



**DIFFERENT**  
MAKES A DIFFERENCE



**UMBC**

**2026 FIRST-YEAR VIEWBOOK**









# WHAT SETS US APART IS WHAT **DRIVES US FORWARD**

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# YOU BELONG HERE

This is a place where who you are matters from day one. You'll find small classes, open doors, and a culture that values authenticity over conformity. Professors see you, not just your grades. Classmates become collaborators, not competitors. You'll graduate with more than knowledge—you'll gain confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of purpose.

## DIFFERENT DRIVES WHAT'S NEXT

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At UMBC, innovation isn't confined to labs or lecture halls—it emerges where unexpected ideas collide, when the boundaries between disciplines blur, and students with intersecting identities, talents, and passions are encouraged to create something new.





# 1966

YEAR FOUNDED

# 13,530

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS



# 90+

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

# 100+

MAJORS AND PROGRAMS

# 17:1

STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO



# TOP 150

FOR FEDERAL  
RESEARCH FUNDING









- Amateur Radio Club
- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
- Anime Society
- Bartleby
- Bonsai Club
- ChewMBC: The Cooking Club
- Cleftomaniacs
- Comics and Other Media
- Cosplay Coalition
- CWIT Student Council
- Dog-Collar Comedy Troupe
- Entrepreneurs @ UMBC
- Fencing Club
- Film Club
- Humans vs. Zombies
- Ice Hockey Club
- K-pop Club
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Neuroscience Club
- Philosophers Anonymous
- Pre-Law Society
- Pre-Medical Society
- Retriever Music Society
- Rock Climbing Club
- Social Work Student Association
- Spanish Conversation Club
- Student Service Members, Veterans and Families
- Tabletop Gaming Club
- UMBC Design Club
- WMBC Radio
- +140 More!

# YOUR PASSION IS PART OF THE PLAN

At UMBC, student life is a co-created, lived experience that grows with you. Getting involved means finding the people, passions, and perspectives that help shape who you are—and who we are, together.

With 250+ student organizations, there's no one way to be part of campus life. Join cultural groups that reflect your identity, service organizations that align with your values, and communities built around your hobbies, goals, and big ideas. From Greek life to civic engagement, your difference doesn't just belong—it builds something better.

The Student Events Board (seb) hosts events almost every day, from movie nights to major festivals like Homecoming and Quadmania. However you show up, there's space for you here.





# CONNECTION

## THAT MOVES WITH YOU

At UMBC, well-being is a community-wide commitment to helping you stay active, balanced, and connected.

### 17 NCAA DIVISION I SPORTS TEAMS

#### MEN'S

Baseball  
Basketball  
Cross Country  
Lacrosse  
Soccer  
Swimming and Diving  
Track and Field

#### WOMEN'S

Basketball  
Cross Country  
Lacrosse  
Soccer  
Softball  
Swimming and Diving  
Track and Field  
Volleyball

### THE CENTER FOR WELL-BEING

Brings together mental health services, health promotion, and spiritual support all under one roof. Whether you're managing stress, finding your community, or just need someone to talk to, you'll find care that's inclusive, accessible, and built around you.

### RETRIEVER ACTIVITIES CENTER (RAC)

The RAC is home to weight rooms, cardio spaces, outdoor and indoor pools, basketball and tennis courts, and more. RAC staff members offer over 30 group fitness and cycling classes, virtual classes, and personal training.

### 30+ CLUB AND INTRAMURAL SPORTS TEAMS

Whether you are looking for a way to get to know other students or test yourself in a competitive environment, UMBC offers a number of options for Retrievers to have fun.







# INDEPENDENCE AND COMMUNITY



## WHY LIVE ON CAMPUS?

Many first-year students choose to live on campus because they love the independence of living on their own and the convenience of being close to class, campus life, and recreational activities. UMBC's location also makes it easy to get to the airport, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C.—opening up access to cultural experiences, internships, and entertainment that expand life beyond campus.



**LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITIES**

With 10 themed Living-Learning Communities and modern residence halls, UMBC helps you build friendships and find support from day one.



