



DIFFERENT
MAKES A DIFFERENCE



2026 UMBC-SHADY GROVE VIEWBOOK



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



CONTENTS

2	Welcome
4	Transfer Services
6	Student Life
8	Student Support
10	Career Services
12	Computer Science
14	History
16	Mechanical Engineering
18	Political Science
20	Psychology
22	Social Work
24	Translational Life Science Technology
26	Cost and Financial Aid
28	Next Steps

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.

LOCATION MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

At UMBC at The Universities at Shady Grove, you'll get to experience what sets UMBC apart and interact with students from eight other Maryland state universities in one central location.

You'll take UMBC courses from UMBC professors and get a UMBC diploma when you graduate. The UMBC-Shady Grove difference? A convenient campus in Montgomery County that emphasizes career-readiness and community among students like you who already have some college credit.



500 UMBC STUDENTS ON CAMPUS

4,000 TOTAL STUDENTS ON CAMPUS



27

STUDENTS IN AN
AVERAGE CLASS

100%

FIRST YEAR WITH ADVANCED
STANDING, TRANSFER, AND
GRADUATE STUDENTS

26

AVERAGE AGE OF UNDERGRADS



7

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS





TRANSFORMING THE TRANSFER EXPERIENCE

All students join UMBC-Shady Grove with some college credit, creating a transfer-first environment where you'll start strong, stay supported, and thrive.

TRANSFER CENTRAL

We know your biggest questions: How will my credits transfer? How long will it take to graduate? How much will it cost? Transfer Central is our interactive tool that provides real-time credit estimates, best-fit major recommendations, and access to key dates, milestones, and resources.

TRANSFER STUDENT ALLIANCE (TSA)

For Maryland community college students, TSA provides exclusive member benefits from day one.

Benefits include:

- \$75 transfer application fee waiver
- 25% tuition discount for one concurrent UMBC course each semester
- Guaranteed annual merit scholarship for up to two years
- Priority advising and orientation registration

PRE-TRANSFER ADVISING

Our advisors work with you before you enroll to review graduation requirements, transfer credits, and major pathways—helping you plan a smooth transition to UMBC.

Schedule an appointment at shadygrove.umbc.edu/pre-transfer.

TRANSFER SEMINAR

UNIV 301 is a course designed specifically for incoming transfer students—helping you navigate UMBC, connect with your department, and map out your academic journey.

TAU SIGMA NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Recognizing and celebrating transfer student achievement, Tau Sigma connects you with peers through networking, service, and social events.



YOUR PASSION IS PART OF THE PLAN

At UMBC-Shady Grove, student life means leadership opportunities, career exploration, and healthy work-school-life balance. Get involved to find people, passions, and perspectives that help shape who you are—and who we are, together.

There's no one way to be part of campus life. Join a student organization with others in your major, support incoming students with the Peer Advisory Team, or become a campus leader with USG ambassadors or student council. With our small community that invites new ideas, your difference doesn't just belong—it builds something better.

UMBC and USG hold events and workshops throughout the semester, along with campus-wide celebrations. There's always space for you at UMBC in Catonsville, too, where you're invited to join in on everything from career fairs to sports games to festivals.



COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT

Your identities, perspectives, and lived experiences come to class with you every day. However you show up, we're here to uplift you. When you're given the space to thrive, it'll help to unlock your success.

Our Peer Advisory Team members, faculty, and staff will be there from the start to ensure you're adjusting to the campus environment. Being a Retriever at USG means you're part of two special communities where we're confident you'll find a strong sense of belonging.





ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND DISABILITY SERVICES

Find a tutor, have an essay reviewed, or request accommodations through UMBC-provided services.



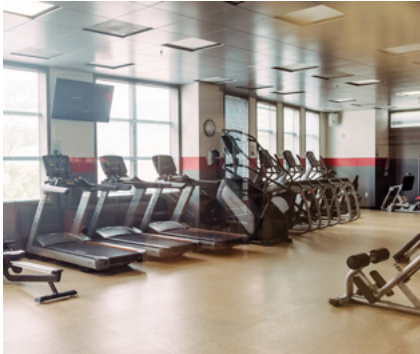
CAMPUS SAFETY

Contact USG's 24/7 security team if you'd like a safety escort. You can rely on UMBC's dedicated staff for comprehensive incident reporting and support.



