



UMBC

GRADUATE SCHOOL

**WELCOME
GUIDE**

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For International Student-specific information, please check out the [Office of International Students and Scholars Arrival Guide](#)



The Office of the Graduate School at UMBC

Young and dynamic, our university is small enough to provide personal attention, yet large enough to provide a rich and diverse experience. Collaboration isn't just a buzz word here — it's a way of life among our faculty and students who take full advantage of the wealth of opportunities and meaningful partnerships this region has to offer.

With 39 master's degree programs, 24 doctoral degree programs, and 23 graduate certificate programs, UMBC seeks to provide you with an enriched experience among leading scholars at a campus that prides itself on diversity and multiculturalism. UMBC graduate students come from 45 states and over 60 countries. Our graduates have gone on to careers in fields such as information technology, STEM, university teaching and research, mental health services, arts, education, business, industry, government, and policy making.

UMBC is ranked as a Doctoral/Research University (Very High Research Activity, R1) by the Carnegie Foundation, one of the highest classifications for a research university in the United States. UMBC is a major center for graduate education and research and graduate students work closely with faculty. Opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration are encouraged through UMBC's 30-plus research centers and institutes.

Office Location: Administration Building, Floor 2

(only accessible by elevator)

Phone: 410-455-2537

Email: gradschool@umbc.edu

Website: gradschool.umbc.edu

Checklist

*There are additional steps for International Students. Please refer to the Office of International Students and Scholars for [more information](#).

1 Set up your myUMBC account

Your [myUMBC account](#) is your gateway to services, information, and connections. You can also access your UMBC email through myUMBC.

2 Register for classes

Once you accept your admission and setup your myUMBC account, you'll be able to [register for classes](#) after the posted date.

3 Complete the online Orientation

Complete the Grad School's online [orientation](#) module on our website.

4 Learn about financing your education

Graduate Assistantships may be available to help with your tuition. GA positions are awarded by individual departments. Reach out to your program's Program Coordinator.

5 Fill out your RIH Immunization Form

There are some health-related requirements that you must meet before you arrive on campus. Each item is listed [here](#). Please contact Retriever Integrated Health with any questions.

6 Complete the Academic Integrity Tutorial

Each new degree-seeking graduate student entering UMBC is required to [pass the test](#) by September 15 (Fall) or February 15 (Spring).

7 Submit your Campus ID photo

[Submit your favorite photo](#) for your campus ID, the Retriever Card. This card is required for accessing library, computing, and transit, as well as other services on campus.

8 Get a Parking Permit (if applicable)

UMBC requires all parked vehicles to have a valid UMBC permit, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM. All vehicles [must be registered](#).

9 Submit all required documents

We require information regarding your academic history, professional background, and personal information. Please make sure you have submitted all necessary materials.

10 Secure housing

We strongly recommend securing housing before you arrive to UMBC. View some of your options [here](#).

11 Attend any applicable orientations

You may need to attend other orientations for your department, your Graduate Assistantship, or if you are an international student. Contact your department or the ISSS office for more information.

Housing



On-Campus Housing - Graduate

Graduate students can choose to live on-campus in Walker Avenue Apartments. Apply directly at walkeravenueapts.com

Students are **not** required to live on campus.

Off-Campus Housing & Student Services

Many students live off-campus. **Plan early!** Finding housing takes time, make sure to start the process as early as possible.

[OCSS](http://ocss.umbc.edu) offers services, programs and academic and social support to help students. Discover housing and public transport options, review leasing agreements, set up utilities, find roommates and more.

ocss.umbc.edu

Make sure when you budget that you consider other recurring expenses such as internet, phone, streaming services (optional), and groceries.



If you decide to save costs by sharing space with a roommate or two, make sure you establish a clear plan for sharing costs and responsibilities before you move in.

To obtain a lease, you may need a co-signer, proof of income, bank statements, and/or an adequate credit score.

Orientation

- **Graduate School Orientation:** Orientation is available at any time, entirely online. Work at your own pace to complete the modules. Start the orientation [here](#).
- **International Student Orientation:** Attendance is mandatory. Learn more [here](#).
- **Program Orientation:** check with your program to see if they will be having their own orientation.

