



UMBC International Student and Scholar Services  
**Preparing for Fall 2022 at UMBC**

February 22, 2022



CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

# Reminder:

Please **type questions in**  
**the Q&A** not in the chat

Our team is monitoring the Q&A during this session. The chat is for links we share, but it is not monitored for questions.

Your patience is appreciated as we answer your questions!



# 📌 Agenda 📌

- Working With ISSS
- Student Support and Resources at UMBC
- F-1 Work Options
- Graduate Admissions - Accepting Your Admission, Class Registration and Next Steps
- Q&A



# Meet the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Team



Adam Julian - Director



Dave Anguish - Assistant Director



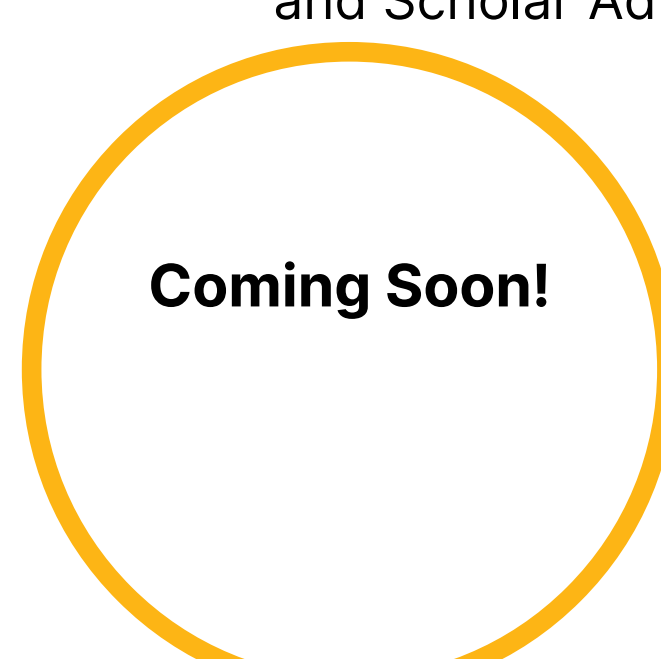
Adwoa Hanson-Hall - International Student and Scholar Advisor



Natalie Lobb - Graduate International Student Support Specialist



Mercedes Arias - International Student and Scholar Advisor



International Student and Scholar Advisor





# About ISSS

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), a branch of UMBC's Center for Global Engagement, is dedicated to supporting UMBC's international student and scholar community and helping them achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals. ISSS offers a variety of programs and services to aide students in these endeavors:

- **Immigration Advising** - ISSS helps international students and scholars navigate the U.S. visa process and maintain valid immigration status by providing the guidance, knowledge, and necessary resources.
- **Community Building** - ISSS offers programming designed to help students make important connections within the UMBC community. These opportunities for intercultural exchange and mutual understanding enhance the UMBC international student experience.
- **Work and Internships** - ISSS works with current students and alumni to help them access the many employment and internship opportunities available to them by facilitating the use of benefits such as Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), and other employment authorizations.



# Questions? Need assistance?



## Contact Us

Before you schedule an appointment or contact us, the answers to most F-1 student questions can be found here:



CPT: Off-Campus  
Work Authorization



Social Security Numbers  
(SSN)



Travel Outside the US



Request a Letter



OPT: Post-Graduation  
Work Authorization



STEM OPT Extension



Extend Your F-1 Program  
(I-20)



Change of Immigration  
Status



New Students!  
Fall 2021 International Student Arrival Guide



Something else?  
See below to contact us!

**The answer to most inquiries  
are available here:  
[issu.umbc.edu/contact/](https://issu.umbc.edu/contact/)**





# Contacting the ISSS Team

## Advising Hours

ISSS advisors are available to meet with you to discuss questions you might have.

**You must have an appointment in order to speak with an ISSS advisor during Advising Hours.**

**Please adhere to the following guidelines:**

- If you have already sent an email to ISSS with your inquiry, please do not make a separate appointment to follow up. You'll receive a response within 2 – 3 business days
- Remember to include your Campus ID and any relevant information when making your appointment



**Live Chat** (all times US EST)

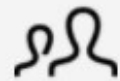
**Monday/Thursday:** 2:00 PM - 4:00

**Wednesday:** 10:00 AM - 12:00

**Tuesday/Friday** 10:00 AM - 12:00, 2:00 PM – 4:00

**Live Chat** 

► When should I use Live Chat?




**ISSS Advising Appointments**

**Monday:** 10:00 AM- 12:00 PM

**Wednesday:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Thursday:** 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

**Book an Advising Appointment** 

► When should I book an appointment?

## Document Drop Off & Pickup

If you need to drop off an I-20 for a travel signature or pick up a document from ISSS, you can visit the front desk of the Center for Global Engagement (CGE), located on the second floor of the University Center (above Starbucks and Chick-fil-A).

CGE is open from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday.

**Please adhere to the following guidelines:**

- Only come to pick up a document when you have been notified it is available
- Document requests cannot be made by visiting the front desk – please use the appropriate method (ISSS Portal or email) to make your request
- You must bring your UMBC Campus ID card
- You cannot meet with an ISSS advisor when you pick up a document

