

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS



UMBC

CENTER FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



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OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS (OISS)

The Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) is dedicated to supporting UMBC's international student and scholar community. The office offers a variety of programming and services to assist students and scholars in pursuit of their academic, personal, and professional goals.



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 in collaboration with the Career Center works with current students and alumni to help students access employment and internship opportunities. ISSS approves employment authorizations such as Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT).

CONTACT OISS

Location: UC207A

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm

Have a question?

Check the website!

Find resources, step by step guides, and detailed information on many immigration topics

iss.umbc.edu



Need a Document?

Submit all requests in the ISSS Portal.

Select "Search Forms" to choose the form you wish to submit

iss-portal.umbc.edu

Need Further Assistance?



Help Ticket

Use the Help Ticket system to send and receive messages instead of sending direct emails.



Virtual Appointment

Schedule a 15-minute appointment to speak with an advisor online about your question.



Walk-In

In person meeting with an ISSS advisor offered on a first come, first served basis.

For schedules and more information visit our contact page:
iss.umbc.edu/contact

Monitor updates to US immigration policy at iss.umbc.edu/updates

NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST

1

Congrats! Accept your offer.

Create your myUMBC account.

Check out your customized checklist:

[Undergraduate](#)

[Graduate](#)

2

Request a UMBC I-20

Start early! Login to the ISSS Portal using your myUMBC login and submit a "New F-1 Student Request." *See page 6*

3

Pay the I-901 SEVIS fee.

Pay the I-901 SEVIS fee. The fee is valid for one year.

Transfer students must transfer their SEVIS record to UMBC. For more information, visit the [ISSS website](#).

4

Apply for a visa.

Complete the DS-160 form and book your visa appointment at your local consulate or embassy. usembassy.gov

5

Secure housing.

Students are responsible for securing their own housing either on campus or off campus. *See page 7*

6

Prepare travel arrangements.

Schedule flights and plan the transportation to your accommodations. **Students are required to enter the US by the program start date on their I-20.**

7

Complete the Health/Immunization Form.

All new students are required to show proof of immunizations and complete the tuberculosis screening questionnaire through the myRetrieverCare Portal. Check [Retriever Integrated Health](#) for more information.

8

Register for courses.

F-1 international students must enroll full time every fall and spring semester.

Undergraduate students must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits. Graduate students must enroll in a minimum of 9 credits. **Only 1 online course** can count towards this requirement. *See page 10*

9

Pay tuition and fees.

The bill and payment schedule is published each semester. For questions about billing, reach out to [Student Business Services](#). *See page 16*

10

Attend all required orientations.

Check your emails regularly for orientation information and requirements from various departments. *See page 10*

11

Get your Retriever card.

Pre-submit your photo. Your Retriever card is your student ID and is used to access the on-campus gym, library, and UMBC transit system. *See page 10*

12

Submit Check-In documents.

International students must complete the New Student Arrival Documentation Check-In in the ISSS Portal. **This is required to have an active SEVIS record at UMBC.** *See page 11*

13

Join campus events!

Connect with other students, join a club, and talk to your professors! All events are posted on [myUMBC](#) events. Get involved!

Form I-20 Step by Step Guide

Follow these steps to request your Form I-20. Remember that the best time to request your form is as soon as possible to avoid unexpected delays.

Students must have admission to a degree-seeking academic program at UMBC.

☐ *Students transferring their SEVIS record to UMBC need to plan their transfer timeline and request a transfer out from their current institution*

☐ **Gather your financial documents**

- Ensure the amount and type of account meet the financial requirements for your term of admission
- Documents must be less than 6 months old

☐ **Gather letters of support for any financial documents not in your name**

- Documents in your parents name still require a letter of support

☐ **Scan the biographical page of your passport**

- Must have more than 6 months validity

☐ **Login to the ISSS Portal using your myUMBC login and start a “New F-1 Student Request” for your term of admission**

☐ **Complete the required fields**

- Upload scans of your passport and financial documents
- Complete the 2 required questionnaires

☐ **Click the “Submit” button so the status of your request becomes “Submitted- Under Review”**

We will contact you by email when your Form I-20 has been processed and is available for download in the ISSS Portal.

☐ **Proceed with the visa process:**

1. Pay your I-901 SEVIS fee
2. Complete your DS160 visa application form
3. Schedule your visa interview at your local consulate or embassy

The ISSS office provides general guidance on Form I-20 regulations based on information obtained from reliable sources and our experience in working with students. Any advice provided to you by our office (as well as the information in this packet) does not constitute as legal advice.



