earn America East honor roll accolades with a minimum 3.0 grade point average. To find schedules and all other information about Retriever athletics, please visit umbcathletics.com.

Balimore Collegegtown Network
Do you know someone who is a Baltimore Collegegtown Network member? The organization is a partnership of the area colleges and universities that’s more than 120,000 college students and a resource to find things to do, transportation, internships, cross registration for eligible students, and what’s hot in Baltimore. Tell your student to check out baltimorecollegegtown.org.

Bookstore
Located in The Commons, the UMBC Bookstore is the official source of course materials for UMBC classes. Textbooks are available for rent and for purchase in digital, used, and new conditions. In addition to course materials, UMBC Bookstore carries study aids, reference materials, school, office, and art supplies, lab equipment, and UMBC apparel and gift items. True Books Tech-Che located on the first floor of the Bookstore is a full service Apple Authorized Campus Store with a full line of educationally discounted computers, tablets, and software. The Bookstore has partnered with DSR Technology Specialists for all your computer repair needs, which offers convenient, fast turnaround for both warranty and out of warranty computer repairs. The Bookstore also operates a convenience store, The Yum Shoppe, located on the ground floor of The Commons. To learn more and shop online, please visit bookstore.umbc.edu.

Career Center
The Career Center offers valuable programs and resources to all students who are exploring potential career paths and preparing for their internship, job and/or graduate school search. Students can attend career focused workshops, meet one-on-one with career specialists, and participate in programs that connect them with employers and alumni. To learn more about how the Career Center helps students explore career options and prepare for a career, please visit careers.umbc.edu.

First-Year Experiences
First-Year Experiences are seminar style classes taught in an active-learning environment in which students connect with each other as they investigate thought provoking topics. These opportunities are open to all students in their first year at UMBC, including new transfer students, as courses help to facilitate an understanding of UMBC’s academic expectations while supporting students in developing a connection to the University. The goal is to prepare students for an undergraduate experience characterized by academic, personal, and professional success. For more information about the breadth of these opportunities, please visit fye.umbc.edu.

Giving
UMBC is fortunate to receive generous support from parents like you. We invest donations to The Parents Fund into areas that serve the academic and professional development needs of our students such as the Albin O. Kuhn Library, Student Disability Services, The Shriver Center and the Learning Resources Center. Many parents also contribute to the department of their student’s major, athletics, and support a healthy lifestyle. For more information, please visit giving.umbc.edu.

You can also support a variety of student organizations, athletic teams, and special projects by visiting the university’s crowdfunding site at umbc.gives.org.

Family Connection Program
UMBC Family Connection is a resource for families to stay connected with their student and the UMBC campus community. The Family Connection Program sends a regular electronic newsletter that is packed with valuable information such as important dates, volunteer opportunities, invitations and special announcements. It also provides information about the family’s role in the student’s transition to college life through suggested readings and helpful tips. To sign up for the newsletter or learn more about the UMBC Family Connection Program, please visit umbc.edu/groups/parents. Any questions or concerns can be directed to families@umbc.edu or call 410-455-2393.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a law passed by Congress that ensures and protects the privacy of students’ post-secondary educational records. It defines what information can be released without a student’s permission and what information requires a student’s written consent before it can be released. All students, regardless of age, who enroll in a U.S. college or university, are covered by the rights and protection of FERPA. For information about what it is and is not covered by FERPA and how to release student records, please visit registrar.umbc.edu/services/records/privacy-and-the-release-of-education-records.

Financial Aid and Scholarships
The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships offers a variety of both need-based and merit-based awards to assist students with their educational expenses. Our financial aid counselors are available on an appointment basis to meet with students to explore the variety of options that best meet the students’ needs. For more information, and important forms and deadlines, please visit financialaid.umbc.edu.

Extra Credit
Extra Credit is a campus wide communication to highlight all of the possible ways that students can enhance their academic experience, prepare for graduation, and stand out in their chosen profession or field of study. There are a lot of opportunities to enrich the college experience and Extra Credit in a resource for students to look beyond the classroom to internships, study abroad, and more. Students can join the Extra Credit Group on my.umbc.edu/groups/credit.

