Dear Families,

UMBC’s historic win over the University of Virginia during the 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, during the same time, 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
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**Academic Advising**
410-455-2729
advising.umbc.edu

**Academic Engagement and Transition Programs**
410-455-6805
aetp.umbc.edu

**Academic Success Center**
410-455-2444
academicsuccess@umbc.edu

**Admissions (Undergraduate)**
410-455-2292
undergraduate.umbc.edu

**Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation**
410-455-8888
umbcretrievers.com

**Bookstore**
410-455-2665
bookstore.umbc.edu

**Career Center**
410-455-2216
careers.umbc.edu

**Campus Life**
410-455-3462
campuslife.umbc.edu

**Commons Information Center/General Information**
410-455-1000

**Counseling Center**
410-455-2472
counseling.umbc.edu

**Dining Services**
410-455-2188
dineoncampus.com/umbc

**Education Abroad**
410-455-8175
studyabroad.umbc.edu

**Enrollment Management**
410-455-2292
enrollment.umbc.edu

**Financial Aid and Scholarships**
410-455-2387
financialaid.umbc.edu
410-455-3813
scholarships.umbc.edu

**Honors College**
410-455-3720
honors.umbc.edu

**Library**
410-455-2232
library.umbc.edu

**Off Campus Student Services**
410-455-2770
ocss.umbc.edu

**Parent Programs and Services**
410-455-2393
studentaffairs.umbc.edu/parents-families

**Parking Services**
410-455-2551
parking.umbc.edu

**Police (Emergency Only)**
410-455-5555
police.umbc.edu

**Police (Non-emergency)**
410-455-3136
police.umbc.edu

**Provost**
410-455-2333
provost.umbc.edu

**Registrar**
410-455-2500
registrar.umbc.edu

**Residential Life**
410-455-2591
reslife.umbc.edu

**Shriver Center**
410-455-2493
shrivercenter.umbc.edu

**Student Affairs**
410-455-2393
studentaffairs.umbc.edu

**Student Business Services**
410-455-2288
sbs.umbc.edu

**Student Disability Services**
410-455-3250
sds.umbc.edu

**Technology Support Center**
410-455-3838
doit.umbc.edu

**Transportation Services**
410-455-2454
umbc.edu/transit

**University Health Services**
410-455-2542
umbc.edu/uhs

**Women's Center**
410-455-2714
womenscenter.umbc.edu
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 so their first year on campus is an academic and personal success. To learn more about these opportunities, please visit fyé.umbc.edu.

Important Dates
• June 18–19, 25–26 Dawg Days: Basecamp
• July 7 Dawg Days: Jumpstart Begins
• July 8–9 Dawg Days: Expedition
• July 20 Dawg Days: Adventure
• June 29, July 27 Dawg Days: Transfer Experience
• July 29 Dawg Days: Abroad Begins

TIP: Don’t forget to have your student check welcomeweek.umbc.edu for Welcome Week information before arriving in August. This way your student can plan ahead for the events that interest them!
## 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 my.UMBC, 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.

### Important Dates

- **August 1** - First Fall Bill Available Online
- **August 12** - Dawg Days: Abroad Ends
- **August 15** - Dawg Days: Jumpstart Ends
- **August 24 - September 1** - Welcome Week
- **August 27** - Convocation
- **August 28** - Classes Begin

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### 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.

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### Important Dates
- August 24 - September 1: Welcome Week
- September 2: Labor Day, Campus Closed
- September 4: Involvement Fest
- September 11: Last Day to Add/Drop a Class without a Grade of “W”
- September 25: Fall Career and Internship Fair

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**TIP:** involvement Fest is your student’s first opportunity to learn about the nearly 300 student organizations at UMBC. Learn more at campuslife.umbc.edu.

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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 student 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: 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 2 – 12. 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).

### Important Dates
- **October 1** 2020 - 2021 FAFSA Available
- **October 2** - 12 Homecoming
- **October 21** Spring 2020 Schedule of Classes Published Online
- **October 24** Career Center Diversity Recruitment Event
- **October 30** Advanced Registration Begins for Spring 2020

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**OCTOBER 2019**

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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.

**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 Academic Success Center 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 6 Internship Success Conference
- November 12 Last Day to Withdraw from Individual Courses with a Grade of “W”
- November 28 - December 1 Fall Break

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**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.

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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 Academic Success Center offers walk-in and appointment tutoring, and supplemental instruction for traditionally challenging courses. The 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.

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**Important Dates**

- December 10 Last Day of Fall Classes
- December 11 Study Day
- December 12 - 18 Final Exams
- December 18 Residence Halls Close
- December 19 Winter Commencement
### 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 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid became available October 1st. Apply online by February 14 to meet UMBC’s priority deadline.** [fasa.ed.gov](http://fasa.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! [scholarships.umbc.edu/scholarshipretriever](http://scholarships.umbc.edu/scholarshipretriever)
- Current students who want to live on campus during the 2020–2021 academic year should get ready to apply for housing. Check out [reslife.umbc.edu](http://reslife.umbc.edu) for housing selection, rates and important deadlines.