UMBC

HOUSING



Important: Make sure you have housing (at least temporary) BEFORE you travel to the US!

On-Campus Housing - Undergraduate

Undergrads can choose to live on or off campus. Many new undergraduate students prefer to live on campus so that they are near UMBC events and activities. Admitted students will receive directions on applying for housing in their admissions package.

- **Apply before the deadline.** On-campus housing fills up quickly!

Learn more about UMBC Residential Life at reslife.umbc.edu

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.

Pro tip: Research housing options near or around the UMBC transit line! Check out more at transit.umbc.edu



Roommates

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.

Off-Campus Housing

Many students live off-campus. Finding housing can take time so you will want to begin your search early!

Retriever Support Services provides a housing listing service and roommate finder at no charge for the UMBC campus community. Discover resources like public transport options, tips for understanding US leasing practices and utilities, a roommate finder and more at studentaffairs.umbc.edu

Rent for off-campus student housing is typically paid on a monthly basis. Confirm any additional costs you will incur in addition to rent (ex. utilities, garbage, amenities) before you sign your lease!



Utilities

Utility bills, such as electricity and gas, are typically the responsibility of the renter. You will need to establish an account with the utility companies and pay your bills on time (usually monthly). Typically you will see higher bills in the winter and summer due to increased usage. Be prepared!

Other Bills

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

Off-campus housing options near USG

UMBC at Shady Grove does not offer on campus housing, refer to page 24-26 for more information on housing options in the Rockville area



PACKING TIPS

Carry-On Items

The items below should be brought with you in your carry-on (hand luggage). **Do NOT pack these items in your checked luggage.** We recommend placing all the documents you took to your visa appointment in a folder and in your backpack for easy access.

- ☐ Valid passport (more than 6 months future validity)
- ☐ Valid F-1 visa
- ☐ I-20
- ☐ I-901 SEVIS fee receipt
- ☐ UMBC admissions letter
- ☐ Financial support documents
- ☐ Money for initial expenses
- ☐ Phone & charger
- ☐ Residential address (where you'll stay when you arrive) for port of entry form
- ☐ Immunization records
- ☐ Medicine & prescriptions

Food

Some food items cannot be brought into the United States because they may carry animal and plant pests and diseases. Restricted items include meats, fruits, vegetables, plants, soil, and products made from animal or plant materials. However, most packaged non-perishable items and dried spices are allowed into the U.S.

aphis.usda.gov/traveling-with-ag-products



Don't pack any prohibited items! Check the list cbp.gov/travel.

Prepare for the weather!

Maryland has four distinct seasons. Remember to pack clothing to stay comfortable during your first few months.

Summer:

- Avg. temp: 56.8°F (13.8°C) - 89.1°F (31.7°C)
- Very warm and humid. Some strong storms
- Clothing: cool, loose clothing

Fall:

- Avg. temp: 43°F (6.1°C) - 68.4°F (20.2°C)
- Weather gets cooler, especially at night
- Clothing: layers, sweaters & pants

Winter:

- Avg temp: 29.1°F (-1.6°C) - 42.4°F (5.8°C)
- Weather is cold with some snow
- Clothing: heavy coats, gloves, warm layers

Spring:

- Avg temp: 50°F (10°C) - 72.8°F (22.6°C)
- Weather starts getting warmer. Sun & rain
- Clothing: Jacket & light layers

Pack enough clothes for a few months, but don't overpack as you can buy more here. Don't forget a travel adapter and Medications and personal care items unique to your country. -Hemanth



Emergency Contact

If at any point during your travels you need to contact the OISS office, please call **+1 410-455-5555** and ask to speak with an International Student Advisor.

ARRIVING IN THE US

Airport Transportation

Below are a list of local airports near UMBC's main campus. Airports often have several different kinds of transportation options, such as transit, taxis, and ride shares (Uber/Lyft).

Check each airport's website for up to date information about which kinds of transportation are available and instructions for accessing those options.

Your airport transportation should be a part of your travel plans.

Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI)

Distance to UMBC: 7 miles

- Transportation options: Amtrak train, MARC train, Taxis, Uber/Lyft
- Accessible via UMBC transit

Washington Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA)

Distance to UMBC: 40 miles

- Transportation options: Amtrak train, MARC train, Metrorail, Uber/Lyft

Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD)

Distance to UMBC: 55 miles

- Transportation options: Metrorail, Uber/Lyft

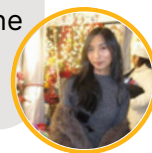
Time Your Arrival!

