Preparing for Spring 2023 at UMBC

October 26, 2022

UMBC Office of International Students and Scholars

UMBC Graduate School

UMBC

CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

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

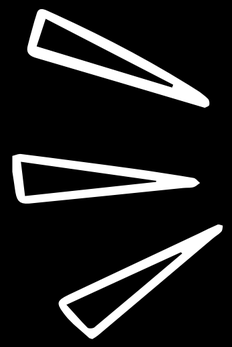
Dave Anguish - Assistant Director

Natalie Lobb - International Student Support Manager

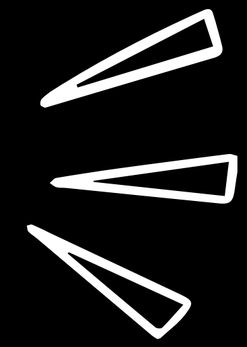
Mercedes Arias - ISSS Advisor

Sarah Cockcroft - ISSS Advisor

Diane Zeenny Ghorayeb - International Scholar Coordinator



Working with ISSS



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!

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.

Need Assistance?

Visit our Contact us page!

isss.umbc.edu/contact/

Contact Us

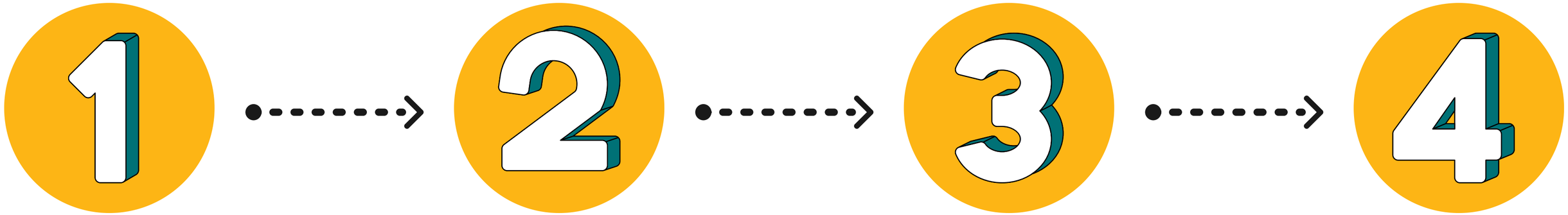
Before you schedule an appointment or contact us, the answers to most F-1 student questions can be found here:

- CPT: Off-Campus Work Authorization
- Social Security Numbers (SSN)
- Travel Outside the US
- Applying for a Maryland Driver's License or State ID
- OPT: Post-Graduation Work Authorization
- STEM OPT Extension
- Extend Your F-1 Program (I-20)
- Change of Immigration Status
- New Students! Download the International Student Arrival Guide
- COVID-19: Spring 2022 Options for New and Continuing F-1 Students
- Something else? See how to contact ISSS

University Center, 207a

(Appointment Required)

What should I do if I have a question?

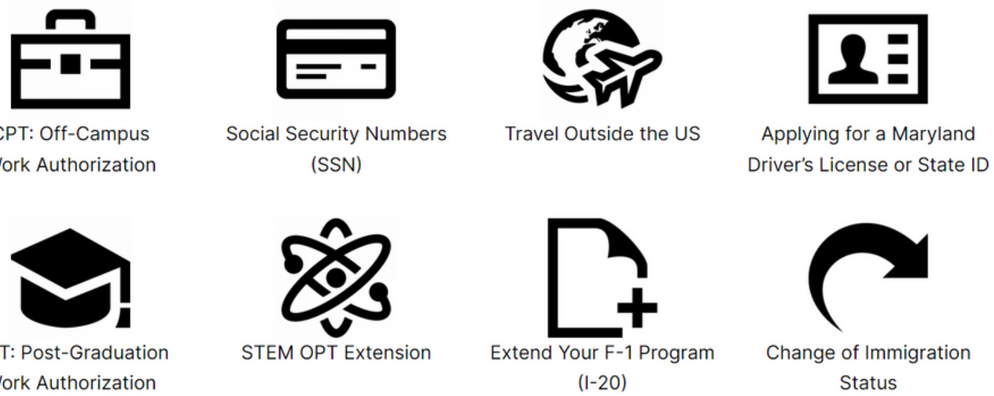


1. Check the website!
2. Ask us on Live Chat
3. Submit a Help Ticket
4. Advising Appointment

Check the website!

Start here!

Most answers can be found on the website



On our contact us page, we put icons that will take you to the answers for the most common questions

Always do this first!