## Getting in Touch By Email

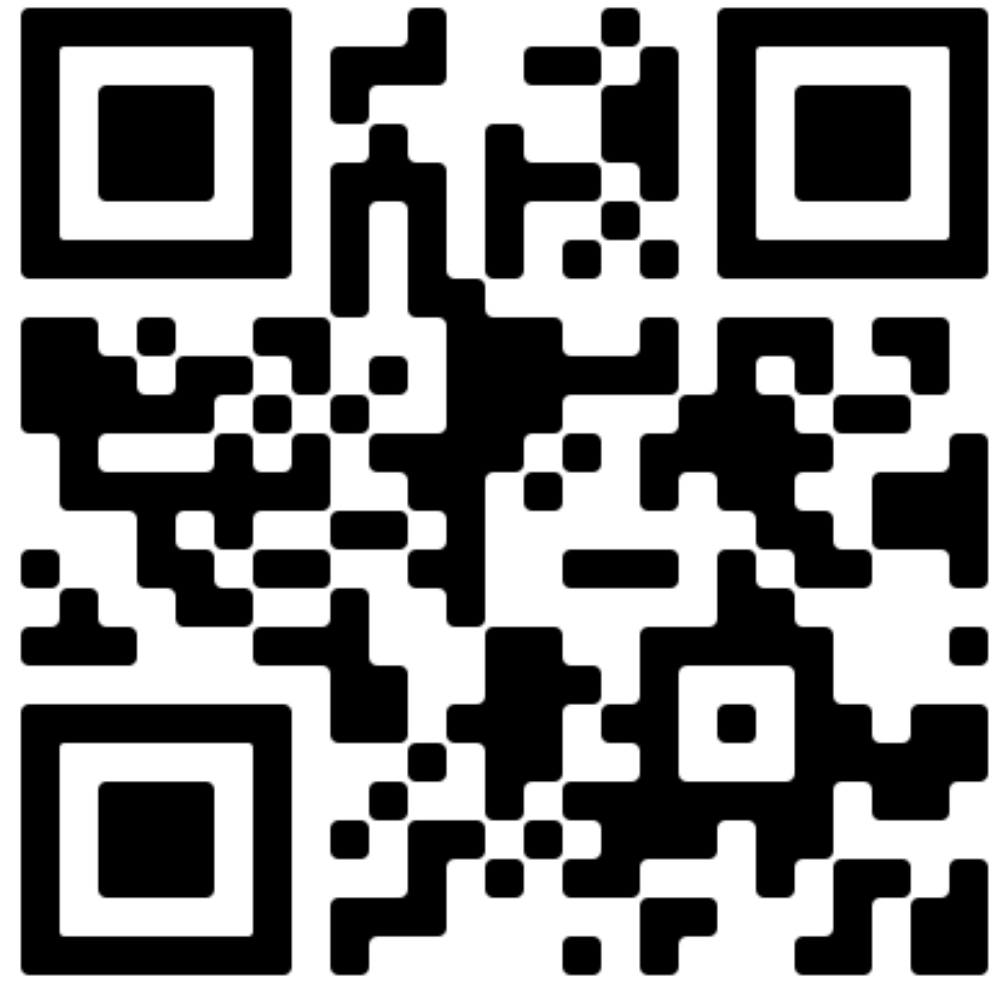
If you have a question or issue that you cannot resolve using any of the methods above, please email ISSS. We aim to respond to inquiries within 2 – 3 **business** days. ISSS advisors respond to emails during business hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Please do not send multiple emails or contact individual CGE staff members. This will only delay our ability to respond promptly to your message.

 **Email ISSS**



# Speak with an Advisor



**[issss.umbc.edu/contact/](https://issss.umbc.edu/contact/)**





# Stay connected with ISSS



**ISSS email list:**  
Read your email!



**ISSS Portal:**  
[iss-portal.umbc.edu](https://iss-portal.umbc.edu)



**myUMBC Group:**  
ISSS Academy



**Advising Appointments**  
[iss.umbc.edu/contact/](https://iss.umbc.edu/contact/)

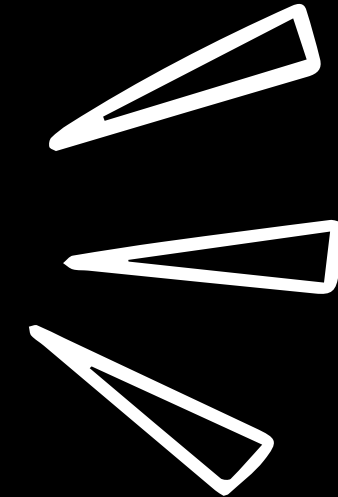
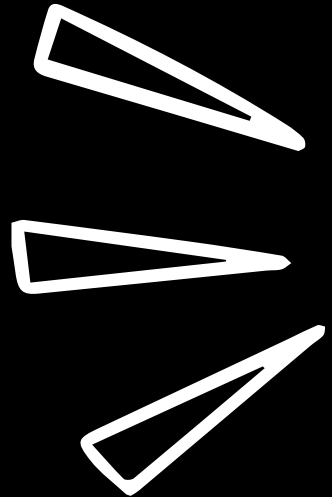


**ISSS website:**  
[iss.umbc.edu](https://iss.umbc.edu)

Answers to most  
of your  
questions can be  
found here!



# Fall 2022 Considerations



# Things To Consider For Fall 2022

- Visa or visa interview appointment by early August
- The earliest you can arrive in the US is 30 days before your I-20 program start date
- **Must enter US by August 31st**
- Be informed of travel and vaccine requirements in your home countries as well as in the U.S.
- Full time enrollment required (UG: 12 credits, Graduate: 9 credits)
- Must take at least **one** hybrid or in person class
- UMBC is offering a combination of in person, hybrid and online courses

## Transfer Students:

- Students currently in F-1 status in the U.S. transferring to UMBC from another institution
- Please follow regular I-20 transfer guidelines
- Planning to travel home? Already at home and planning to return for Fall 2022?

Contact us: [iss.umbc.edu/contact](https://iss.umbc.edu/contact)





# Entering the US after Deferring To Fall 2022

## What happens to your I-20?

- Program dates must be adjusted
- Updated financial documents required if originals are over 6 months old
- SEVIS fee is valid for one year

## Graduate Assistants (RA, TA etc)

- Work directly with department on updating your GA offer

## Entry to the US

- Fall 2022 semester begins August 31st
- Only able to enter the U.S. 30 days before the start of Fall 2022
- “Earliest Admission Date” section on your I-20
- Fall 2022 semester - August 1st



# Requesting a UMBC I-20



1

**LOG IN TO  
ISSS PORTAL  
WITH  
MYUMBC  
CREDENTIALS**



2

**SELECT "NEW  
F-1 STUDENT  
REQUEST"**



3

**UPLOAD  
REQUIRED  
DOCUMENTS:  
FINANCIALS +  
PASSPORT.**



4

**RECEIVE  
SIGNED  
ELECTRONIC I-  
20**



5

**PAY SEVIS  
FEE +  
SCHEDULE  
VISA  
APPOINTMENT**



# Requesting a UMBC I-20



1

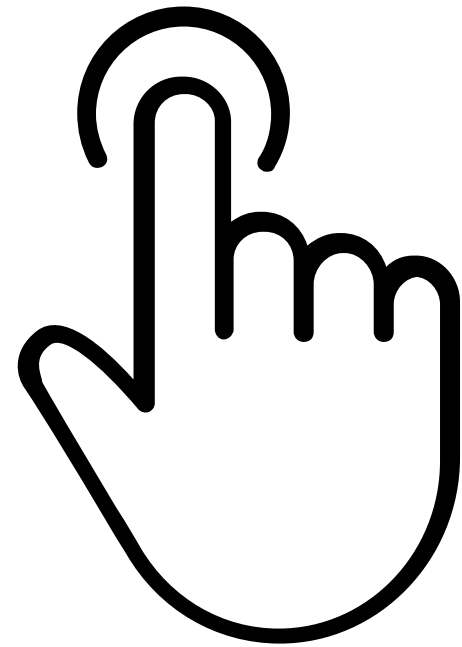
**LOG IN TO  
ISSS PORTAL  
WITH  
MYUMBC  
CREDENTIALS**

- Activate your myUMBC account
- Wait 24 hours
- Sign in to myUMBC Account
- Visit [iss-s-portal.umbc.edu](https://iss-s-portal.umbc.edu)
- Select "Log in wit myUMBC"