Students entering the US in F-1 status for the first time may enter up to 30 days before the I-20 start date, but **MUST** enter by the first day of classes!

Orientations and welcome events are often scheduled for the week **before** classes start so plan to arrive a bit early!



Make sure you have all your documents ready before departure. When you arrive, give yourself time to adjust to the time zone and new ways of doing things. Keep emergency contacts saved - Aye



Primary and Secondary Inspection

Primary Inspection

Present your immigration documents to a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer who will review your documents and ask about your plans for your stay in the US. You will also have your fingerprints and a photo taken. This process usually lasts no more than 2-3 minutes.

Secondary Inspection

The CBP Officer may require you to go through a secondary inspection if they are not satisfied with your documents. Do not be alarmed if you are asked to go through Secondary Inspection. Remain calm, present your documents, and answer their questions.

Entry to the US

I-94

When you enter the US, you will be assigned an I-94 record. Please note the details of your entry record as not all are the same.

I-515

Alternatively, you may be issued I-515 or temporary admission to the US. The I-515 form will indicate what information you need to provide, the deadline, and how to respond. ***You must contact the OISS office if you receive this form so we can assist you.***

Lost or Stolen Baggage

If you have lost your baggage, please contact your airline or the airport. They will assist you in tracking your luggage and provide any updates.

ORIENTATION

New Student Orientations

As a new student, you must attend all mandatory orientations that you are assigned.

Note: You may be assigned orientations based on your degree level, program, or other positions you hold on campus.

Undergraduate students:

- International Student Orientation - **Attendance is mandatory.** Check isss.umbc.edu
- Freshman and Transfer Orientation - **Attendance is mandatory** orientation.umbc.edu

Graduate students:

- International Student Orientation - **Attendance is mandatory.** Check isss.umbc.edu
- Graduate School Orientation: Orientation is assigned through Blackboard. Learn more at gradschool.umbc.edu/students/orientation
- Program Orientation - check with your program and UMBC email for details on orientation

Welcome, Retrievers

Welcome Retrievers! A series of events to welcome new and returning students back to campus. There is something for everyone so check out welcomeretrievers.umbc.edu for a complete list of events and join in the fun!

Involvement Fest is your chance to meet representatives from UMBC's over 250 student organizations. This is a great way to get involved with clubs and organizations that will support your social and professional goals.

Playfair

Join us for a night to remember, packed with fun, fireworks and an endless number of games!

Joining clubs is the best way to find people with similar interests. Don't be afraid to go to events or info sessions – the more you engage, the easier it will be to build friendships. - Jervon



Retriever Card

Your Retriever Card is your student ID. Use it for UMBC transit, meal plans, library check-out, and on campus payments! Learn more at campuscard.umbc.edu

Class Registration

Consult your advisor before registering for classes to ensure that you are on track to graduate.

- Graduate students enroll through myUMBC.
- Undergraduate students will register for classes with their academic advisor.

Student Code of Conduct

To view the UMBC Student Code of Conduct or find more information about appointments, policies, or news, please visit Student Conduct and Community Standards website at conduct.umbc.edu

MAINTAINING F-1 STATUS

Check-In with ISSS

After you arrive in the US, you must submit the "New Student Arrival Documentation Check-in" request via the ISSS Portal.

This is **required** to activate your SEVIS record.

1

Login to the ISSS Portal. Click on "Search Forms"

- Select New Student Arrival Documentation Check-in

2

Upload these documents:

- Visa stamp page
- I-94 record

3

Update your personal information on myUMBC:

- U.S. address
- U.S. phone number
- Emergency contact

You must update your address in myUMBC anytime it changes. ISSS is required to have your current contact information on file.



Full time Enrollment Requirement

F-1 students are required to enroll full time every fall and spring semester:

- Graduate students: 9 credits
- Undergraduate students: 12 credits

ONLY 1 ONLINE COURSE can count towards the full-time enrollment requirement. All other courses must be in-person or hybrid.

There are some situations that allow for a Reduced Courseload Authorization. Contact an OISS advisor to learn about eligibility criteria.

Visa and Passport

F-1 students must maintain a valid passport.

You will need more than 6 months of future validity on your passport anytime you enter the US. Renew your passport promptly as needed.

Keep track of your visa validity dates and number of entries (not all F-1 visas will have the same details). Renew your visa as needed to ensure you can request entry to the US if you leave the country for any reason.