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Office of the Registrar
The Office of the Registrar provides the UMBC community with high quality services related to academic programs, registration, records, and graduation. The registrar maintains student records, the undergraduate course catalog and is the final clear ing house for graduation. For more information about campus and student records please visit registrar.umbc.edu.

Residential Life
Enjoy student life beyond the classroom! Over 80% of our residents would choose to return to UMBC and not only because of convenience to classes, late night dining, the library, and RAC living on campus means building a network of classmates that become lifelong friends. Safe and secure housing is connected to WiFi and cable. Living on campus also means access to over 250 clubs and student organizations, with opportunities for leadership positions is residential life. Explore Living Learning Communities offering special focus areas with academic and co-curricular focus. On-campus housing is competitively priced to provide an economical choice for housing and meals. Financial aid and monthly payment plans makes housing on campus easy on the budget! For more information about campus housing please call 410-455-2591 or visit reslife.umbc.edu.

Student Business Services
Student Business Services bills students for tuition and fees and other university-related charges, issues student refunds, administers the Monthly Payment Plan, monitors the Perkins Loan program, processes pre-paid tuition trust payments, and manages agency payments. To learn more about how students receive bills, how to pay bills, monthly payment plans, and more, please visit sb.s.umbc.edu.

Student Organizations and Greek Life
Student Organizations and Greek Life have over 250 clubs and organizations on campus. We are committed to providing the best possible educational experience and service to assist you in achieving your academic and personal goals. To learn more about on-campus student services, please visit studentlife.umbc.edu.

Student Disability Services
Student Disability Services (SDS) is designed for students with documented disabilities, who are low-income, or are first generation college students from all racial and ethnic backgrounds who have a need for academic and other support services in order to successfully complete their college education. To learn more about these resources, please visit sds.umbc.edu.

Transfer Student Services
UMBC recognizes the challenge transfer students have in transitioning to a new institution, but also celebrates the unique experiences transfer students bring to the academic community. To help ease the transition UMBC has developed a web presence as a guide to the resources and programs available to transfer students at UMBC. To learn more about successful transitions for transfer students, please visit transfer.umbc.edu.

Undergraduate Education
Undergraduate Education provides programs to serve students that culminate in small group discussions held during Welcome Week. These dynamic conversations are facilitated by UMBC faculty and staff representing a range of academic interests and disciplines from cultural anthropology, philosophy of science and economics, to biochemistry, neuroscience, and mass-media theory. This year’s book, Kindred: By Octavia Butler, is available at a discount at the UMBC Bookstore. For more information about the courses, the discussion, and a visit from the author please visit fye.umbc.edu/nbe.

The Shriver Center
The Shriver Center connects students to applied learning opportunities enriching their education with meaningful experiences in public sector agencies, schools and nonprofit, community-based organizations to cultivate academic responsibility and civic literacy. For more information about Shriver Center initiatives and how to get involved, please visit thshrivercenter.umbc.edu.

Zipcar
Zipcar is sharing, an alternative to car ownership. Zipcar handles all the maintenance, insurance, and even the gas. Zipcars are located in reserved, premium parking spaces on campus that are easily accessible. To learn more about using the Zipcar service, please visit zipcar.com/umbc.

Veterans
UMBC welcomes all veterans, active duty military, and dependents. We are committed to providing the best possible educational experience and service to assist you in achieving your academic and personal goals. To learn more about on-campus veteran services, please visit veterans.umbc.edu.

Recreation and Fitness
The UMBC Recreation Program promotes participation in varied opportunities which foster healthy, active lifestyles through involvement in and/or use of recreational facilities, programs, and services. Our comprehensive program offerings include fitness & wellness, aquatics, intramural sports, open recreation, and club sports. UMBC Recreation provides students with seven days a week access to indoor and outdoor facilities for open recreation. The facilities include the 120,000 sq. ft. Retriever Activities Center (RAC), with three indoor multipurpose courts, a weight room, cardio-balcony and fitness studio. The Aquatic Center (indoor 25-yard pool and an Olympic sized 50-meter outdoor pool) and indoor track (1/10 mile) are also located in the RAC. Six lighted tennis courts are adjacent to the RAC for use by all. Recreation sponsors numerous intramural events throughout the year as well. Teams or individuals may sign up to compete in such events as soccer, flag football, full court basketball, 5K runs and many more. For additional information about schedules, programs, and events please visit recreation.umbc.edu.