# Requesting a UMBC I-20



2

**SELECT "NEW  
F-1 STUDENT  
REQUEST"**

- You will be asked to select from available terms
- Fall = August Start Date
- Spring = January Start Date
- Term is listed on your admissions offer



# Financial Requirements for I-20



3

**UPLOAD  
REQUIRED  
DOCUMENTS:  
FINANCIALS +  
PASSPORT.**

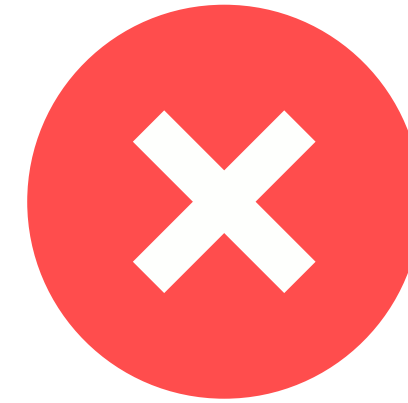
- Amount required is based on **estimated cost** of an Academic Year (9 months)
- Amount is specific to UMBC only
- For Fall 2022 Admission at UMBC that is:
  - Undergraduate: \$44,114
  - Graduate: \$39,122
- **No cost to request a UMBC I-20**
- What documents are accepted?



# Sources of Funding for I-20



- Checking/savings account bank statements
- Approved loan documents
- Scholarship awards
- Graduate Assistantships
- Fixed deposits (only if you can withdraw the money at any time)
- Documents CANNOT be older than 6 months
- Letter of Support/Affidavit



- Stocks or bonds
- Real estate holdings
- Retirement Funds
- Salary information
- Life insurance policies
- Unapproved loan documents
- Documents older than 6 months
- Pay Slips/Salary Statement





# Requesting a UMBC I-20



4

**RECEIVE  
SIGNED  
ELECTRONIC I-  
20**

- Processed within 3-5 business days
- Receive an electronic I-20 with an electronic signature from ISSS staff
- Alert ISSS Staff of any necessary changes/updates
- Print this I-20 out and hand sign in blue ink before your interview



# Requesting a UMBC I-20



5

**PAY SEVIS  
FEE +  
SCHEDULE  
VISA  
APPOINTMENT**

- Once you have received your I-20 you can continue the F-1 Visa interview application process
- Pay I-901 SEVIS Fee
- Complete DS-160
- Schedule Interview

Review the visa process here: F-1  
Visa Process



# Funding Your Studies

## Undergraduate

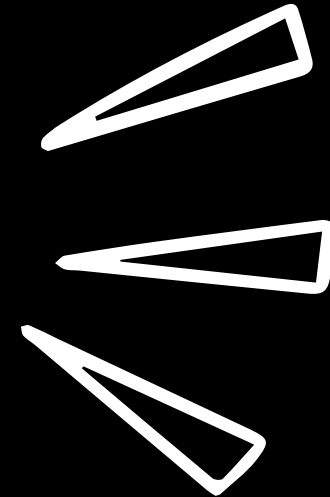
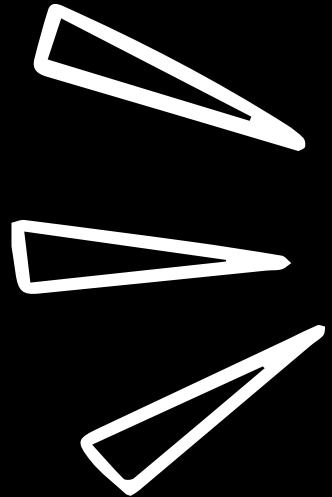
- Merit scholarships available based on GPA, test scores, application materials
- Contacted directly by Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships after admission
- [scholarships.umbc.edu](https://scholarships.umbc.edu)

## Graduate

- Funding in the form of Graduate Assistantships (RA,TA)
- Not guaranteed and very competitive
- Funding is up to your specific department
- Contact information for your department: [UMBC Graduate Programs](#)



# **Vaccination Requirements**

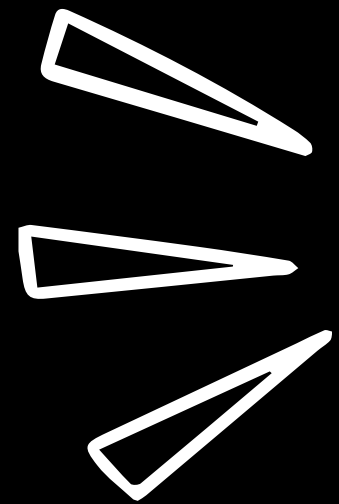


# COVID -19 Vaccination Requirements

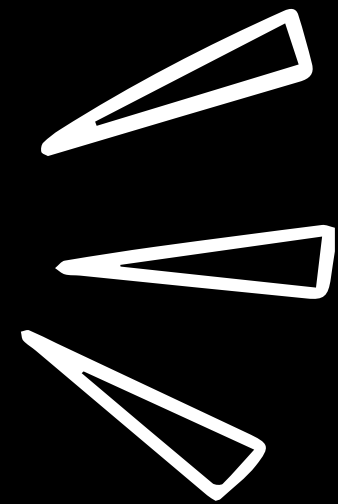
- Proof of vaccination **BEFORE** traveling to the U.S. is now required
- Present vaccination information to airline and/or U.S. Customs and Border Protection, **NOT** ISSS or during visa interview
- Effectively vaccinated = **two weeks after** single dose series, 2 - dose series, or accepted mix and match series 17 days apart
- Exemptions for countries with "limited availability"
- Questions about your case? Complete [U.S. CDC's Travel Assessment](#)