Updates to US Immigration Policy

UMBC carefully monitors updates to US immigration policy. Information may be sent to you via email or posted to this webpage:

iss.umbc.edu/updates

Documents to Carry

F-1 students should carry their I-94 record and valid ID at all times as evidence of their immigration status in the US.

Loss of F-1 Status

F-1 students may lose their immigration status if they do not comply with F-1 regulations. It is critical that you stay informed and complete any necessary formwork in a timely manner.

Please read and respond to all messages from the OISS office about your immigration status and seek advising any time you have a question or concern. iss.umbc.edu/contact



Remember: your immigration status is your responsibility!

STAY INFORMED

Social media

UMBC, State and National departments and organizations have social media accounts which share information. Always make sure your news is from a verified and reliable source.

UMBC events and updates will be on myUMBC and you will probably get emails with news about the campus as well. Regarding general info/news, always trust “more famous” news sites over rumors.
-Giovanna



UMBC alerts

UMBC occasionally sends important alerts to the community via UMBC email and via text message. Alerts may pertain to inclement weather, campus outages or safety. This service will only be used for alerts deemed as critical to the UMBC community. [Info and sign-up here](#)

UMBC email

Check your UMBC email. Important course and university updates and info are often shared via email. ISSS also sends out regular newsletters with any important information, including any changes to current immigration or employment regulations.

myUMBC

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

Local television stations

Most major US cities have local television networks covering area and national news and weather. Local stations are affiliates of national networks. Baltimore area stations below:

- WBAL - Channel 11
- WMAR - Channel 2
- WBFF - Channel 45
- WJZ - Channel 13

Public news radio

Public radio is an easy and convenient way to access both local and national news. Tune into Baltimore's local National Public Radio (NPR) station **WYPR 88.1 FM**.

SAFETY REMINDERS

UMBC Police

Students on campus can call UMBC Police in case of emergencies. Contact them by dialing **410-455-5555 or just 55555 from an on-campus phone.**



Blue Light call stations are located on campus for emergencies. Simply press the button to talk directly with UMBC Police.

E2 Alerts

UMBC uses the E2Campus emergency text-messaging system to send alerts about campus emergencies or weather-related campus closures.

To sign up for E2Campus alerts, see wiki.umbc.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=5242958.

UMBC at Shady Grove alerts

UMBC-Shady Grove follows USG's campus alerts. Sign up for USG campus alerts [here](#)



Office of Equity and Civil Rights

You can report instances of non-emergent harassment, misconduct, or discrimination to the Office of Equity and Civil Rights by submitting this online form: ecr.umbc.edu/report. More information and additional resources are available at ecr.umbc.edu

Driving and the Law

A valid driver's license is required to drive in the US. If you are ever pulled over by the police, keep your hands on the steering wheel, do not exit the car, and follow the officer's directions carefully. If you receive a traffic violation, you may need to pay a fine. Review the different types of traffic violations at peoples-law.org/traffic-citations.

Seatbelts are always mandatory for all passengers in the US.

Drinking and driving, or Driving Under the Influence (DUI), is illegal and may result in deportation.

Emergency Numbers

National emergency number: **911**

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: **988**

UMBC Campus Police: **+1 410-455-5555**

Keep emergency numbers saved on your phone for quick access!

Substance Use

Alcohol and Tobacco

The minimum legal age to drink alcohol or purchase tobacco products is 21. For international students and scholars, breaking this law can affect your visa status and result in deportation. UMBC is a smoke free campus.

Drugs

Cannabis (marijuana) is legal to purchase in Maryland for adults 21 and over. However, cannabis is still illegal under federal law so you can be deported or barred from entry for possessing or using marijuana or any other illegal recreational drugs.

PHONE & BANK

Cellphone Plans

There are a number of options to obtain service and a local phone number.

Many students use free airport wi-fi to access communication apps such as WhatsApp and WeChat when they arrive.



■ CampusSIMS Mint Mobile:

- US phone number and service immediately upon arrival. You pay ahead for a designated amount of credit. Order a SIM [here](#).
- Pick up a fee sim in-person (UC 204)

■ Contract/Prepaid plan:

Most service operates on contract plans. Contracts are usually 2 years in length for the cheapest option. With a contract, you pay a prepaid amount on a monthly basis.

■ Pay-as-you-go (PAYG):

Similar to CampusSims. You purchase credit as needed with a local carrier.