Graduate Assistant Orientation

If you are a **new** Graduate Assistant, you **must** attend the Graduate Assistant Orientation. This orientation is usually a week before classes start and is **online**. You will receive an email with specific information from your Program Coordinator, as well as the Grad Student & Postdoc Development office.

Class Registration

Instructions for how to register for classes can be found on the [registrars website](#).

Check the [graduate student academic calendar](#) to confirm when you can register for classes.

Stay Informed

Social Media

UMBC and The Graduate School have their own social media accounts. We recommend following them to hear about deadlines, updates, closures, and more.

[@umbclife](#)

[@umbcgradschool](#)



UMBC Alerts

UMBC occasionally sends important alerts to the community via UMBC email and text. Alerts may pertain to inclement weather, campus outages, or safety. Sign up for alerts [here](#).



UMBC Email

Important course and university updates and info are often shared via email. We highly recommend you check your UMBC email often.

myUMBC

See what's happening around campus through [myUMBC](#). Explore campus groups, find events, and get involved!

Places on Campus

The Commons

[The Commons](#) is the hub of student life. Situated in the middle of campus, it is the place to go before, between and after classes to eat, study and relax.

Retriever Activities Center (RAC)

The RAC is UMBC's fitness and recreation facility. Activities include: workout spaces, club and intramural sports, swimming pools, an indoor track, basketball courts, tennis courts, and more! [Learn more](#).

UMBC Dining

UMBC has many delicious places to [eat on campus](#) including Chick-fil-A, Starbucks, Einstein Bros, Dunkin, and more!

Albin O. Kuhn Library

[The Albin O. Kuhn Library](#) holds UMBC's vast library collection, as well as: study space, copying & printing services, digital media lab, and equipment rental.

Retriever Essentials

[Retriever Essentials](#) is dedicated to ensuring all students have access to sufficient food & essential goods. Their mission is to eliminate food insecurity in the UMBC community. Retriever Essentials operates a food pantry located on campus, as well as a designated collection point for pre-packaged food bags.

Resources



myUMBC

myUMBC is your gateway to UMBC services, information, and connections to the campus community. You can:

- access Blackboard, email, grades, and billing information
- update your contact info and manage your campus card
- discover campus events and student organizations

Blackboard

Blackboard is UMBC's course management system. You can view all of your courses, submit assignments, view presentations and recorded lectures, and check your grades

Campus Card

Your **campus card** is your student ID. Use it for:

- UMBC Transit
- Meal plans
- Library
- On campus payments
- Swipe access rooms
- The RAC
- Discounts

Software

UMBC offers a selection of software and services available for download. A full list of software available to students and how to download can be found [here](#).

Check out a full list of resources:
<https://gspd.umbc.edu/resources/>

Billing, Tuition & Fees

Tuition

Your tuition costs are based on the number of credits you are enrolled in. Tuition is charged every semester. A breakdown of tuition and fees is available on Student Business Services (SBS) [website](#).

Fees

All fees are mandatory. Some fees are charged once, while others are charged each semester. A breakdown of fees and tuition is available on the Student Business Services (SBS) [website](#).

Health Insurance

All graduate students, including Graduate Assistants, are eligible to enroll in the Graduate Assistant Health Insurance program. Payment for enrollment in the program is the responsibility of the student or is considered an additional benefit to be paid by the department. More information on the specifics of coverage and insurance plan may be found on the [Aetna Student Health page](#).

How do I get my bill or know what amount I owe?

All UMBC bills are delivered electronically. Info about accessing bills and your account can be found on the [SBS website](#).

When is my bill due?

The [SBS E-Billing Schedule](#) will tell you when your bill is due

Who do I contact about my tuition, fees, and billing?

Contact SBS by submitting an [inquiry](#).

Transportation & Safety

UMBC Transit

The Campus shuttle is free for students! UMBC Transit is a robust, free campus shuttle available members of the UMBC community. The shuttle provides service to many surrounding areas. You must show a student ID to board. Check out UMBC transit routes and maps at transit.umbc.edu



Public Transportation

MTA (Maryland Transport Authority):

Use MTA public transport options to travel throughout Baltimore and surrounding areas. Options include bus, metro, and light rail. Fare: \$2.00 per trip, All Access College Transit Pass: \$57.00 per month. Routes and more info at mta.maryland.gov

Cham City Circulator:

The Charm City Circulator is a free shuttle that travels to popular locations and stops in Baltimore city center. Learn more [here](#).