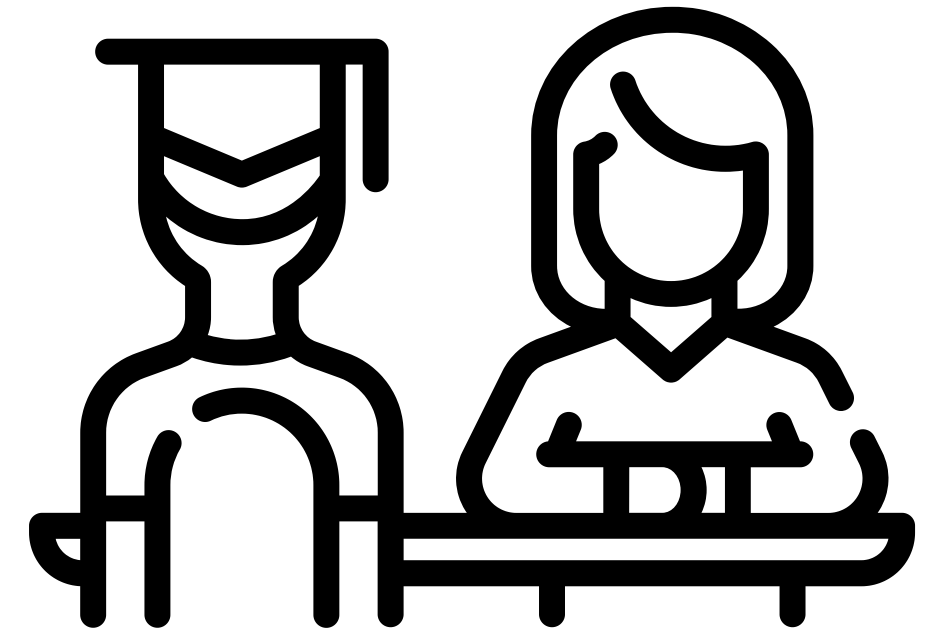




# Campus Resources



- Student Organizations/Campus Life
- Academic Success Center
- Graduate Student Association
- Residential Life
- Off Campus Student Services
- UMBC Transit
- University Health Services
- Career Center
- Unibuddy



# Student Organizations

- 200+ student organizations
- International Student Specific Clubs
  - Bangladeshi Student Association
  - Chinese Student and Scholars Association
  - EKTA - Indian Graduate Students
  - Iranian Graduate Student Organization
  - PAKSA
  - Vietnamese Student Association
  - Sri Lankan Student Association
  - Nepali Student Association



# Housing

## On Campus Housing

- UMBC Residential Life [reslife.umbc.edu](https://reslife.umbc.edu)
- Undergraduate Housing:
  - [Residence Halls](#)
  - [Walker Avenue Apartments](#)
- Graduate Housing:
  - [Walker Avenue Apartments](#)

## Off Campus Housing

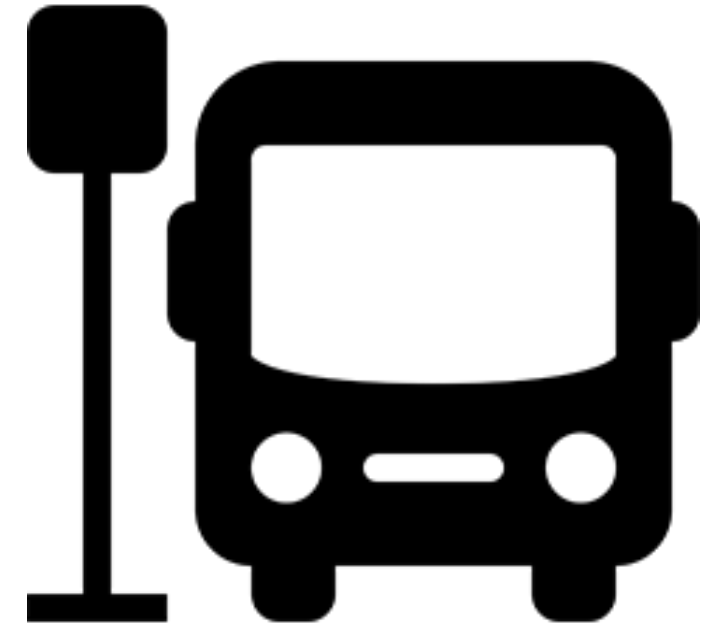
- UMBC Off Campus Student Services [ocss.umbc.edu](https://ocss.umbc.edu)
- Available to all students
- [Apartment Search](#)
- Roommate Search
- Assistance with understanding US renting practices

✧ **Students are responsible for securing their own accomodation** ✧



# UMBC Transit

- Free!
- For UMBC students only
- Transit Tracker App
- Convenient connections to public transportation
- Helpful for thinking about housing options
- [transit.umbc.edu](https://transit.umbc.edu)





# Retriever Integrated Health (RIH)- University Health Services (UHS)

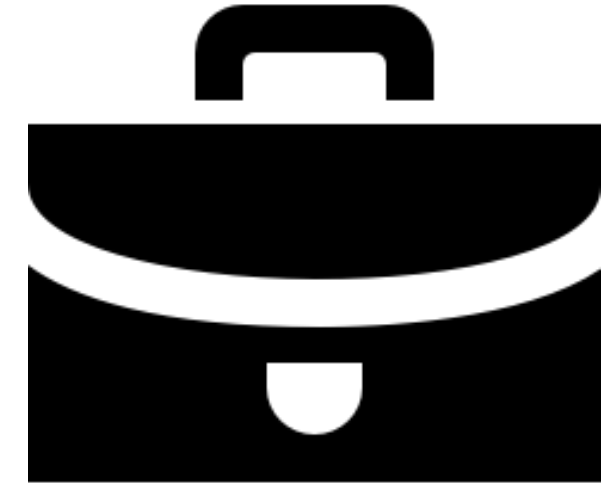
- UHS is UMBC's on campus student health services center. You'll be able to visit the doctor here as a student at UMBC.
- UHS is part of Retriever Integrated Health (RIH) which also includes the Counseling Center and Office of Health Promotion.