**DINING**

From global cuisine to campus favorites, our 17 dining spots offer options for every taste and dietary need. Craving something different? Dozens of restaurants are just off campus.



**TRANSPORTATION**

UMBC Transit offers free, eco-friendly rides with over 300 stops. We also offer real-time updates through our GPS-enabled Transit Tracker.



**HEALTH SERVICES**

Retriever Integrated Health (RIH) blends physical and mental health services to provide a collaborative and holistic approach to support your well-being and success.



**CAMPUS SAFETY**

UMBC prioritizes your safety with 24/7 police services and real-time updates through our UMBC Alerts text system.

1/2

More than half of new students live on campus.





# HELP OTHERS— **FIND YOURSELF**

At UMBC, service is part of who we are. Whether you're mentoring, organizing, or volunteering in the community, you'll find meaningful ways to make an impact. It's a chance to connect your values with action, and grow through doing good.

## GIVING WHERE WE LIVE

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Our students participate in service learning throughout the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. region, working with animals, children, immigrants, and patients in programs such as:

- Baltimore Animal Rescue and Care Shelter (BARCS)
- Esperanza Center
- The Choice Program
- Creative Coders
- Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital



A woman with blonde hair and glasses, wearing a blue protective suit and gloves, is kneeling and smiling next to a brown dog. The dog is sitting on a black mat and has its mouth open, showing its tongue. The woman is wearing a blue protective suit with the word 'RET' visible on the front. The dog is wearing a red collar and a red leash. The background is a light blue wall with some greenery visible on the right.

# 87%

of service-learning  
respondents say their  
experiences helped them to  
grow as leaders.



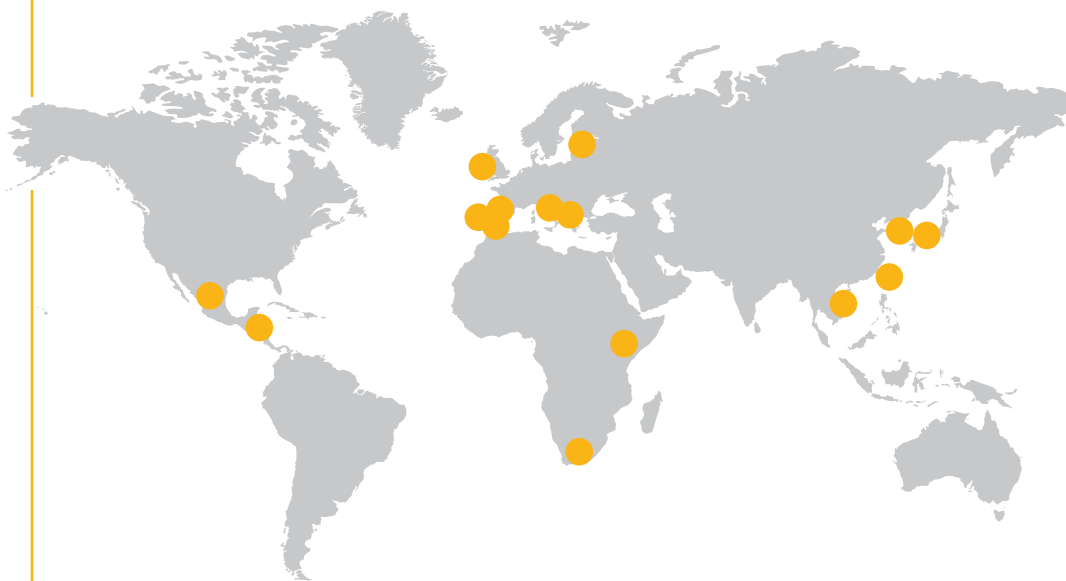
# GROW

## WHERE YOU'VE NEVER BEEN

At UMBC, the world is—quite literally—your classroom. Learn about new cultures and governments. Test your research chops at an on-site archaeology lab. Explore art and literature in the places they were created. Whatever you choose, it's sure to be a life-changing experience.