UMBC Police

Students on campus can call UMBC Police in case of emergencies. Contact them by calling 410-455-5555.

Campus Alerts

UMBC's Emergency Alert text-messaging system will send alerts about campus emergencies or weather-related campus closures. To sign up for alerts, visit umbc.edu/about/inclement-weather

Health & Student Support

Retriever Integrated Health (RIH)

UMBC's RIH provides outpatient primary care clinical services, health programming, and outreach. Services include: Diagnosis of acute illnesses, Immunizations, Routine physicals and more. It is located in the Center for Well-Being.

More information: health.umbc.edu

The Counseling Center

The Counseling Center offers free and confidential counseling services and workshops to all registered UMBC students.

More information at health.umbc.edu/counseling-services

Office of Equity & Civil Rights

ECR is responsible for promoting and coordinating the University's core values of inclusive excellence and equity. The primary responsibility is managing UMBC's efforts related to Title IX as well as other civil rights issues, including discrimination, harassment, hate and bias. More about ECR is available at

ecr.umbc.edu

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center provides support to UMBC undergrad students.

A complete list of services can be found at academicsuccess.umbc.edu

Career Center

The [Career Center](#) works with students at every academic level to provide students with skills and resources for work opportunities. Services include career advising, applied learning opportunities, networking events, career & professional skills education, recruiting, and interviewing.

Health & Student Support

Initiatives for Identity, Inclusion & Belonging (i3b)

i3b creates opportunities for students to build their awareness and knowledge of diverse people, cultures and belief systems. i3b offers facilitated discussions, informal gatherings, educational engagements, classes, presentations and campus-wide events. They also host physical spaces for students to engage with their activities, study or hang out.

Spaces include:

The Gathering Space for Spiritual WellBeing (Religious spaces)

The Pride Center (LGBTQ+ spaces)

The Mosaic: Center for Culture and Diversity

Women's Center

The **Women's Center** advances gender equity from an intersectional feminist perspective through co-curricular programming, support services, and advocacy for marginalized individuals and communities.

Grad Student and Postdoctoral Development

The office of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Development (**GSPD**) is the hub of professional development for all graduate students and postdocs at UMBC. Look for "GSPD" on myUMBC for all of their updates and events.

Grad Student Association (GSA)