UHS is located in The Center for Well-Being (D7 on [campus map](#)). Signs with the location are on campus



# Career Center

- Resume review
- Career fairs – generalized and program specific
- International Student Career Conference
- Trips to visit local businesses and potential employers
- Job search and job evaluation advice
- Interview preparation
- UMBCworks
- [careers.umbc.edu](https://careers.umbc.edu)





# F-1 Work Options

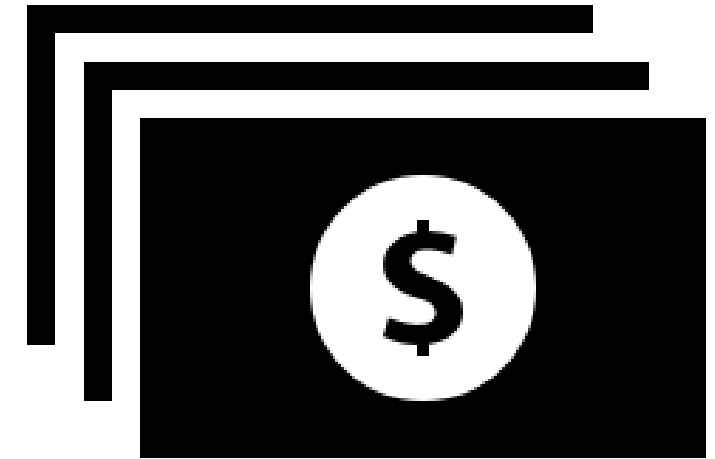


**Employment is limited under F-1 status**

**The employment rules are very strict  
and must be followed carefully**

# Types of Employment

- On-Campus Employment
- Off Campus Employment (Practical Training)
  - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
  - Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Need-based employment (off-campus)
  - Severe, Unexpected, Documented Economic Hardship (USCIS processing fee of \$410)



# On-Campus Employment

- Can begin working on arrival
- Jobs on UMBC campus only
- Apply through UMBCworks
- Will need an SSN after getting a job offer. ISSS will help you with that process
- How much can you work a week?
  - During semester: 20 hours
  - During summer/winter break: 40 hours
- Finding a position is competitive and not guaranteed





# Off-Campus Employment: CPT

CPT: Curricular Practical Training

- Paid internships while a current student
- Eligible after 2 academic semesters in US
- Must be authorized by ISSS, noted on I-20
- Must be related to your degree program
- How much can you work a week?
  - During Semester: Part Time - 20 hours
  - During Summer/Winter Breaks: Full Time – 20+ hours



# OPT and STEM OPT Extension

## OPT

- 1 year full time work permission after graduation
- Work can be: part time, fulltime, paid or unpaid
- Job must be related to degree

## STEM OPT

- 2 year **extension** of work authorization
- Who is eligible for STEM Extension? Any student with a STEM eligible major
- ISSS guides students through the process of applying for OPT and STEM

## OPT



# STEM Eligible Majors at UMBC

- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Cybersecurity
- Data Science
- Engineering
- Engineering Management
- Health Information Technology
- Information Systems
- Physics
- Systems Engineering

ICE has a full list of STEM Degrees  
Here: [STEM Designated Degree  
Program List](#)

To find your major, use the CIP Code  
on your I-20 to search the list



# Off-Campus Employment: Economic Hardship

- For students in unexpected financial hardship
- Have to prove source of unexpected difficulties
- Not often approved, have to make a very strong case
- Application to USCIS costs \$410
- Don't rely on this option!



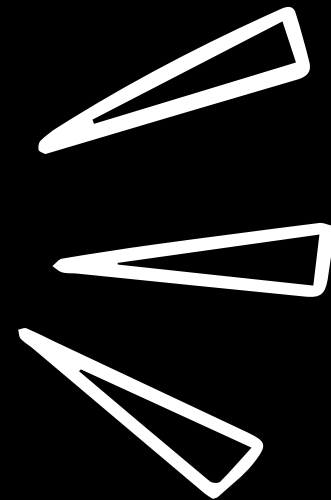
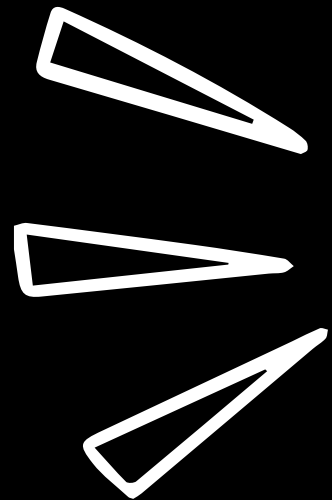
# Work Options Summary

- On-campus work (immediate)
- Off-campus work:
  - CPT (after 2 semesters in US)
  - OPT (after graduation)
  - STEM OPT Extension





# Graduate Admissions



# Graduate Admissions

- Mike Suica: Manager - Recruitment and Admission
- Megan Dignan: Marketing Coordinator



# Check your offer letter to find you Campus ID!

In addition to being the official photo ID of UMBC, your Campus Card is also your meal, library, gym, and transit card. Money deposited onto your Campus Card can be used most locations on campus including vending machines and pay-for-print stations and select locations in the surrounding Catonsville/Arbutus area.  
<https://campuscard.umbc.edu/about/>



K. Jill Barr J.D., M.Ed.  
Senior Assistant Dean of Graduate Enrollment Management

Campus ID #: MR65136  
Subject Area: Information Systems - MS  
ID: 4000529424  
Semester Deferred:



October 19, 2021

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am very pleased to offer you admission to the Graduate School at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). We know that you will find graduate education and research here both challenging and rewarding.

Please indicate whether or not you will be accepting our offer of admission by logging in to your myUMBC account. **Accepting your admission is required before you are able to register for classes.** To activate your account visit <https://webadmin.umbc.edu/> then click the "Create my Account" link. Activating your account requires your date of birth and UMBC Campus ID. Your Campus ID is [REDACTED]

Your Graduate Program Director or Program Coordinator will contact you regarding program-specific orientation and academic advisement for your first semester's course selection. If you are subject to prerequisites or other terms of admission, the department to which you have been admitted will notify you directly. The Graduate School Catalog, Policies and Procedures are available at our [website](#).

As you prepare for your arrival at UMBC, there are some health related requirements that you must meet before you arrive on campus. Visit the [University Health Services website](#) and check the "Incoming Students" section to review and submit required health forms. Also, check out our Getting Started page where you can find important information on the next steps you should take as a newly admitted student.

The [Office of International Education Services \(IES\)](#) will help you with your immigration requirements and questions as you prepare to attend UMBC as an international student. Please follow these [instructions](#) to request your I-20, schedule your F-1 interview and prepare for your transition to the U.S. and to UMBC. You may contact the IES with any questions related to immigration by emailing [ies@umbc.edu](mailto:ies@umbc.edu)

Residential Life provides temporary housing accommodations on campus to UMBC graduate students who will be participating in campus orientation programs. Please be aware that temporary housing is available only on a limited basis, and is not guaranteed. For more information about housing registration, availability and costs please visit <https://reslife.umbc.edu/> or contact [reslife@umbc.edu](mailto:reslife@umbc.edu).