Opening a US Bank Account

Having a US bank account may be necessary to make it easier to process transactions. Fees and interest rates will depend on the financial institution. To open an account, you will need documents to prove your identity and your residency. Call ahead or check the bank's website to confirm what documents to provide.

Required documents usually include:

- Passport
- I-20
- Proof of address
- Initial deposit

Local Carriers

Compare plan options across carriers to determine the best plan for you. For directions to local carriers, click [here](#).

Local carriers. Some with offices near UMBC:

- T-Mobile
- Total Wireless
- Verizon
- AT&T
- Boost Mobile

You can get a Mint Mobile sim card from the CGE front desk office (also known as OISS office) for free. Then, open a bank account to have access to your money in the US. -Bishal



Local Banks

Click [here](#) for more information about banking

- PNC Banks (location on campus)
 - Will come to campus before the semester starts and offer account applications.
- Bank of America
- Maryland State Employees Credit Union (ATM on Campus)
- Wells Fargo

Exchanging Money

Check with your financial institutions about any fees or interest rates when exchanging money between your bank at home and your US bank.

ATMs are available on campus to withdraw cash. There is usually a transaction fee.

MYUMBC & TECH RESOURCES

myUMBC

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

- Access your profile and other apps
- Update your contact information and manage your campus card.
- Discover campus events and student orgs

Set up your account at: my.umbc.edu/account

Do not share your myUMBC password with anyone! Protect your personal and financial information.



Technology Requirements

To help ensure students are equipped for academic success, UMBC requires all students to be technologically self-sufficient. This requires students to have a reliable laptop computer and internet access. For more information or assistance visit doit.umbc.edu/students.

Duo 2-Step Authentication

In an effort to enhance the security of your online account, students, faculty, and staff at UMBC are [required to use Duo Multi-Factor Authentication](#) (MFA). When traveling, ensure that the authenticator apps you choose are compatible with your destination's network regulations. [More information here.](#)

Software

UMBC offers students a selection of software and services available for download.

- A full list of software available to students and how to download is found [here](#).

UMBC Email

UMBC email is hosted by Gmail. **It is strongly recommended that students check their UMBC email account on a daily basis.**

View the UMBC email FAQ page [here](#)

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.

Access Blackboard at:

blackboardblackboard.umbc.edu



"Since all assignments and updates are made through the blackboard, it is important to constantly access blackboard to check for updates"
- Jiwon

Webex

Your online lectures and virtual meetings will typically be hosted on Webex or Google Meet. Each student will have a personal Webex room to host meetings and can also join meetings via links provided.

Get started with Webex:

emservices.umbc.edu/webex

Questions about UMBC technology resources?

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) has an extensive FAQ page in case you ever need help troubleshooting. Find the FAQ and how to submit a help ticket at: help.umbc.edu

BILLING, TUITION, & FEES

Tuition

Tuition is the cost of your classes at UMBC. Your tuition costs are based on your level of study and the number of credits you are enrolled in. Tuition amounts usually change every semester and will be reflected on your bill.

- A breakdown of tuition (and fees) is updated on the Student Business Services (SBS) website annually:
sbs.umbc.edu/tuition-info/



Remember: The financial information on your I-20 is not your bill. It is an approved estimate of the cost of attendance for one year.

Health Insurance

International students at UMBC are automatically enrolled in UMBC's student insurance plan (students with Graduate Assistantships may be enrolled through their departments).

The fee for health insurance is applied to accounts about a month after the semester begins, but the coverage is effective from the beginning of the semester. Details about the insurance plan and instructions for downloading your insurance card can be found at health.umbc.edu

Students have the option to purchase meal plans that are applied directly to their campus card. More information about meal plans can be found at campuscard.umbc.edu.



Fees

Fees are charges for services you access as a student at UMBC. Applicable mandatory fees will be automatically applied to your account. Find an explanation of fees at:

sbs.umbc.edu/tuition-info/mandatory-fees

- Fees may appear on your bill at different times. For example, the International Student Fee is charged after the add/drop date
- Students with a GA contract may still need to pay for mandatory fees. Please refer to your GA contract.

Students may continue to seek and apply for scholarships throughout their education. scholarships.umbc.edu



Payments

Payments are made through the payment portal. You can submit an international payment by selecting "Make a Payment" -> "International Payment"

Wire transfer is available, contact Student Business Services for more information
sbs.umbc.edu/contact-info

Bills and Due Dates

UMBC issues all bills electronically. Info about accessing bills and your account is found on the SBS website at sbs.umbc.edu

- **To access your e-bill:** Login to myUMBC, select Billing & Personal Finances under Guide and click on Payments & Billing
- Due dates depend on when you register. Please reference the SBS E-billing Schedule on their website.
- Payment plans are available

TRANSPORTATION

UMBC Transit

The Campus shuttle is free for students!