Office of the Registrar
The Office of the Registrar provides the UMBC community with high quality services related to academic programs, registration, records, and graduation. The registrar maintains student records, the undergraduate course catalog and is the final clear ing house for graduation. For more information about campus and student records please visit registrar.umbc.edu.

Residential Life
Enjoy student life beyond the classroom! Over 80% of our residents would choose to return to UMBC and not only because of convenience to classes, late night dining, the library, and RAC living on campus means building a network of classmates that become lifelong friends. Safe and secure housing is connected to WiFi and cable. Living on campus also means access to over 250 clubs and student organizations, with opportunities for leadership positions is residential life. Explore Living Learning Communities offering special focus areas with academic and co-curricular focus. On-campus housing is competitively priced to provide an economical choice for housing and meals. Financial aid and monthly payment plans makes housing on campus easy on the budget! For more information about campus housing please call 410-455-2591 or visit reslife.umbc.edu.

Student Business Services
Student Business Services bills students for tuition and fees and other university-related charges, issues student refunds, administers the Monthly Payment Plan, monitors the Perkins Loan program, processes pre-paid tuition trust payments, and manages agency payments. To learn more about how students receive bills, how to pay bills, monthly payment plans, and more, please visit sb.s.umbc.edu.

Student Organizations and Greek Life
Student Organizations and Greek Life have over 250 clubs and organizations on campus. We are committed to providing the best possible educational experience and service to assist you in achieving your academic and personal goals. To learn more about on-campus student services, please visit studentlife.umbc.edu.

Student Disability Services
Student Disability Services (SDS) is designed for students with documented disabilities, who are low-income, or are first generation college students from all racial and ethnic backgrounds who have a need for academic and other support services in order to successfully complete their college education. To learn more about these resources, please visit sds.umbc.edu.

Transfer Student Services
UMBC recognizes the challenge transfer students have in transitioning to a new institution, but also celebrates the unique experiences transfer students bring to the academic community. To help ease the transition UMBC has developed a web presence as a guide to the resources and programs available to transfer students at UMBC. To learn more about successful transitions for transfer students, please visit transfer.umbc.edu.

Undergraduate Education
Undergraduate Education provides programs to serve students that culminate in small group discussions held during Welcome Week. These dynamic conversations are facilitated by UMBC faculty and staff representing a range of academic interests and disciplines from cultural anthropology, philosophy of science and economics, to biochemistry, neuroscience, and mass-media theory. This year’s book, Kindred: By Octavia Butler, is available at a discount at the UMBC Bookstore. For more information about the courses, the discussion, and a visit from the author please visit fye.umbc.edu/nbe.

The Shriver Center
The Shriver Center connects students to applied learning opportunities enriching their education with meaningful experiences in public sector agencies, schools and nonprofit, community-based organizations to cultivate academic responsibility and civic literacy. For more information about Shriver Center initiatives and how to get involved, please visit thshrivercenter.umbc.edu.

Zipcar
Zipcar is sharing, an alternative to car ownership. Zipcar handles all the maintenance, insurance, and even the gas. Zipcars are located in reserved, premium parking spaces on campus that are easily accessible. To learn more about using the Zipcar service, please visit zipcar.com/umbc.

Veterans
UMBC welcomes all veterans, active duty military, and dependents. We are committed to providing the best possible educational experience and service to assist you in achieving your academic and personal goals. To learn more about on-campus veteran services, please visit veterans.umbc.edu.

Recreation and Fitness
The UMBC Recreation Program promotes participation in varied opportunities which foster healthy, active lifestyles through involvement in and/or use of recreational facilities, programs, and services. Our comprehensive program offerings include fitness & wellness, aquatics, intramural sports, open recreation, and club sports. UMBC Recreation provides students with seven days a week access to indoor and outdoor facilities for open recreation. The facilities include the 120,000 sq. ft. Retriever Activities Center (RAC), with three indoor multipurpose courts, a weight room, cardio-balcony and fitness studio. The Aquatic Center (indoor 25-yard pool and an Olympic sized 50-meter outdoor pool) and indoor track (1/10 mile) are also located in the RAC. Six lighted tennis courts are adjacent to the RAC for use by all. Recreation sponsors numerous intramural events throughout the year as well. Teams or individuals may sign up to compete in such events as soccer, flag football, full court basketball, 5K runs and many more. For additional information about schedules, programs, and events please visit recreation.umbc.edu.
Academic Terms

Students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.50 through 3.74, while completing 12 or more academic credit hours, will receive a “Semester Academic Honors” transcript notation. Students who earn a GPA of 3.75 through 3.99 will receive a “Dean’s List” notation, while students with a 4.0 GPA receive the “President’s List” notation.