Please see the information at the end of this letter. If document requirements are listed, please send the documents to the Graduate School by the end of your first semester.

If you have other questions or need assistance, please contact the staff of the Graduate School at 410-455-2537 or [gradschool@umbc.edu](mailto:gradschool@umbc.edu). Congratulations on your acceptance and best wishes in your academic pursuits.

Sincerely,

K. Jill Barr

K. Jill Barr J.D., M.Ed.  
Senior Assistant Dean of Graduate Enrollment Management

Campus ID #: [REDACTED]  
Subject Area: Professional Studies - MPS  
Semester: Spring 2022

Notes:

Official and final degree certificate confirming completion of bachelor's degree

The Graduate School | University of Maryland, Baltimore County | 1000 Hilltop Circle | Baltimore, MD 21250

PHONE: 410-455-2537 | FAX: 410-455-1130 | WEB: [www.umbc.edu/gradschool](http://www.umbc.edu/gradschool)



# Activate your myUMBC Account!

## How do I create a myUMBC account?

Created by Anna Sniadach, last modified by Andrea Mocko on Sep 29, 2017

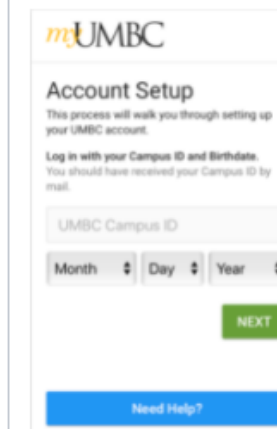
Tell me

### You will need:

- Your [CampusID](#)
- Your Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

1. Go to <http://my.umbc.edu/account>

2. Enter your Campus ID (e.g. AB12345) and select your date of birth using the drop-down menus.



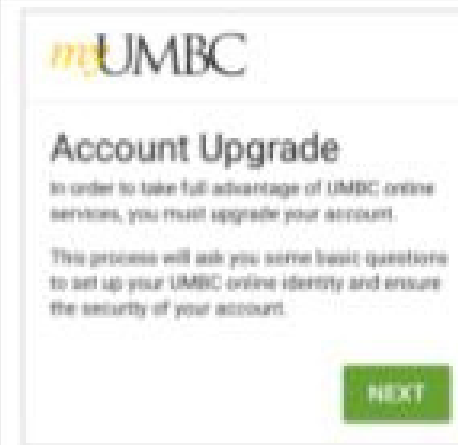
**It is important that you use your UMBC gmail account when communicating with campus offices/services. Your program will send you important information regarding classes, advising, and upcoming events (such as Orientation) to your UMBC email address/account.**

Instructions are here: [Activate Your myUMBC](#)



3. Click **Next**

4. You will be prompted to upgrade your account. Click **Next**.



5. Select a username from the options available. **This CANNOT be changed.**

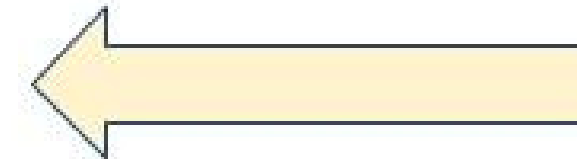
## Step 1: Account Info

First, we'll set up the basics of your account.

### Username

Pick a username to represent you on various campus systems. This will also be your email address. **This cannot be changed.**

- ☒ NX60734
- ☐ TPERSON1



7. Choose whether to keep your existing password by entering it in the box labeled Confirm Existing Password or create a new one.

If you choose to create a new password, you will be asked to enter it twice, once in the box labeled New Password and again in the box labeled Confirm password.



### Password

Create a strong password to protect your account. Your password must:

- Include upper AND lower-case letters
- Include at least one number or symbol
- Avoid common words

- ☒ Use Existing Password
- ☐ Create New Password

Confirm Existing Password

8. Select **Next**

9. Select three security questions and provide answers to each.

ⓘ Be sure to remember these answers. They will be used should you forget your password in the future.

### Step 2: Recovery Info

What we'll get you to do to help recover your account when you're locked out.

#### Security Questions

Answer the following questions so we can identify you later.