Got the answer you need? Great! No need to go on to step 2

Can't find the answer on the website?

then...

Ask us on Live Chat

You can ask quick questions on Live Chat

You'll chat directly with an ISSS advisor

Please keep it brief :)

Other students may be in the queue

Has your question been resolved? No need to go on to step 3

Still need more help?

Submit a Help Ticket

Once you submit a ticket, **all** ISSS staff can see it
(you don't need to CC us or submit follow up tickets!)

Response time: 5-7 business days

Still require further assistance?

Advising appointment

Most questions are resolved before this step!

An advisor can let you know if your situation requires an advising appointment

Where can I find this information?

How to work with ISSS and answers to your most common questions can be found on the

Contact Us page here

Stay connected with ISSS

ISSS email list:
Read your email!

ISSS Portal:
isss-portal.umbc.edu

myUMBC Group:
ISSS Academy

Contact Us:
isss.umbc.edu/contact/

ISSS website:
isss.umbc.edu

Answers to most of your questions can be found here!

Deferred from Fall 2022 to Spring 2023?

What happens to your I-20?

- Program dates must be adjusted
- You must request a new I-20 for Spring 2023; Fall 2022 I-20 will not work.
- 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

Entering the US for Spring 2023: Important Dates & Info

Entry to the US

- Spring 2023 semester begins January 30th
- Only able to enter the U.S. 30 days before the start of Spring 2023
- “Earliest Admission Date” section on your I-20
- For most Spring 2023 students, December 31 is the earliest date to enter the U.S.

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

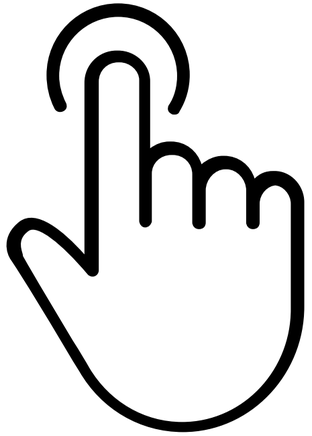
Requesting a UMBC I-20

1

LOG IN TO ISSS PORTAL WITH MYUMBC CREDENTIALS

- Activate your myUMBC account
- Wait 24 hours
- Sign in to myUMBC Account
- Visit isss-portal.umbc.edu
- Select "Log in with 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 Spring 2023 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 5-7 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 online
- Schedule Interview

Review the visa process here: F-1 Visa Process

Funding Your Studies

Undergraduate

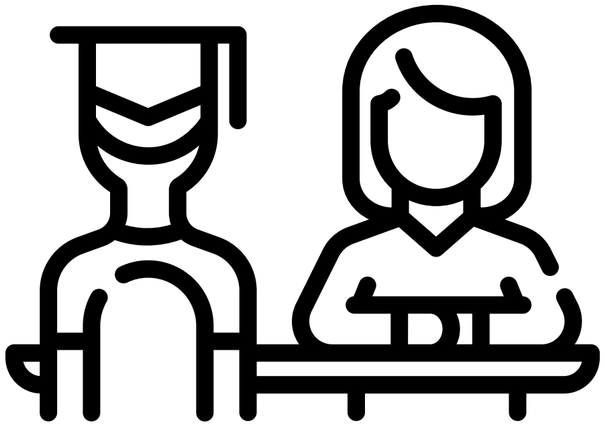
- Merit scholarships available based on GPA, test scores, application materials
- Contacted directly by Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships after admission
- scholarships.umbc.edu

Graduate

- Funding in the form of Graduate Assistantships (RA,TA)
- Not guaranteed and very competitive
- Funding decisions are made by each academic program

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

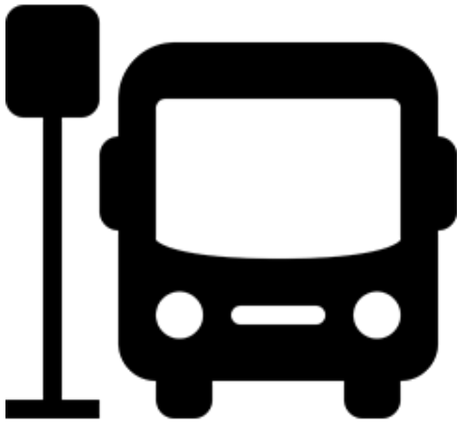
- UMBC Residential Life reslife.umbc.edu
- Undergraduate Housing:
  - Residence Halls
  - Walker Avenue Apartments
- Graduate Housing:
  - Walker Avenue Apartments