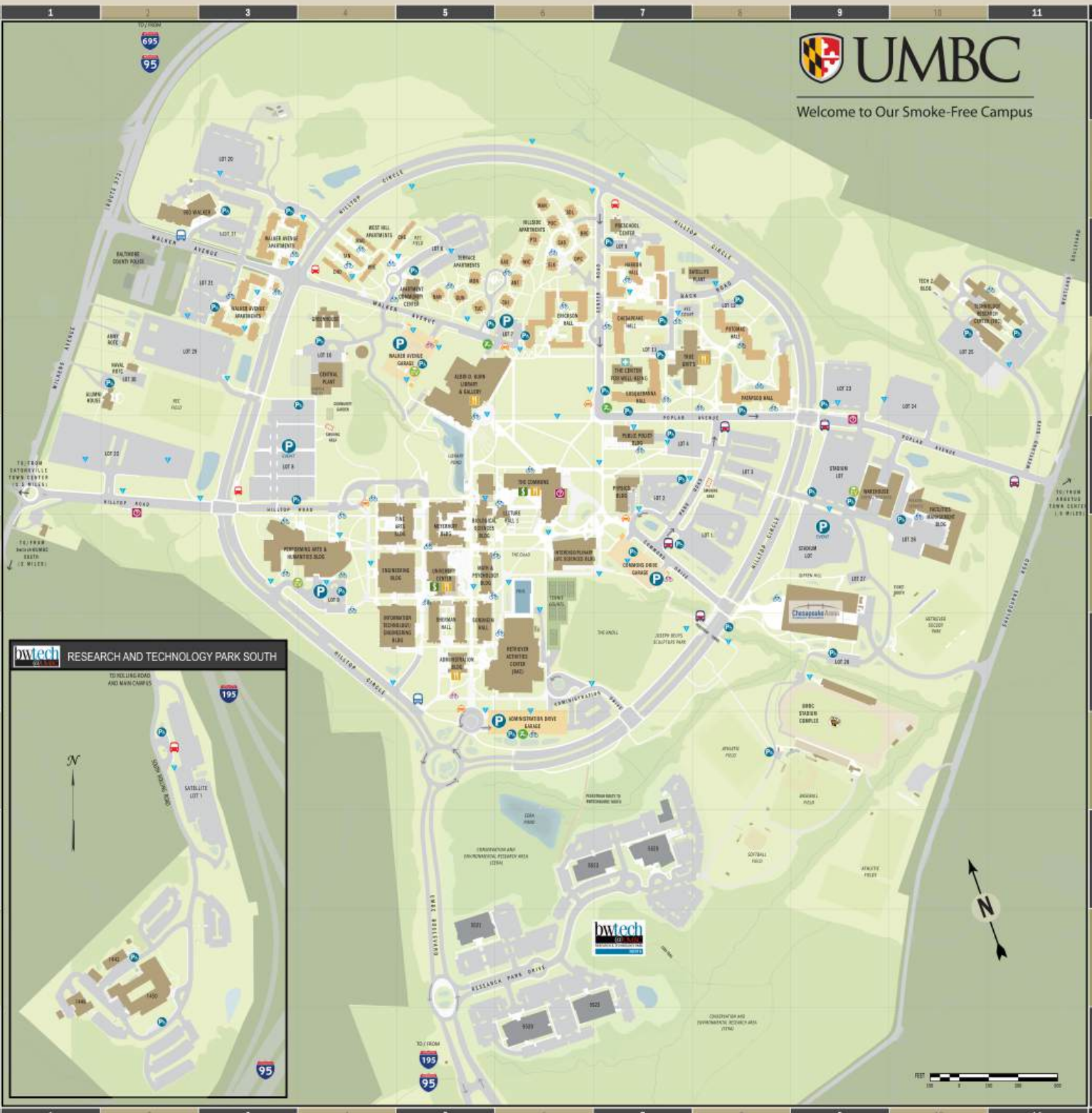
GSA represents the interests and concerns of UMBC graduate students, by providing a forum for discussions and recommendations on matters involving graduate students & welfare.

Grad Experience, Achievements & Research Symposium

GEARS showcases students' creative achievements, research accomplishments, and shares experiences with peers. It's a friendly atmosphere to promote collaboration, improve communication skills, and celebrate the hard work of graduate students.



Welcome to Our Smoke-Free Campus



CAMPUS DIRECTORY

FREQUENT DESTINATIONS

- Accessibility & Disability Services, 212 Math & Psychology Bldg
- Admissions, Graduate, 2nd Floor Administration Bldg
- Admissions, Undergraduate, Ground Floor facing Pond
- Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery
- Black Box Theatre, 107 Performing Arts & Humanities Bldg
- Bookstore, The Commons
- bwtech@UMBC North
- bwtech@UMBC South
- Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture, 605 Fine Arts Bldg
- Earl and Darlelle Lindean Concert Hall, 235 Performing Arts & Humanities Bldg
- Dance Cube, 337 Performing Arts & Humanities Bldg
- Library & Gallery, Albin O. Kuhn
- Music Box, 107 Performing Arts & Humanities Bldg
- Parking Services, 100 Facilities Management Bldg
- Prosserman Theatre, 103 Performing Arts & Humanities Bldg
- University Center Ballroom, 301 University Center

BUILDINGS

- 500 Walker
- Administration Building
- Alumni House
- Army ROTC
- Biological Sciences Building
- The Center for Web-being
- Central Plant
- The Commons
- Chesapeake Employees Insurance Agency
- Engineering Building
- Facilities Management Building
- Fine Arts Building
- Greenhouse
- Information Technology/Engineering Building (ITE)
- Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building
- Lecture Hall 1
- Library & Gallery, Albin O. Kuhn

STUDENT HOUSING

- Mathematics & Psychology Bldg
- Naval ROTC
- Meyerhoff Chemistry Building
- Performing Arts and Humanities Building
- Physics Building
- Recreation Center
- Public Policy Building
- Recreation Activities Center (RAC)
- Satellite Utility Plant
- Sherman Hall
- Sordshine Hall
- Technology Research Center (TRC)
- Tech 2 Building
- Thur-Gris
- UMBC Stadium Complex
- University Center
- Warehouse