### Important Dates

- **January 2** Winter Session Classes Begin
- **January 20** Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Campus Closed
- **January 24** Last Day of Winter Session
- **January 26** Residence Halls Open
- **January 27 - February 2** Winter Welcome Week
- **January 27** Spring Classes Begin

**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](http://campuslife.umbc.edu) for a growing list of student organizations.
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 Education Abroad they should attend Education Abroad 101 sessions which will be held Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Check studyabroad.umbc.edu for information.

Financial Smarts
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 for more information on the online Financial Smarts CashCourse and how your student could win a $500, $300, or $100 UMBC campus card credit!

Important Dates
• February 7 Last Day to Add/Drop a Course Without a Grade of “W”
• February 7 Spring Career and Internship Fair
• February 14 UMBC’s Priority Deadline for Current Student’s 2020-2021 FAFSA
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 First 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) 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!

**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. Students can also get an edge through summer research and internship opportunities.

### Important Dates
- March 14 – 22 Spring Break
- March 23 Fall 2020 Schedule of Classes Published Online
- April 27, 2020 First Day of Fall 2020 Classes
- April 30, 2020 Last Day to Add/Drop Classes
- May 1, 2020 Last Day to Withdraw Classes
- May 18, 2020 Final Exams
- May 19, 2020 Spring 2020 Graduation Application Due
- May 26, 2020 Commencement
- June 1, 2020 Last Payment on Fall 2020 Payment Plan Due
- June 22, 2020 Last Day of Spring 2020 Classes
- June 26, 2020 Graduation Ceremony

### MARCH 2020

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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 6 Last Day to Drop a Class with a Grade of “W”
- April 22 Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day
- April 23 - 26 Quadmania
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!

Important Dates
- May 12 Last Day of Spring Classes
- May 13 Study Day
- May 14-20 Final Exams
- May 20 Residence Halls Close
- May 21 Spring Commencement

TIP: Start with the end in mind. As the spring semester winds down, students are thinking about finals, events, and their future goals. Graduation may be here before you know it, but remind your student to relieve stress with a breath of FRESH AIR! The trails of Patapsco State Park are adjacent to UMBC, and the waters of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor or the cherry blossoms of the D.C. Mall are a short ride away.
Welcome to the UMBC Family: A Resource Guide from A to Z

Academic Advising
The Office of Academic Advising & Pre-Professional 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 in Fall of their first year and continue during October and April of each year throughout each semester to monitor academic and degree progress. For more information about Advising services, please visit advising.umbc.edu.

Academic Engagement & Transition Programs
Academic Engagement & Transitions Programs serve students in all colleges at UMBC with first-year experiences, support for undergraduate research, programs for transfer students, and academic policy administration. To learn more about these programs, please visit advising.umbc.edu.

Academic Integrity
Integrity lies at the heart of the academic endeavor. 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 university community view academic integrity as a serious institutional value and that academic misconduct incidents 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 advising.umbc.edu/policies.

For more information on the topic of Academic Integrity, please visit apa.umbc.edu.

Degree Planning Tools
Detailed information about students' degree requirements is available through our online Degree Audit, Degree Donut, and Degree Planner. Students access these tools through their myUMBC student portal and can work with advisors to develop plans for timely graduation. 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 these tools, please visit registrar.umbc.edu/services/degree-requirements.

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 venues 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.

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 is a resource for students to look beyond the classroom to internships, study abroad, and more. Students can join the Extra Credit Group at my.umbc.edu/groups/credit. Any questions or concerns can be directed to families@umbc.edu or call 410-455-2393.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
FERPA is a federal law that passed by Congress that ensures and protects the privacy of an individual’s educational records. It allows information can be disclosed without a student’s permission and

Financial Aid
The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships offers a variety of both need-based and merit-based awards to assist students with their academic expectations while supporting students in developing a well-versed in this critical life skill that many find

FYE
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a law passed by Congress that ensures and protects the privacy of an individual’s educational records. It allows information can be disclosed without a student’s permission and

Campus Card
The Campus Card allows access to various services on campus such as the library, health services and the PAC, permitted residential buildings, participation in meal plans, and also to establish UMBC identity. In addition, the card can be used in debit application, through Retriever Dollars, and easy and quick way to pay for goods and services on campus without carrying cash. The Campus Card is also home to University Postal Services, which provides a full range of postal service offerings. The Campus Card Center is located in the University Center, on the first floor. For more information about getting a card and specific uses, please visit campuscard.umbc.edu.