Off Campus Housing

- UMBC Off Campus Student Services ocss.umbc.edu
- Available to all students
- Apartment Search
- Roommate Search
- Assistance with understanding US renting practices

Students are responsible for securing their own accommodation

UMBC Transit



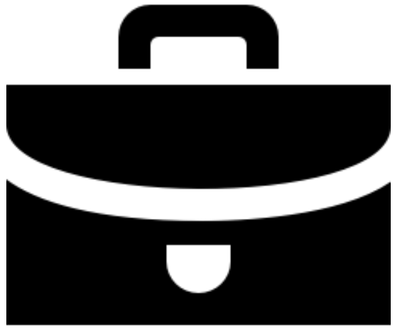
- Free!
- For UMBC students only
- Transit Tracker App
- Convenient connections to public transportation
- Helpful for thinking about housing options
- transit.umbc.edu

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.

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

Career Center



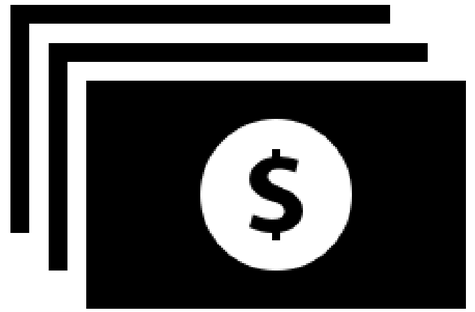
- Resume review
- Career fairs – generalized and program specific
- International Student Career Conference
- Trips to visit local businesses and potential employers
- Job search and job evaluation advice
- Interview preparation
- UMBCworks
- careers.umbc.edu

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 Handshake - Career Center
- 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 UMBC 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 financial difficulties were unexpected and outside your control
- Not often approved, must 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: Assistant Director - Recruitment and Admissions
- Megan Dignan: Marketing Coordinator

UMBC
GRADUATE SCHOOL

[Date]

Dear [**First Name**],

I am pleased to offer you admission to the [**Program**] at UMBC for the [**Term**] semester. The department was impressed by your qualifications, and we are excited to have you embark on graduate studies here.

Please indicate whether you have accepted or declined your admission by clicking this link: https://webadmin.umbc.edu/. The Information Systems department will reach out to you directly regarding advising, orientation, and other important program information.

Your Campus ID is: **[XXXXXXX]**

For more information on course offerings, registration, and Graduate School policies and procedures, visit [department site]. You may also call our main line at [dept phone #] or email us at **[dept email]**. Congratulations again on your admission, and best of luck in your graduate studies.

Sincerely yours,

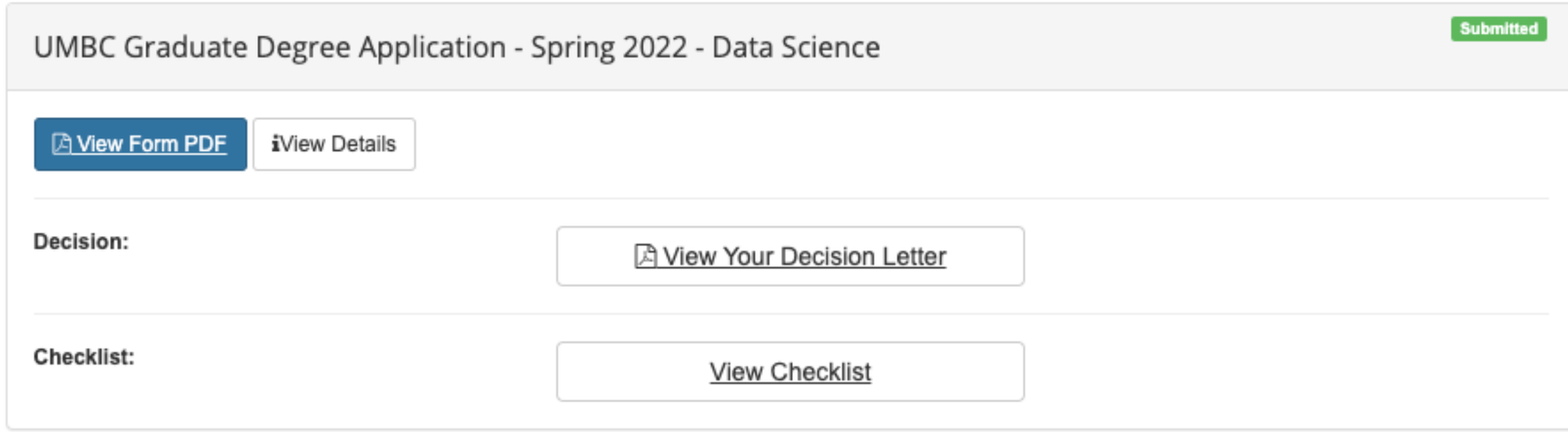
K. Jill Barr

K. Jill Barr J.D., M.Ed.
Associate Vice Provost, Graduate Education
Senior Assistant Dean, Graduate Enrollment Management

Visit applyweb view your decision letter.