VISITOR PARKING

- Administration Drive Garage
- Commons Drive Garage
- Lot 7
- Lot 9
- Stadium Lot

LEGEND

- Visitor Parking
- Event Parking
- Accessible Parking
- Information Desk/Vehicular Kiosk
- Dining Locations
- ATM
- University Health Services
- Emergency Phone
- MTA Bus Stop Only
- MTA and UMBC Shuttle Bus Stop
- UMBC Shuttle Bus Stop Only
- Taxi Pickup Area
- Bicycle Rack
- Bicycle Repair Station
- Zip Car Location
- EV Charging Station

GENERAL INFORMATION

For more information call 410-455-1000
For Campus Police call 410-455-3555

Campus Contact Info

Who can help me with...?

Academic Advising

Contact the Graduate Program
Coordinator for your department:
Visit this [page](#) to find your program & GPC

Adding or Dropping Courses

Registrar's Office
410-455-2500
Sherman Hall B Wing 221
registrar.umbc.edu

Billing Tuition & Fees

Student Business Services
410-455-2288
Administration Building 3rd Floor
sbs.umbc.edu

Disability Services

Student Disability Services
410-455-2459
Math/Psychology Building Room 212
sds.umbc.edu

Diversity, Inclusion & Equity

Office of Equity and Civil Rights
410-455-1717
Administration Building 9th Floor
ecr.umbc.edu

i3b: Initiatives for Identity, Inclusion & Belonging
The Commons 336
i3b.umbc.edu

Doctor & Medical Care

Retriever Integrated Health
410-455-2542
The Center for Well-Being
uhs.umbc.edu

Emergencies

UMBC Police
410-455-5555 or 911
police.umbc.edu

English Language Support

English Language Institute (ELI)
410-455-2831
University Center 207
eli.umbc.edu

Fitness, Sport & Recreation

RAC (Retriever Activities Center)
410-455-8888
recreation.umbc.edu

Food Insecurity

Retriever Essentials
The Commons 1A10
retrieveressentials.umbc.edu

Gender Equity Support & Resources

Women's Center
The Commons Ground Floor Suite 004
womenscenter.umbc.edu
410-455-2714

Campus Contact Info

Who can help me with...?

Graduate Student Association: GSA

The Commons 308
410-455-2773

gsa.umbc.edu

Health Insurance Requirements

Retriever Integrated Health
410-455-2542
The Center for Well-Being

health.umbc.edu

International Student Support

International Student & Scholar Service (ISSS)
University Center 207A

iss.umbc.edu

Jobs, Internships & Career Planning

Career Center
410-455-2216
Math/Psychology Building Room 201

careers.umbc.edu

Library

Albin O. Kuhn (AOK) Library
41-455-2232

library.umbc.edu

Living Off Campus

Off Campus Student Services
The Commons 1A02
ocss.umbc.edu 410-455-2770

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Retriever Integrated Health
410-455-2472

The Center for Well-Being
counseling.umbc.edu

Parking

Parking Services
410-455-2551

parking.umbc.edu

Postal Services

Campu Card Center
410-612-2273

University Center 112
campuscard.umbc.edu

Printing & Design Services

Commonvision
The Commons 309
410-455-1884

commonvision.umbc.edu

Registration & Enrollment

Registrar's Office
410-455-2500
Sherman Hall B-Wing 221

registrar.umbc.edu

Campus Contact Info

Who can help me with...?

Scholarships

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships
410-455-2387
Library Ground Level Pondsides
financialaid.umbc.edu

UMBC Transportation

Transit
410-455-3974
transit.umbc.edu
[Bus schedules](#)

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, & Bias Resources & Policies

Office of Equity and Civil Rights
410-455-1717
Administration Building 9th Floor
ecr.umbc.edu

24 Hour Study Spaces

Retriever Learning Center
410-455-2232
Library First Floor
library.umbc.edu

Student Campus Cards

Campus Card Center
443-612-2273
University Center 112
campuscard.umbc.edu

Technology Support

DoIT
410-455-3838
[Submit a help ticket](#)
doit.umbc.edu

Transcripts

Registrar's Office
410-455-2500
Sherman Hall B-Wing 221
registrar.umbc.edu