Security Question One

Answer here

Security Question Two

Answer here

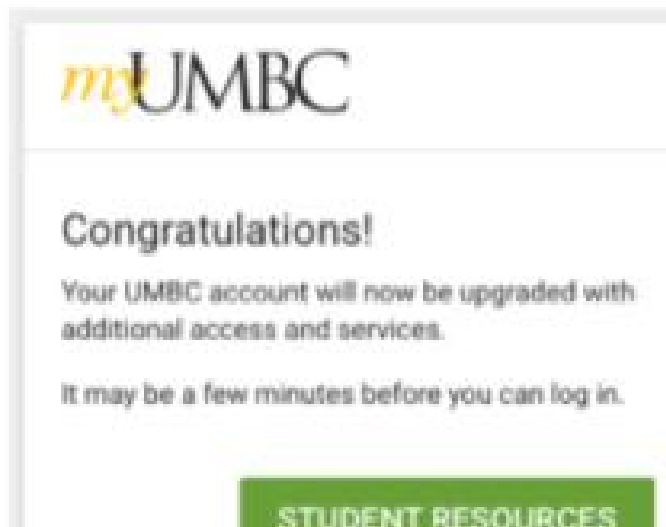
Security Question Three

Answer here

10. Enter a new or confirm the secondary email address we have on file.

### Secondary Email

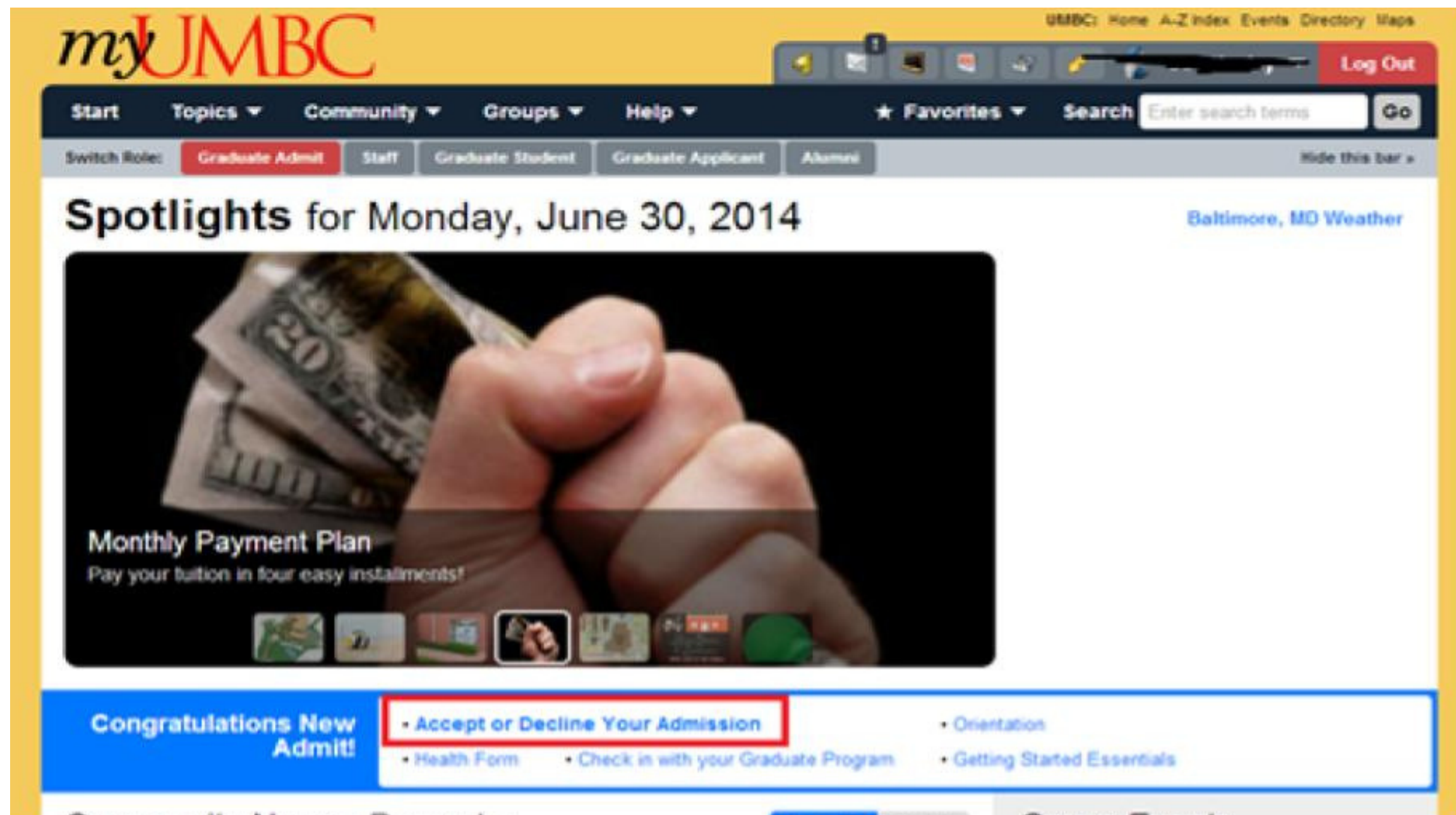
Tell us an email address we can send password reset info to.





# How to Accept Your Admission

- After activating your account you will be directed to your myUMBC homepage.
- Click the "Accept or Decline Admission" prompt on this page to accept:





# How to Accept Your Admission

- From here, you will be directed to PeopleSoft, where you will complete the process.

Navigation: [Favorites](#) | [Main Menu](#) > [Self Service](#) > [Student Center](#)



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## Donald's Student Center

### Finances

**My Account**  
[Account Inquiry](#)


**Financial Aid**  
[View Financial Aid](#)

other financial...  

 You have no outstanding charges at this time.

### To Do List

[Letter of Recommendation 1 of 2](#)  
[Letter of Recommendation 2 of 2](#)  
[Transcript](#)





[more](#) 



### Personal Information

#### Contact Information

<b>Permanent Address</b> 19 N Patterson Park Ave Baltimore, MD 21231 BA	<b>Mailing Address</b> None
<b>Home Phone</b> 410 507 8362	<b>Home E-mail</b> Withheld

### Admissions

 Incomplete    Complete    Admitted    Accepted

My Applications					
UMBC	Graduate Degree	Public Policy - PhD	Fall 14		<a href="#">Accept or Decline</a>
UMBC	Undergraduate Degree	Psychology - BS	Fall 14		



# How to Accept Your Admission

- On the next screen, click “I Accept Admission.”

## Accept Admission

<b>Institution</b>	UMBC	<b>Career</b>	Graduate
<b>Admit Term</b>	Fall 2014	<b>Program</b>	Graduate Degree
<b>Application Number</b>	10098859	<b>Plan</b>	Public Policy - PhD

Select either the Accept or Decline button to indicate your choice. You will then be asked to confirm your decision. Select the Previous button if you do not wish to make a selection at this time.

I ACCEPT ADMISSION

I DECLINE ADMISSION

PREVIOUS



# How to Accept Your Admission

Then, click “Confirm Acceptance” on the next page!

## Accept Admission

Institution	UMBC	Career	Graduate
Admit Term	Fall 2014	Program	Graduate Degree
Application Number	10098859	Plan	Public Policy - PhD

CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE

PREVIOUS



# Class Registration

Registration Opens June 1

For more information on how to register for classes, visit:  
[wiki.umbc.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=17171426](http://wiki.umbc.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=17171426)

Registration Issues? Contact UMBC's Registrar's Office



# Plan Changes

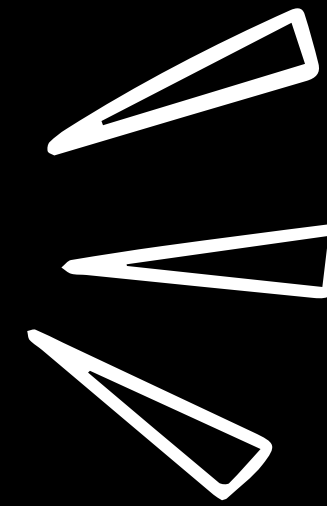
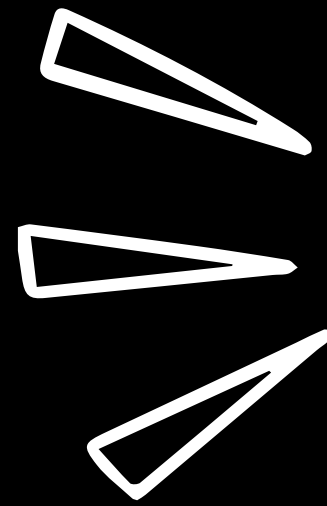
- The plan change process is only available to those who have completed at least one semester of graduate coursework at UMBC, and requires approval from both the original and desired program staff.
- **Newly admitted students are not eligible to request a program plan change.**