Make sure you activate your account and accept or decline your admission. You must accept your admission before you are able to register for classes

To login to myUMBC, use your Campus ID and DOB MM/DD/YYYY



Activate your myUMBC Account!

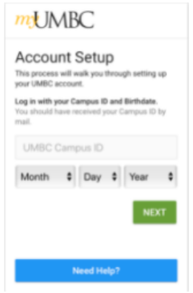
How do I create a myUMBC account?

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.	

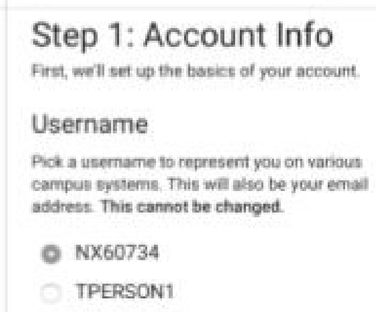
It is important that you use your UMBC gmail account when communicating with campus offices/services. Your program will send you important information regarding classes, advising, and upcoming events (such as Orientation) to your UMBC email address/account.

Instructions are here: Activate Your myUMBC

3. Click **Next**

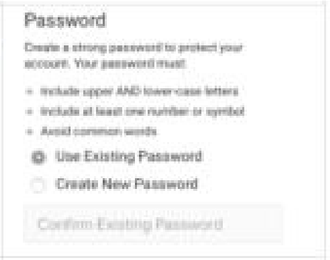
4. You will be prompted to upgrade your account. Click **Next.**

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



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

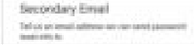
If you choose to create a new password, you will be asked to enter it twice, once in the box labeled New Password and again in the box labeled Confirm password.