Advance Registration

Continuing UMBC students may register during each semester for the next semester’s courses. Advance registration eligibility dates are assigned based on the number of credits earned.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Students who take college-level courses while in high school and demonstrate their mastery of the material by earning high scores on AP exams may be awarded academic credit by UMBC. AP scores may also result in fulfillment of a requirement (such as the foreign language general education requirement) or a higher initial placement in a course sequence. Students must have an official score report sent to UMBC from the College Board. Similar credit may be awarded for high scores on International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations.

Audit

Attending a course without receiving academic credit or a grade. A student might do this for self-enrichment or academic exploration.

Classification of Students

Undergraduate students are classified based on total credits earned toward graduation, including credits earned at UMBC plus AP/IB/CLEP and transfer credits awarded by UMBC. Any credits earned through Advanced Placement or similar tests are also included in the total. The classifications are: Freshmen, 0-29 credits completed; Sophomores, 30-59 credits completed; Juniors, 60-89 credits completed; Seniors, 90 or more credits completed.

Credit by Department Examination

Students who believe they have mastered a content area without taking a course can take exams offered by the College Level Exam Program (CLEP) or, in some cases, examinations developed and administered by academic departments at UMBC. Qualifying scores will result in awarding of academic credit by UMBC or waiver of a requirement.

Credit Hour

This is the unit used to measure course credits. Courses generally meet one hour per week for each credit hour.

Cross-listed Courses

A single course offered by more than one department, for instance MLL 190 and ENGL 190. The course material is the same regardless of which department the student is registered under.

Degree Audit

A summary of university, general education, and major and minor requirements that displays which courses completed and in progress fulfill each type of requirement and whether the requirement has been “satisfied.” Each UMBC student can access an individual degree audit through myUMBC under the topic “Advising and Student Support.”

Discussion

Many courses meet for a one-hour mandatory discussion class in addition to the three hours per week of lecture. Generally, the discussion hour is with a smaller group of students, allowing students to discuss any questions, as well as apply information learned in the lecture.

Electives

Electives are courses you choose to take that do not fulfill the basic requirements of your academic program. For many students, elective credits make up the difference between the number of courses required for your major and general education program and the 120 minimum credits required for graduation. Electives provide an opportunity to take classes for personal enrichment or to develop a new skill.

Excess Credit

In order to enroll in more than 19.5 credits during the fall or spring semester, you must submit a request to enroll in excess credits, signed by your major advisor, to the Office for Academic and Pre-Professional Advising.

First Year Intervention Program (FYI)

FYI is designed to identify freshmen who are struggling with their courses, to alert them before the final withdrawal date, and to direct them to resources which will help them succeed.

Full Time/Part Time

Full-time status for undergraduates is defined as 12 or more credits. Part-time status is fewer than 12 credits.

Good Academic Standing

All undergraduates with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher are considered to be in good academic standing and are academically eligible to return for subsequent semesters.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

UMBC calculates GPA by assigning numerical values to letter grades (A=4 quality points; B=3 quality points; C=2 quality points; D=1 quality point; F=0 quality points). The semester GPA is determined by multiplying the credit value of each course by the quality point value and then summing the quality points. Then, divide total quality points by total credit hours attempted to produce the semester GPA. The same method is used to compute cumulative GPA.

Pass/Fail Grading

Students may choose this grading option for an academic course after they have earned 30 or more credits at UMBC if they are in good academic standing. One academic course per semester for a maximum of 12 credits toward graduation may be taken pass/fail. A grade of “P” is not included in the GPA; however a grade of “F” is included in the GPA calculation. Courses completed on a pass/fail basis are not applicable to major or general education courses.

Permission Required

Courses designated as “Permission Required” in the schedule of classes require the instructor to grant permission for the student to register for the course. Students allowed to enroll in these courses will be given electronic permission in the registration system.