Family Connection Program
UMBC Family Connection is a resource for families to stay connected with their student 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 my.umbc.edu/groups/parents. Any questions or concerns can be directed to families@umbc.edu or call 410-455-2393.

FinAidSmart@UMBC
FinancialAid@UMBC provides students with the tools necessary to make informed and effective decisions about their finances. Managing money is an important part of students’ daily lives and we encourage our students to be well versed in this critical life skill that many find challenging. Visit FinAidSmart@UMBC.

First-Year Experience Courses
First-Year Experience courses 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 students develop academic expectations while supporting students in developing a comprehensive understanding to the UMBC mission. The goal is to help students make the most of their undergraduate experience characterized by academic, personal, and professional success. For more information about these opportunities, please visit fye.umbc.edu.

Library
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 Stocks, carries study aids, reference materials, school, office, and art supplies, lab equipment, and UMBC apparel and gift items. True Bits Tech Ctr 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. For more information about getting a card and specific uses, 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.

Club Sports
Club Sports, which feature 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 for removal 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.

Consumer Information for Students and Employees
In accordance with the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008, UMBC makes available to students important disclosure information, including information regarding student financial assistance, health and safety, student outcomes, and the privacy of student education records (Notification of Rights under FERPA).

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 vocational concerns. Psychiatric services are available for students engaged in counseling at the Center. Referral assistance is provided for students who require services beyond those offered at UMBC. 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 success. To help students determine if a change adjustment. Download the mobile app for families that provides tips and resources to better support their students, information and online resources, please visit counseling.umbc.edu.

Campus Life Office
The Campus Life office is UMBC's central resource for students hoping to get involved and try something new. Educational opportunities for UMBC undergraduate extend well beyond the classroom to encompass a wide variety of experiences. To learn more about how UMBC is committed to students receiving a holistic college career, please visit campuslife.umbc.edu.

Family Support Services
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Family Engagement & Support
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 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
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 student’s needs. For more information, and important forms and deadlines, please visit financialaid.umbc.edu and scholarships.umbc.edu.

FinancialSmart@UMBC
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First-Year Experience courses 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 students develop academic expectations while supporting students in developing a comprehensive understanding to the UMBC mission. The goal is to help students make the most of their undergraduate experience characterized by academic, personal, and professional success. For more information about these opportunities, please visit fye.umbc.edu.

Campus Life Office
The Campus Life office is UMBC's central resource for students hoping to get involved and try something new. Educational opportunities for UMBC undergraduate extend well beyond the classroom to encompass a wide variety of experiences. To learn more about how UMBC is committed to students receiving a holistic college career, please visit campuslife.umbc.edu.
Giving
UMBC is fortunate to receive generous support from parents like you. We invest donations into The Parents Fund into areas that serve the academic and professional development needs of our students such as the Alumni O. Kuhn Library, Student Disability Services, The Shriver Center, and the Academic Success Center. Many parents also contribute to the department of their student’s major, athletics, and specific scholarships programs. To make your gift or learn more about other giving opportunities 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.givecorps.com.

Health Services
University Health Services provides convenient primary and urgent health care and health education to UMBC students. Professional staff members include board-certified physicians, certified nurse practitioners, and health educators. University Health Services charges for its services. The office participates in provider networks of major health insurance providers. Please be sure to check with your insurance company about coverage for your student away from home. For more information about services, check UMBC’s communications, and their health/immunization form (which must be signed by a healthcare provider in order for students to be eligible to register for classes), please visit umbc.edu/uhs.

Housing
See Residential Life

Information Technology
The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) provides a variety of services and resources to the UMBC community, including dedicated labs, training, a textbook lending program, instructional and public access; audio/video, multimedia, and a foreign language resource center; instructional support; for the Blackboard course management system; network services for wireless computing; central email and web services to the campus; centralized help desk support; and administrative self-service applications such as registration, grades, and billing through our myUMBC portal. For more information on DoIT and student computing requirements, please visit doit.umbc.edu.

Inter- Institutional Enrollment
UMBC students may enroll in selected courses at other USM campuses and pay tuition at their home institution. For more information visit registrar.umbc.edu/services/special-enrollment.

Immunizations
See Health Services

Residential Life
Enjoy student life beyond the classroom! Over 80% of our residents would recommend living on campus to new students 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 streaming services. Living on campus also means access to over 250 clubs and student organizations, with opportunities for leadership positions in Residential Life. Explore Living Learning Communities offering specialized housing options with academic and co-curricular focus. On-campus housing is competitively priced to provide an economical choice for housing and meals. Financial aid and enrollment services are available to help us fit into your campus way on the budget. For more information about on campus housing please call 410-455-2911 or visit reslife.umbc.edu.

Scholarships
See Financial Aid and Scholarships

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 their social responsibility and civic literacy. For more information visit The Shriver Center. Initiatives and how to get involved, please visit shrivercenter.umbc.edu.