In the last year alone, UMBC students have enjoyed a study-abroad experience in many cities around the world, including:

- Costa Rica
- Estonia
- France
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Portugal
- South Africa
- South Korea
- Spain
- Taiwan
- Vietnam







# RESEARCH

## THAT STARTS WITH YOU

As an R1 university, UMBC offers big research opportunities with a personal approach. Across every major, you'll dive into real work alongside faculty and grad students, shaping questions that matter to you. Through UMBC's Undergraduate Research Awards, you can receive up to \$1,500 to support independent projects with a faculty mentor.

UMBC students are publishing, presenting, and pushing their fields forward. Across every discipline, undergraduates lead original research and creative projects with real-world impact.



Check out the latest issue of the *UMBC Review*, a peer-reviewed journal run entirely by undergrads, for a glimpse of what our students are discovering.





"Having undergraduates in the lab has extended our capability to ask more complex questions than we would otherwise take on."

Professor Chuck Bieberich  
Biological Sciences





UMBC PREPARED ME FOR MY FUTURE BY...

*"... teaching me how to collaborate, reflect, and adapt – skills I'll carry with me long after graduation. UMBC also surrounded me with supportive professors, friends, and amazing opportunities that shaped who I am today."*

# CAREER-READY ON YOUR TERMS

Whether you're aiming for a career, grad school, or something entirely your own, we help you build the experience, confidence, and connections to get there. Our location—right in the heart of a major biotech corridor and within easy reach of Baltimore, D.C., and multiple centers of government—means unparalleled access to internships, research opportunities, and professional networks.

## FUNDED OPPORTUNITIES

Not all internships pay—but at UMBC, we believe access shouldn't depend on income. Our Student Internship and Service Fund provides stipends so you can pursue meaningful experiences without sacrificing financial security.

GRADUATES WORKING IN

**42 & 17**

STATES AND COUNTRIES

**598**

DIRECT EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENTS  
TO RECRUIT AND INTERACT  
WITH STUDENTS

**100,000+**

ALUMNI NETWORK AROUND THE WORLD

**65%**

OF STUDENTS EMPLOYED  
INTERNEED AT THE PLACE  
THEY WORK

**91%**

OF EMPLOYED  
UNDERGRADUATES ARE  
IN POSITIONS DIRECTLY  
RELATED TO THEIR FIELD



# WHERE YOU'LL **MAKE AN IMPACT**

Top employers across industries actively recruit UMBC students because they know we produce thinkers, doers, and leaders. Through hands-on internships, research, and service, you'll gain the kind of real-world experience that sets you apart.



# 93%

of degree recipients reported firm plans of being employed and/or heading to graduate school.



## YOUR FUTURE HAS RANGE

Thinking about graduate school, fellowships, or research abroad? UMBC helps students chart bold futures through personalized support for competitive scholarships like the Rhodes, Goldwater, and Fulbright. Our grads are changing the world in labs, boardrooms, classrooms, and beyond.





# COLLEGE OF **ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences spans the disciplines, the centuries, and the globe. True to the liberal arts, we ask questions fundamental to human existence: Who are we? Where have we been? What matters? Through diverse, challenging programs of study, with countless opportunities for research, creative work, internships, and other co-curricular activities, our students develop skills and knowledge that prepare them for a variety of careers and a lifetime of thoughtful citizenship and leadership in a complex world.



## MAJORS AND PROGRAMS

|                                       |                                        |                                  |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Acting                                | Environmental Science and Geography    | Middle Grades STEM Education     | Public Health                   |
| Africana Studies                      | Financial Economics                    | Modern Languages and Linguistics | Sociology                       |
| American Studies                      | Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies | Music Composition                | Theatre (Design and Production) |
| Ancient Studies                       | Geography and Environmental Studies    | Music Performance                | Theatre (Theatre Education)     |
| Asian Studies                         | Global Studies                         | Music Teaching and Learning      | Theatre (Theatre Studies)       |
| Cultural Anthropology                 | History                                | Music Technology                 | Visual Arts                     |
| Dance                                 | Jazz Studies                           | Philosophy                       | Visual Arts (Fine Arts)         |
| Design                                | Media and Communication Studies        | Political Science                |                                 |
| Economics                             |                                        | Psychology                       |                                 |
| Emergency and Disaster Health Systems |                                        |                                  |                                 |
| English                               |                                        |                                  |                                 |



# COLLEGE OF **ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The College of Engineering and Information Technology is constantly asking what's next, with our focus on research, innovation, and education. We create space for our students to cross disciplines in both their research and their classes. As a result, our students become adept problem solvers who are poised to tackle modern technological challenges. In all that we do, we work to include diverse voices, conduct cutting-edge research, and prepare students to join a global workforce.