UMBC Transit is a robust, free campus shuttle available to all members of the UMBC community. The shuttle provides service to many surrounding areas. **You must show your retriever card to board.** Check out UMBC transit routes and maps at transit.umbc.edu.

"Transit is my main mode of transportation to and from college. Convenient and reliable, it's helpful for getting to grocery stores and taking care of daily necessities."

-Pavithra



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. Student Fare: \$1.50 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](#).

Driving in the US

If you plan to drive in the US, you are **required** to obtain a **valid** US driver's license. More information can be found on the [OISS website](#) and on the [MVA website](#).

- If you plan to park on campus, you will also need to register for a free [parking permit](#).
- Students may drive with a valid international license for up to 1 year after arrival in the US.

Shady Grove Parking & Transport

Refer to pages 24-26 for info about USG parking and area transportation options



Ride-Share

Popular ride-share apps are:

- Uber
- Lyft

Don't forget to tip your driver in the app!

Car Rentals

Some car rental companies will rent to students over 18 (or 21) with a valid US driver's license. They may also have insurance you can purchase. ZipCar offers prepaid hourly car rentals.

Trains & Buses

Bus:

- There are a number of affordable long-haul bus companies. Some options are: Greyhound, BoltBus, Megabus, Peterpan
- These buses have service to all major cities and states.

Train:

- MARC - Maryland train system, travels from Baltimore to DC, and surrounding areas. The closest MARC station to UMBC is the Halethorpe station.
- Amtrak - US-wide train network

Plane:

- The closest airports to UMBC are:
 - BWI- 7 miles away (Accessible by UMBC transit)
 - DCA- 40 miles away
 - IAD- 55 miles away

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

AOK Library

The Albin O. Kuhn library hosts not only UMBC's vast library collection, but much more including:

- Study space
- Copying and printing services
- Digital Media Lab
- Equipment rental
- Research help
- In-person workshops
- Innovation Lab (maker space)

Librarians are available to help you find the resources you need so be sure to familiarize yourself with this space!

"At the library, if I have a group discussion I book a group study room. If I want to study alone, an individual study room, or if I just want to study and chill then there is RLC, which is open (24/7)" -Sirisha



Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center provides supports to all UMBC undergraduate students including:

- Tutoring Services
- Peer Assisted Study Sessions
- Academic Advocates

A complete list of services and instructions for accessing them can be found at academicsuccess.umbc.edu.

Commonvision

Commonvision is UMBC's student design and print center. Look [here](#) for their free zines and games! Visit commonvision.umbc.edu for a full list of services.

Generative AI Tools

The intent is for AI to support your learning, not replace it. Information about accepted use of AI tools in the classroom will be noted in your syllabus. **Each class may be different-** speak with your professor if you have any questions.

Departmental Resources

Many departments offer resources and supports for their students. Connect with your department early on to discover what is available to you. Find your department at umbc.edu/academics/colleges

Grad Student and Postdoctoral Development

The office of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Development ([GSPD](https://gspd.umbc.edu)) is the hub of professional development for all graduate students and postdocs at UMBC. gspd.umbc.edu

Research Opportunities

UMBC is classified as an R1 institution meaning there is a high level of research activity on campus. See how you can be involved!

Undergraduate Opportunities at: ur.umbc.edu
Graduate Opportunities at: research.umbc.edu/graduate-assistantships

GSA Writing Advisor

The GSA Writing Advisor assists graduate students with any writing project/assignment across all curricula. The Writing Advisor can help at any stage in the writing process. Schedule an appointment at gsa.umbc.edu/writing-advisor

HEALTH & SUPPORT

Retriever Integrated Health (RIH)- Health Services

RIH provides outpatient primary care clinical services, health programming, and outreach. Services include:

- Diagnosis of acute illnesses
- Immunizations
- Routine physicals and more

Located in the Center for Well-Being.

More information at health.umbc.edu

UMBC hosts annual vaccine clinics on campus for flu shots and other vaccines when recommended. Watch for dates to be announced in the fall!