CAREER SERVICES

Career-readiness workshops, career fairs, résumé review, and more are offered by both UMBC and USG.



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Take care of your mind and body through the resources offered by USG's Center for Counseling and Well-Being and the Campus Recreation Center.



STUDY ABROAD AND SERVICE LEARNING

Don't miss out on valuable experiences; UMBC can help you identify options for study abroad and service learning.



UMBC-SHADY GROVE WELCOME CENTER

Your one-stop shop on campus, our Welcome Center is staffed by helpful students who can connect you with the right resources.



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 D.C., Baltimore, and multiple centers of government—means unparalleled access to internships, research opportunities, and an alumni network of 100,000+ Retrievers.

YOUR FUTURE HAS RANGE

We take the time to learn your goals and help you find experiences so you can reach them. While a student, you might complete internships, field placements, or research that aligns with your plan.

ACCELERATE YOUR PATH

Save time and money by double-counting credits toward your bachelor's degree and a master's degree in biotechnology, cybersecurity, data science, or industrial/organizational psychology at UMBC-Shady Grove.

WHERE YOU'LL MAKE AN IMPACT

Top employers across industries actively recruit UMBC students because they know we produce thinkers, doers, and leaders. Our alumni work for organizations including AstraZeneca, Deloitte, Google, IBM, Montgomery County Public Schools, NASA, Sheppard Pratt, The United States Senate, and *The Washington Post*.



COMPUTER SCIENCE



"I have leveraged my academic background to work with software development, system architecture, IT project portfolio management, and business processes. I have had the chance to explore diverse roles and to develop a holistic view of how technology is at the center of all business capabilities."

**–Carol Rios Rocha '22,
computer science**

Our program gives you the skills that appeal to employers in our area.

WE OFFER:

- ABET Accreditation
- Optional tracks in artificial intelligence and machine learning, cybersecurity, and data science
- Accelerated pathways to a master's in data science or cybersecurity
- The option to take some courses in Catonsville





"From AI to cybersecurity to data science, computer science is everywhere. With a CS degree, you'll be ready to lead in the fields that shape how we live, work, and connect."

**—Jeannette Kartchner,
associate program director for computer science**



"History provides you with the crucial skills to build stronger communities and solve contemporary problems by studying how people worked to accomplish this in the past."

**– Dr. Andrew Nolan,
history program director**

HISTORY

Studying history is vital to your understanding of the world today and your ability to help shape the future.

WE OFFER:

- Opportunities to spearhead projects and clubs
- An optional minor in public history with internship placement
- A tight-knit community of scholars



Camilla Sandoval '17, history, M.A. '19, historical studies, started her UMBC journey in the history program at USG and loved it so much that she continued on to pursue her master's at UMBC in Catonsville. [Read more.](#)

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING



For Garvey Chu '24, mechanical engineering, UMBC-Shady Grove offered an eye-opening experience. Garvey earned a Trailblazers scholarship as part of the first group of students in the program and credits his professors for expanding his career horizons. [Read more.](#)

You'll gain valuable experience by testing the principles you learn in the classroom through applied labs and design challenges.

WE OFFER:

- ABET Accreditation
- Industry-sponsored, real-world capstone design projects
- Special research opportunities
- Membership in the Society of Automotive Engineers





“Launch your engineering career with a UMBC degree—offered conveniently at The Universities at Shady Grove, with industry-relevant training and direct pathways to high-demand fields.”

**—Dr. Adam Bridendolph,
mechanical engineering program director**



"UMBC's Political Science Program at Shady Grove helps you transform your corner of the world, whether it is here in the Washington, D.C., region or faraway in another country."

**–Dr. Sunil Dasgupta,
political science program director**

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Learn how local, state, and federal politics impact not only the government but our daily lives.

WE OFFER:

- Courses that span local politics to global policy
- Faculty with experience in public policy, government, and research
- A weekly discussion about local politics



Unpack local issues each week (either in-person or virtually) during Dr. Sunil Dasgupta's discussion-centered engagement group open to all students, faculty, and staff every Wednesday at 12 p.m.