## MAJORS AND PROGRAMS

Business Technology Administration

Computer Engineering

Computer Science

Information Systems

Mechanical Engineering



Did you know the UMBC-NASA partnership goes back two decades? Recently, UMBC scientists and student researchers launched the HARP2 instrument on NASA's PACE mission.

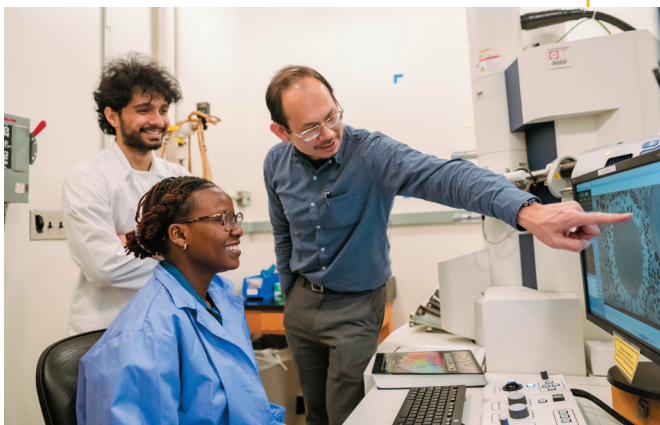






# COLLEGE OF **NATURAL AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES**

In the College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, we emphasize research experiences as teaching and learning tools and create opportunities for our students to work side by side with faculty, post-docs, and graduate students using state-of-the-art equipment. We create space for students to explore, testing various hypotheses and making personal discoveries. This work, combined with our emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, gives our students the chance to test the waters for future academic and career pursuits.



## MAJORS AND PROGRAMS

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Bioinformatics and  
Computational Biology

Biological Sciences

Biology Education

Chemical Engineering

Chemistry

Chemistry Education

Mathematics

Physics

Physics Education

Statistics

Translational Life  
Science Technology



# SHAPING LEADERS IN SERVICE AND CARE

## THE ERICKSON SCHOOL OF AGING STUDIES

The Erickson School's Management of Aging Studies program combines business management, public policy, and the study of human aging to prepare the next generation of leaders in the longevity market. [erickson.umbc.edu](http://erickson.umbc.edu)

## SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM

The Baccalaureate Social Work Program at UMBC is part of the University of Maryland's School of Social Work. Students will build the skills and techniques they'll need for a generalist practice focused on individuals, families, groups, and communities. [socialwork.umbc.edu](http://socialwork.umbc.edu)

## INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY PROGRAM

Our Individualized Study program gives students a chance to chart their own course as they design a major that allows them to explore multiple interests. Examples of degrees from recent graduates include prosthetic design, critical carceral studies, and holistic pediatric rehabilitation and care. [inds.umbc.edu](http://inds.umbc.edu)





## UMBC AT THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

UMBC provides a unique environment for students to earn a degree in Montgomery County at The Universities at Shady Grove (USG), where we offer a curated selection of programs. Students who have as few as 45 college credits may be eligible to access UMBC's best faculty, dynamic learning environment, and individualized advising, all without commuting to Baltimore. [shadygrove.umbc.edu](https://shadygrove.umbc.edu)



## PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

UMBC offers a range of two-, three-, and four-year pre-professional programs designed to help our students propel themselves into allied health and other professional fields.