Retriever Integrated Health - Counseling Services

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

More information at health.umbc.edu

Student Support Groups

RIH hosts a range of support groups where students gather to share the challenges and struggles they are facing. Check out which groups are currently running and get more information at: my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/health

Women's, Gender, & Equity Center

The WGEC advances gender equity from an intersectional feminist perspective through co-curricular programming, support services, and advocacy for marginalized individuals and communities. Located in the Commons.

Student Belonging

Find community, activities, and welcoming spaces with Student Belonging!

- The Gathering Space for Spiritual Well-Being (Religious spaces)
 - 103, Center for Wellbeing
- The Pride Center (LGBTQIA2+ spaces)
 - 101, University Center
- The Mosaic: Center for Culture and Diversity
 - 2B23, The Commons
- Graduate Student Life
- Commuter Connections (The Commons)

Learn More: my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/i3b

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.

More information at

retrieveressentials.umbc.edu

Student Disability Services (SDS)

Student Disability Services (SDS) coordinates accommodations for UMBC students with documented disabilities, as well as those with temporarily disabling conditions and injuries, who experience barriers that may require accommodations in order to have equal access and participation in the University's classes, activities, and housing. More information at sds.umbc.edu

SOCIAL EVENTS & CLUBS

Student Organizations

With groups for hobbies and sports, service and volunteer activities, student government, and more than 20 fraternity and sorority chapters, there's plenty for you to discover! UMBC student organizations are created and run by current students and offer a wide array of opportunities to get involved in your campus and local communities.



"Pick a thing that you like, message the club, they'll be happy to guide you and welcome you to their practice/meetings/events." -Sourab

Student Government Association

The UMBC SGA organizes undergraduate students to create community, support co-curricular and academic experiences, and gives a voice to students. sga.umbc.edu

Graduate Student Association

[GSA](#) represents the interests and concerns of UMBC graduate students by providing a forum for discussions and recommendations on matters involving graduate students & welfare. They also arrange events and sponsor the Graduate Experience, Achievements & Research Symposium (GEARS) gsa.umbc.edu

OISS Events

The Office of International Students and Scholars hosts social events for international students throughout the year. Come join us for monthly coffee hour or other seasonal events! Follow us at my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/ies or on instagram @umbc_iss

Student Events Board (seb)

([seb](#)) plans campus events, including live music, movie nights, trips, and more, Give yourself a break and enjoy time with friends. (seb) provides the UMBC community with opportunities to create and shape campus life into an active and enriching environment. seb.umbc.edu

Annual Events

UMBC holds annual events that you won't want to miss including:

- Welcome Retrievers
- Involvement Fest
- Homecoming
- Quadmania
- Convocation and Graduation

Keep up with the campus events calendar at my.umbc.edu/events

Club Sports and Intramurals

Club sports are competitive sports teams open to all UMBC students. More information at: recreation.umbc.edu/club-sports

Intramural sports are a relaxing way to stay fit and have fun. Check out opportunities at: recreation.umbc.edu/intramurals

Education Abroad

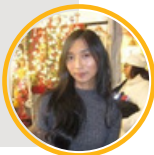
Go abroad as a UMBC student! It's a great way to acquire global and intercultural skills. Take advantage of the opportunity to earn credits towards your major, minor, and GEP requirements while also engaging in what many students call the most meaningful experience of their education. studyabroad.umbc.edu

THINGS TO DO 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. Eat, study and relax here.

"My favorite place on campus is The Commons. I like going there because it's always active, social, and a great place to meet people or just take a break between classes." -Aye



UMBC Dining

In addition to the True Grits dining hall, UMBC has many delicious places to eat on campus. Pick up a favorite or try something new!

- Starbucks
- Chick-fil-A
- Einstein Bros. Bagels
- Halal Shack

The Gameroom

A favorite spot to socialize for many UMBC students! Take a break and have some fun. There's billiards, tvs, ping pong, board games and more! It's a great way to meet people!

Retriever Activities Center (RAC)

The RAC is UMBC's fitness and recreation facility. Activities include: workout spaces (cardiovascular and weights), group fitness, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, indoor track, basketball/volleyball/badminton courts, outdoor tennis courts, and more! Check it out at recreation.umbc.edu

My favorite place on campus is the RAC (Retriever Activities Center) for working out and playing sports like soccer, badminton, and pickellball. - Aum



Bookstore

Found right in the heart of campus, buy or rent books, sell your old books, and find UMBC-branded apparel, coffee mugs, dorm supplies, and more. bookstore.umbc.edu/home

Trails

UMBC has two nature trails on campus that you can explore for a taste of the outdoors. Checkout:

- The Herbert Run Greenway- hrg.umbc.edu
- CERA Trail - ges.umbc.edu/cera

UMBC Athletics

Come cheer on the [UMBC Retrievers](#) at one of their home games! Many games are free or low cost for students and are held on campus.