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
This office provides leadership and direction for the Division of Student Affairs with programs, policies, and procedures that impact students success for providing and co-creating programs, services, systems, facilities, and safe environments that foster learning and personal development. This office provides leadership for quality of campus life for students through administrative coordination of Residential Life, Student Life, The Mosiac: Culture and Diversity Center, University Health Services, the Career Center, The Counseling Center, Off-Campus Student Services, The Commons, Transportation Services, Dining Services, Athletics, and Student Judicial Programs. Students who are unable to find the answers to questions, need to be pointed in the right direction, are having trouble maneuvering through the University, or wish to become involved in student life leadership opportunities can call, write, or stop by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, or visit umbc.edu/saf.

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 sbs.umbc.edu.

Living Learning Communities
Residential Life offers a number of Living Learning Communities (LLCs) that connect students with shared interests in culture, academics, and community service. LLCs are programs that involve students who live together in a residential community and participate in academic and co-curricular programming especially designed for them. Some LLCs include: STEM, Honors College, and Center for Women in Technology. For more information about LLCs please call 410-455-2591 or visit reslife.umbc.edu.

Mind Spa
The Mind Spa is a resource with tools to help students with relaxation, improving concentration and memory, and their overall success as a student. The Mind Spa is located in the Counseling Center and is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. It is an important campus resource as it is a space equipped for practice of mindfulness, meditation, relaxation, and overall self-care. To visit, you can call the Counseling Center (410-455-2472) to reserve a resource or just walk in.

myUMBC
myUMBC is an electronic gateway to information, services, records, and online campus. Students and members of the campus community, including parents, use myUMBC to find out what is happening on campus, degree audits, the hours of the library or the RAC, and so much more. You can participate in key discussions, join myUMBC “groups” of interest to you, and check class schedules any time of day or night. See “Accessing Grades” for more information about viewing your student’s academic records. To learn more, please visit my.umbc.edu.

Off Campus Student Services
See Residential Life.

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 challenges transfer student have in transitioning into 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.

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Parking Services
Parking Services manages all the parking needs and enforces the parking rules and regulations for the UMBC campus community and guests. To obtain a parking permit, review UMBC parking rules and regulations, and to pay parking violations, please visit parking.umbc.edu.

Police
The UMBC Police Department provides police services 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the calendar year. Personal or local police department. UMBC police officers are certified by the Maryland Police Training Commissions and are vested with full police arrest powers. Other staff positions include administrative civilian staff, security officers, police communications operators, and student marshals. To learn more about the department, and view crime reports and statistics, please visit police.umbc.edu.

Postal Services
See Campus Card Center

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-day-a-week access to indoor and outdoor facilities for open recreation. The facilities include the 120,000 sq. ft. Retrieve 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 outdoor track (110 yards) are also located in the RAC. Six lighted tennis courts are adjacent to the RAC for use by all. Recreation sponsors numerous intramural and intercollegiate activities throughout the year. Student and community adults may sign up to compete in such events as soccer, flag football, full court basketball, SK eats, and many more. For additional information about schedules, teams, 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 clearinghouse for graduation. For more information about campus and student records please visit registrar.umbc.edu.

Scholarships
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Transit Services
UMBC provides safe, reliable, responsive shuttle and charter bus services to meet the transportation needs of the UMBC community. Shuttle routes cover residential communities near campus, as well as shopping areas surrounding UMBC. To learn more, please visit umbc.edu/transit.

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 campus veteran services, please visit veterans.umbc.edu.
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 a fall or spring semester, more than 8 credits in a summer session, or more than 4.5 credits in a winter session, 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 students 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.

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 they are available to assist students.

UMBC Administered Departmental Exams
Students may request consideration for competency-based education credit through UMBC Administered Departmental Exams. UMBC Administered Departmental Exams are subject to availability as determined by the appropriate academic department. More information about UMBC Administered Departmental Exams is available in the Undergraduate Catalog, which can be found at catalog.umbc.edu.

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.

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.

Course Repeat Policy
Students may not register for a course more than two times. Students are considered registered for a course if they are enrolled after the end of the schedule adjustment period. Students may petition the Academic Standards and Policy Administration (ASPA) for a third and final attempt of a course taken at UMBC or another institution. An attempt is defined as enrollment in a UMBC course (or its equivalent at another institution) in which the student has received a grade or an official withdrawal noted on the transcript.

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

Credit for Competency-Based Education
Students may pursue competency-based education credit through the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Advanced Placement (AP) Program, or International Baccalaureate (IB) Program. More information about CLEP, AP, and IB examinations is available in the Undergraduate Catalog, which can be found at catalog.umbc.edu.
Dear Families,

UMBC’s historic win over the University of Virginia during the 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, during the same time, 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