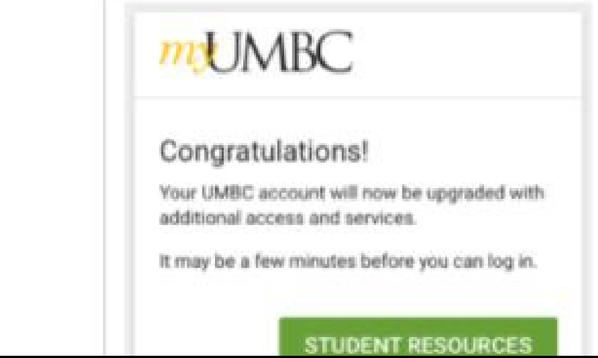


8. Select **Next**

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

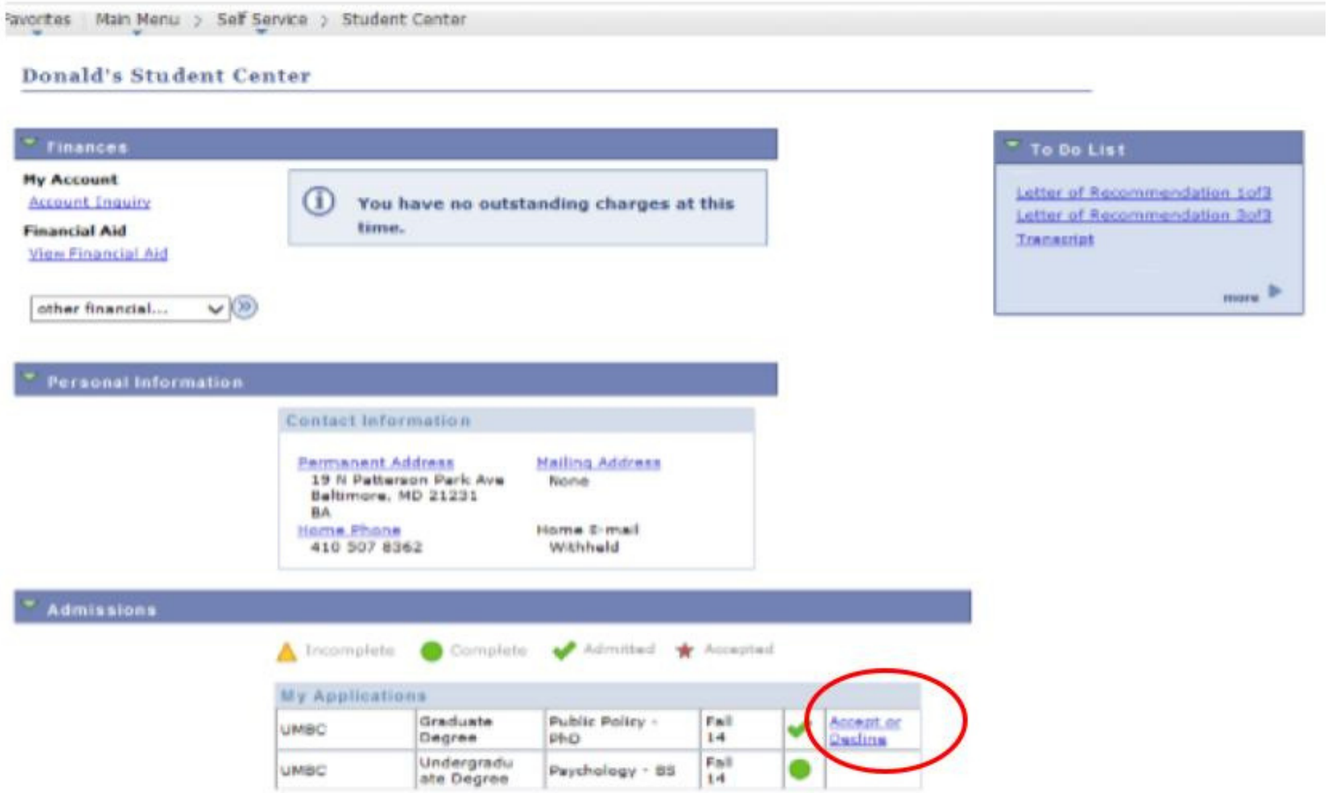
10. Enter a new or confirm the secondary email address we have on file.





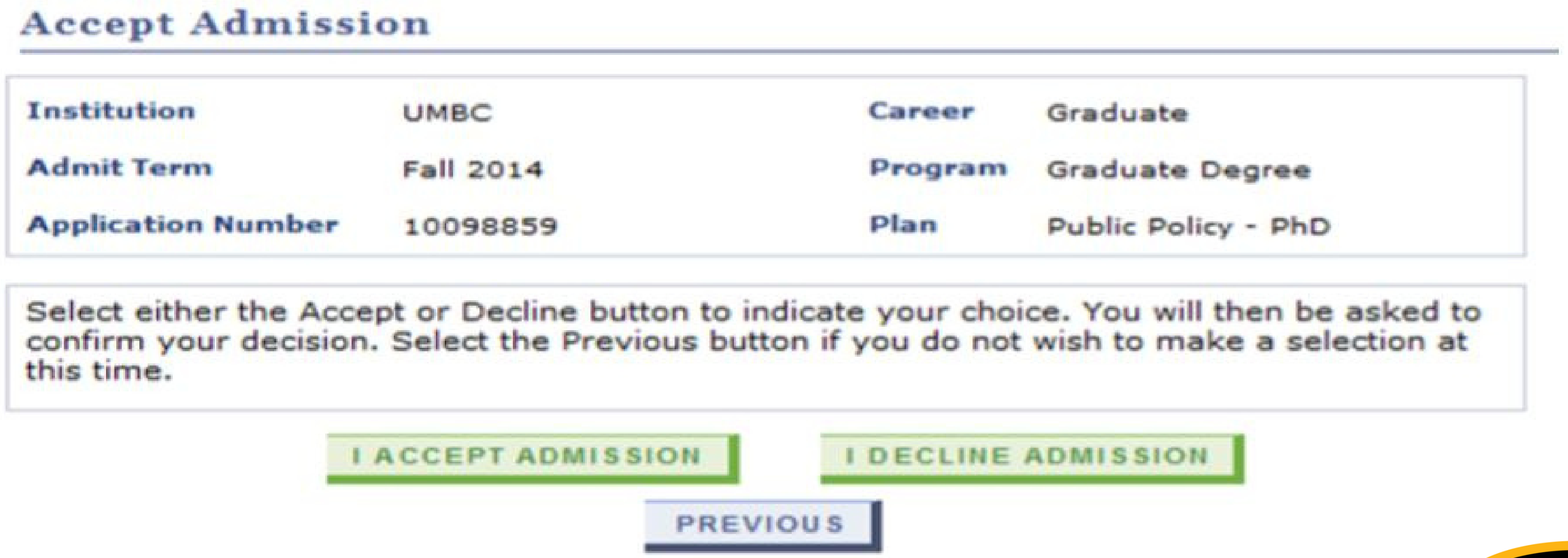
How to Accept Your Admission

- **In myUMBC you will see an alert, then you will be directed to PeopleSoft, where you will complete the process. The status may show as "incomplete" please disregard that status.**