Prerequisite

Course requirement that needs to be completed before enrolling in another course.

Registration Hold

A hold prohibits a student from registering. An advising hold may be placed on a student’s registration until the student has met with an advisor; it may also occur if immunizations are not current, or if the student has a financial obligation to UMBC or other administrative obstacles to future registration.

Repeat Policy

Students may attempt a course two times. The highest grade will be used in calculating the cumulative GPA. A third attempt requires special permission through a petition process.

Teaching Assistant (TA)

The teaching assistant is usually a graduate student who helps the professor in conducting discussion and laboratory sessions as well as grading. The TA usually has office hours during the week when he or she is available to assist students.

Waitlist

When a class you are interested in taking is full, you can add yourself to the waitlist through the myUMBC registration system. If a seat in the course becomes available, the student who entered the waitlist first will be automatically enrolled in the course. Not all courses offer a waitlist.

Withdraw “W”

Classes dropped after the second week of classes will be recorded on the student’s transcript with a grade of “W.” A grade of “W” has no effect on the GPA, but may have other repercussions, particularly if you are receiving financial aid or scholarships. You may be responsible for a portion of the tuition and fees associated with the course. Please refer to sbs.umbc.edu/drop-and-withdrawal for more details.
Dear Families,

UMBC’s historic win over the University of Virginia during the 2018 NCAA Men’s Basketball March Madness tournament shook up the world and illustrated how the “unimaginable” can be accomplished with hard work, commitment, and a strong belief in the possibilities. We are extremely proud of our Retrievers for their outstanding performance!

Our athletic victory also cast a bright shining light on the long history of academic success at UMBC. In fact, in this same year, UMBC student Naomi Mburu was one of 32 students in the country named a Rhodes Scholar, a prestigious international award for students to study at the University of Oxford.

We know that this level of success, both inside and outside the classroom, is not by happenstance. It takes the support, nurturing and guidance of an entire community, including the support of family members. At UMBC, we believe that students benefit tremendously from the help and support of their families, not only to get to UMBC but also to be successful while they are here.

We have created a guide we hope you will find helpful as you and your student join the UMBC community. It contains information about services at UMBC as well as some helpful hints about making the transition to college. Along with the information we have shared with your student, we hope this guide helps to make joining UMBC a positive experience for both you and your student.

Finally, as I’m sure you know, it takes much more than just information to make a successful college experience. We know that engagement is critical to student success. We invite you to become an active part of our community by joining our Family Connection. For more information about Family Connection and opportunities for families to get involved, visit familyconnection.umbc.edu or contact Fritzie Charnè-Merriwether, Office for the Vice President of Student Affairs, at 410-455-2395 or families@umbc.edu.

Welcome to UMBC!

Sincerely,
Yvette Mozie-Ross, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Planning
410-455-3799
mozie@umbc.edu

UMBC encourages parents, guardians, family members and partners to become part of UMBC’s campus life. By subscribing to the Family Connection newsletter, you will receive updates for items such as: campus events, academic calendar, academic policies and deadlines, art and culture events, financial updates, residential hall openings and closings.

SCAN CODE to Subscribe to the Newsletter

The Family Connection website highlights many services and resources in one convenient location to ease your search for information: familyconnection.umbc.edu.

Do you have a question, comment, or suggestion? If so, please take advantage of our quick-response e-mail address: families@umbc.edu. Questions can always be addressed to the Vice President for Student Affairs Office at 410-455-2393.

The Family Connection Newsletter is funded by contributions to the Parent Fund.

QUICK LINKS

UMBC News
news.umbc.edu

Residential Life
reslife.umbc.edu

Campus Life
campuslife.umbc.edu

Meal Plan
dineoncampus.com/UMBC

University Health Services
umbc.edu/uhs

Career Services Center
careers.umbc.edu

Counseling Center
counseling.umbc.edu

Off Campus Student Services
crss.umbc.edu

Athletics
umbcretrievers.com

Transit
transit.umbc.edu

Parent Fund
giving.umbc.edu

RETRIEVER CHECKLIST

DEFINITELY:
- Complete Alcohol-Wise
- Submit insurance waivers
- Submit your Immunization Forms
- Check your UMBC e-mail account

For the rest of the checklist, go to familyconnection.umbc.edu