PSYCHOLOGY



"Our program allows students to explore multiple areas of psychology while fostering critical thinking and professional development skills in a community that values diverse perspectives and prepares students for a variety of post-graduation pathways."

**—Dr. Laura Rose,
psychology program director**

Our psychology program offers the flexibility to chart your own path and enter the marketplace with versatile skills that will set you apart.

WE OFFER:

- Course options that align with your unique career goals
- Skills that are transferrable across a myriad of industries
- Networking events with fellow students and alumni



Lexi Kay '25, psychology (pictured right), used her background in both psychology and theatre to carve a unique path. She is now pursuing her master's in clinical health, specializing in drama therapy. [Read more.](#)





Amy Caballero '22, social work, explored her passions at UMBC-Shady Grove, getting involved on campus and completing a field placement working with young people. She went on to earn her master's degree at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, at Shady Grove and now works at a local nonprofit. [Read more.](#)

SOCIAL WORK

You'll participate in small classes and hands-on experiences outside the classroom and collaborate with professors, fellow students, and practicing social workers.

WE OFFER:

- A fully-accredited program
- Field placements with local agencies and community organizations
- The option for advanced standing in many master's programs
- Preparation for licensure



"The Social Work Program at UMBC-Shady Grove will support you to build upon your lived experiences. Our students arrive with a passion for challenging social injustices and graduate with the skills needed to serve and advocate in our communities."

**—Dr. Katie Morris, LCSW-C,
social work program director**

TRANSLATIONAL LIFE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY



"We don't want our students to just do what they're told, but to become innovators and leaders in the industry."

**—Dr. Elizabeth Friar,
TLST program director**

Through this applied biotechnology program, you'll gain both the practical skills and theoretical knowledge to transition seamlessly into your career.

WE OFFER:

- Internship opportunities
- Pathways for students who begin studies at UMBC in Catonsville
- An optional track in bioinformatics
- Career opportunities in local industry hubs





Merryll Kallungal '24, translational life science technology, appreciated the close-knit community and personal attention from professors at UMBC-Shady Grove. She used this support to become a student leader, joining the Peer Advisory Team, USG Student Council, and Biotech Club. [Read more.](#)





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. UMBC was named a 2026 Best Value University by *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Princeton Review*.

COST OF ATTENDANCE PER SEMESTER FOR FULL-TIME UMBC-SHADY GROVE STUDENTS IN FALL 2026:

	IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
TUITION/FEES	\$5,612.50	\$15,713.50

SCHOLARSHIPS

As a UMBC-Shady Grove student, your chance of earning scholarship funding is significantly enhanced; both UMBC and USG have scholarship applications that will match you with relevant opportunities.

UMBC also offers merit scholarships with no separate application. Apply to UMBC by the priority deadline to be automatically considered for scholarships. Eligible community college transfer students must have 30+ completed credits at the time of application, and those who will earn an associate degree prior to transfer will get priority consideration.

NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid includes grants, loans, and employment. Complete your FAFSA by the deadline each year and include UMBC's school code, 002105, so that UMBC's Office of Financial Aid can prepare a package that meets your financial needs.

FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES

- Spring Priority: December 1
- Fall Priority: March 1



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?

The best way to discover all that UMBC-Shady Grove has to offer is to visit our campus.

Go to shadygrove.umbc.edu/visit-us to book a pre-transfer advising appointment, view our virtual information session, or explore upcoming events

READY TO APPLY? TRANSFER ADMISSION TO UMBC:

Fall Deadline:

Priority March 1 | Regular June 1

Spring Deadline:

Priority October 15 | Regular December 1

FIRST-YEAR ADMISSION TO UMBC:*

Fall Deadline:

Early Action November 1 | Regular Decision February 1

Spring Deadline:

Early Action October 15 | Regular Decision December 1

**Most UMBC-Shady Grove students are transfer students; however, students dual-enrolled while in high school may qualify to join us as first-year students.*

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at shadygrove.umbc.edu/contact or shadygrove@umbc.edu.





UMBC

AT



The Universities
AT SHADY GROVE

UMBC-SHADY GROVE

9636 Gudelsky Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

YOU BELONG
AT UMBC!