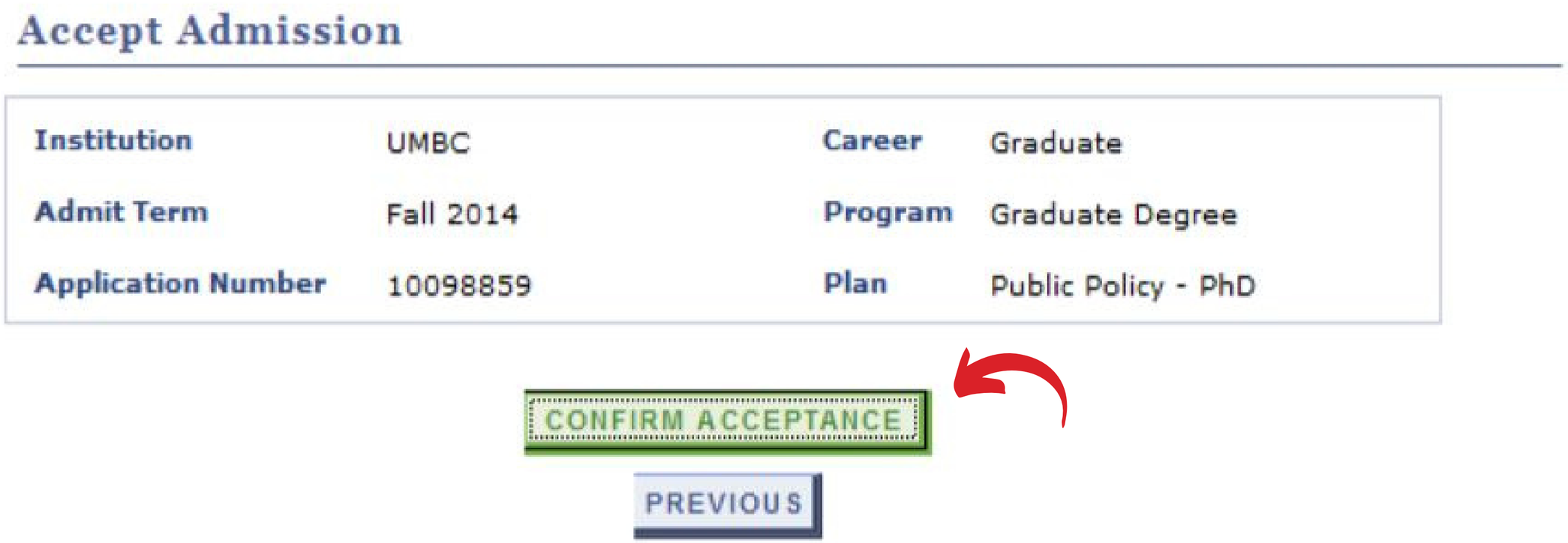
How to Accept Your Admission

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



How to Accept Your Admission

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



Class Registration

Registration Opens December 1

For more information on how to register for classes, visit:
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!

Have a question about campus life or navigating UMBC?

Ask a Global Ambassador on Unibuddy!

There are 10 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

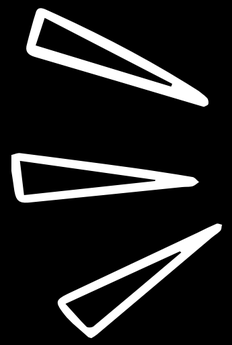
Global Ambassadors <u>can</u>:

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

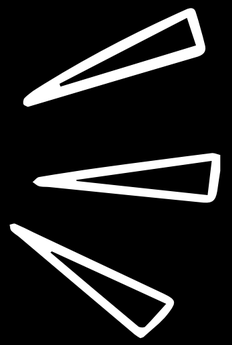
Global Ambassadors cannot:

- 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_isss

Instagram:
@umbc_isss

Keep up with events at UMBC

Congratulations!

We look forward to seeing you in Spring 2023!