**Ask**

**a**

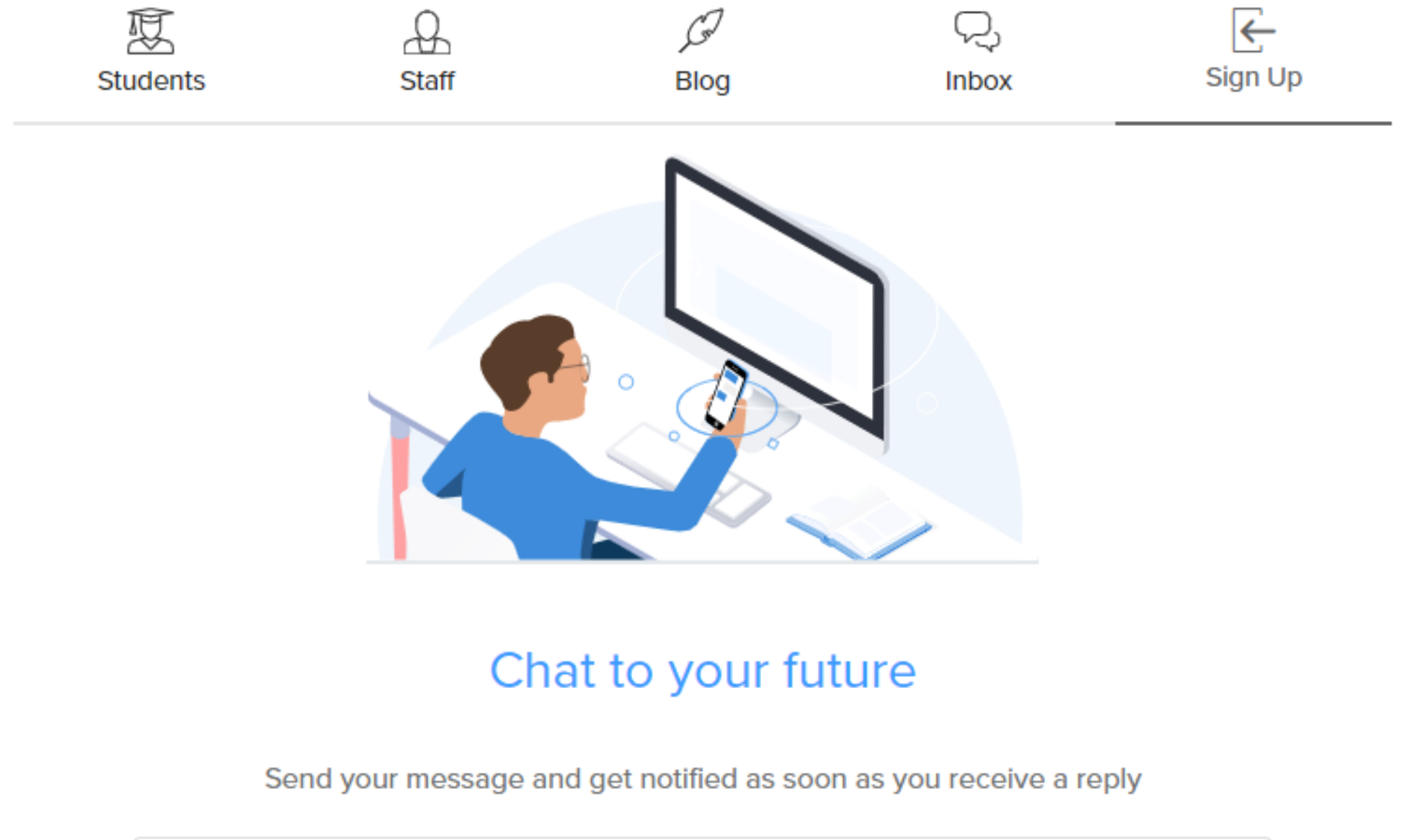
**Student!**



# Ask a current student on Unibuddy!

Have a question about student life or navigating UMBC?

- Global Ambassadors answer your questions about student life and the campus experience at UMBC!
- There are 11 student ambassadors from different home countries, areas of study and with a wide variety of personal interests



[Click here to meet and chat with the Ambassadors!](#)





# How Global Ambassadors can help

## **Global Ambassadors can:**

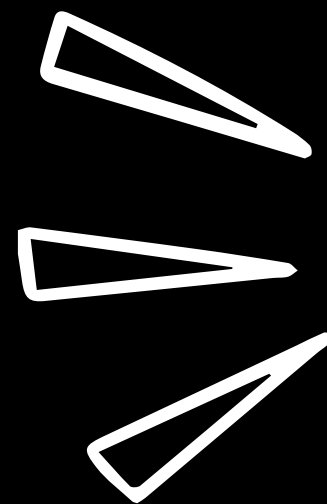
- Discover more about UMBC campus life
- Connect you with UMBC resources
- Learn about US & UMBC classroom culture and student life in the US!

## **Global Ambassadors cannot:**

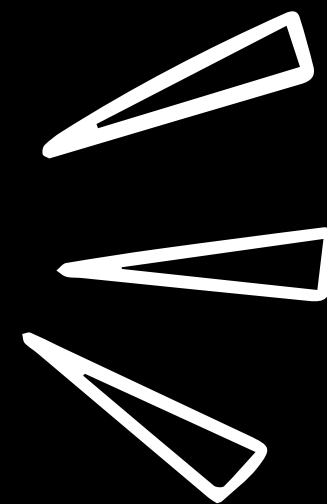
- Provide immigration support
- Help you get a job or provide CPT/OPT advice
- Offer academic advising or pick your classes for you

**✧ ...BUT they can connect you with teams who will help you with these things! ✧**





**Q&A**



# Follow us on social media!

We're online! Follow us to learn about ISSS activities.



**Facebook:**  
umbcisss



**Twitter:**  
@umbc\_iss



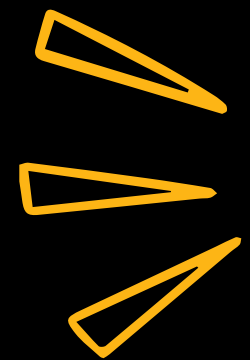
**Instagram:**  
@umbc\_iss

✧ **Keep up** with events at ✧  
✧ UMBC ✧





# Congratulations!



**We look forward to seeing you in Fall 2022!**