## PROGRAMS

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Pre-Anesthesiologist Assistant

Pre-Athletic Training

Pre-Chiropractic Medicine

Pre-Dental Hygiene

Pre-Law

Pre-Medical Technology

Pre-Nursing

Pre-Occupational Therapy

Pre-Pharmaceutical Sciences

Pre-Pharmacy

Pre-Physical Therapy

Pre-Physician Assistant







# HONORED TO BE DIFFERENT

## HONORS COLLEGE

In the Honors College, you'll take classes and seminars that will help you cultivate your distinctive skills and abilities with some of our best professors alongside other students committed to intellectual inquiry.

## OUR SCHOLARS PROGRAMS

We've built a unique set of programs with scholarships where you'll find a supportive community that is focused on giving you a launchpad for your academic, career, and life goals.

## HONORS COLLEGE SEMINARS

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Facts and Fiction of Exercise  
Race, Poverty, and Gender in  
Baltimore  
Disasters That Shaped Us  
Criminal Justice  
The Body in East Asia

**Center for Women in Technology (CWIT):** For students who are passionate about technology, computing, and engineering—and advancing women in those fields.

**Cyber Scholars:** Perfect for students who are ready to take on the cybersecurity challenges of today and tomorrow.

**Humanities Scholars:** This program helps students become independent and creative thinkers who examine and change the world through learning, research, and civic engagement.

**Linehan Artist Scholars:** A creative community for talented students who are serious about pursuing their art in a university setting.

**Meyerhoff Scholars:** A rigorous but deeply supportive community of scholars that leads efforts nationwide to increase diversity among future leaders in science, technology, engineering, and related fields.

**Sherman Teacher Scholars:** Prepares students who have a desire to teach in high-needs and urban schools to become culturally responsive and compassionate educators who believe all children deserve a high-quality education.

**Sondheim Public Affairs Scholars:** Dedicated to students who want to tackle urgent social problems through careers in public service fields like law, non-profit leadership, and healthcare.









# LIFE CHANGING. COST EFFECTIVE.

Financing your education is an important step, and that’s why we offer a wide range of financial aid and scholarships.

## COST OF ATTENDANCE: LIVING ON CAMPUS (2026 - 2027)\*

|                | In-State Per year | Out-of-State Per year |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuition/Fees   | \$14,086          | \$34,183              |
| Housing & Food | \$15,738          | \$15,738              |
| Total:         | \$29,824          | \$49,921              |

*\* Each student's individual costs may vary based upon courses, housing, and meal plan selection. Costs are subject to change with Board of Regents approval.*





**NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID**

Financial aid programs are available and awarded in three categories: grants, loans, and employment. The Office of Student Financial Wellness and Assistance will prepare a financial aid package for eligible students which may consist of one or more of these types of aid to assist in meeting a student’s financial needs.

**MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS**

UMBC offers a range of merit awards to both in-state and out-of-state students. Prospective incoming first-year students who submit timely applications will be reviewed for awards based on high school program, individual grades, and cumulative averages.

**FINANCIAL AID DATES**

FAFSA available: October 1, 2026 (Expected)  
Priority Deadline: March 1, 2027







## RETRIEVER SPIRIT

Our mascot, “True Grit,” stands for more than school pride. The Chesapeake Bay Retriever is a symbol of loyalty, drive, and purpose—the same qualities that shape the UMBC experience. Here, grit means showing up with heart, lifting each other up, and making a difference through academics, wellness, civic action, and community.

## SO WHAT'S NEXT?



### READY TO APPLY?

Get more information about the application process here.

You can get a great sense of life as a Retriever without even setting foot on campus. We've curated a number of videos, photos, and a 360° tour of campus.

### PREFER TO SEE UMBC IN PERSON?

Join us on campus for a tour or information session, offered most weekdays and Saturdays, and meet with an admissions representative to learn more about our admissions requirements, scholarships, academic programs, and more.

### IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Fall Admission to UMBC and the Honors College at UMBC:

Early Action: November 1

Regular Decision: February 1

### QUESTIONS?

Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation at [admissions@umbc.edu](mailto:admissions@umbc.edu) or 410-455-2292.







**OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS  
AND ORIENTATION**

University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Baltimore, MD  
Permit #6777

[first name] [last name]

[address]

[city], [state] [zip code]

[NAME]  
**YOU BELONG**  
AT UMBC!