Find events to attend at tickets.umbc.edu

Arts at UMBC

Many performances and exhibits are free or low cost to students including:

- [Theatre](#)
- Dance
- [Music](#)
- Galleries

Find events to attend at tickets.umbc.edu or on [myUMBC](#).

Observatory

The UMBC Observatory houses a research-grade telescope and lives right on top of the Physics building! They host free events open to the community. my3.my.umbc.edu/groups/observatory

GROCERIES AND DINING

Grocery Stores Near UMBC

Many of these stores are very close to off-campus housing and accessible via UMBC transit.

- Giant
- Safeway
- Shoppers
- Weis
- Aldi
- Lidl

There is a large selection of the international grocers in the area:

- H-Mart (Korean)
- Orchard Market & Café (Persian)
- SuperFresh Halal Meats & Grocery
- Patel Brothers (Indian)
- Great Wall Asian Supermarket (Chinese)
- Lotte Plaza (Asian) (Halal meat)
- Heritage International Foods (African)

Local Farmers Markets

Want farm fresh produce from local vendors? Visit one of the area's farmers markets! Some markets have limited hours or are only open during certain months. Check websites for hours.

- Catonsville Sunday Farmer's Market
- Baltimore Lexington Market
- Baltimore Farmer's Market & Bazaar
- Cross Street Market in Baltimore's Federal Hill

Food, banks, and local services at USG

UMBC at Shady Grove Students refer to page 24 - 26 for more information on shopping and service in the Rockville area



"Online shopping through Amazon is also very convenient if you do not have transportation yet." -Leeha



Online Food Ordering and Delivery:

Want to order your groceries online or have a meal delivered? Use one of the websites/apps below. *Delivery drivers expect to be tipped!*

- Instacart
- Uber Eats
- Door Dash
- Seamless
- Grubhub

Grocery & Food Delivery Services

Many online grocery & food services offer discounts on first orders & contactless delivery. *Don't forget to tip the driver!*



Dining Off Campus

There are many restaurants near campus. Some have seating and others offer take away.

Here are a few tips for eating out:

- It is expected that you will tip servers at sit-down restaurants. 15% or more is customary.
- Other places will sometimes prompt you for tips, it is at your discretion if you would like to tip.
- Many restaurants have apps that offer deals or lower prices.
- Some restaurants in Arbutus offer discounts for UMBC students.

SHOPPING

Everyday Goods

There are a numerous large retail stores where you can purchase household necessities, furniture and supplies. For larger and longer distance trips, a car is recommended.

Everyday goods and some furniture:

- Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree

Furniture & decor:

- IKEA, HomeGoods, TJ Maxx, Ross

Hardware:

- Harbour Freight, Home Depot, Lowes

Electronics:

- BestBuy, Target, Walmart

Pharmacies

Visit a pharmacy for health, medicine and wellness products. Some large grocery stores will also have a prescription pharmacy inside.

Pharmacies near UMBC campus include:

- CVS Pharmacy
- Catonsville Pharmacy
- Walgreens Pharmacy

“Take some time to explore the local area and identify nearby grocery stores, pharmacies, convenience stores, and other essential shops.” - Jervon



Malls

There are a number of shopping malls in the area including:

- Arundel Mills
- Columbia Mall
- Security Square Mall
- Mondawmin

Be sure to consult the transit map before planning your trip!

Bring Your Own Bag!

By law, stores in Maryland charge a small fee for paper and reusable plastic bags. Bring your own reusable bag to save your wallet and the environment!



Clothing Stores

Outlet malls are a large group of stores selling items made by particular companies at a lower price. Outlet malls will have stores from major brands, such as Nike, Levi's, and The North Face. Nearby outlet mall: Arundel Mills Mall

Discount stores sell items at a reduced price. Nearby stores: TJMaxx, Marshalls, and Ross.

Thrift stores sell second-hand items, meaning they have been used before. Thrift stores have a great variety of clothes and household items. Many items are in great to almost new condition. Neary stores: Goodwill, Uptown Cheapskate, Value Village

Savings Tips

Make sure you check for specials, including student discounts, when making purchases, online or in-person.

- Grocery stores usually update their store specials on a weekly basis
- Create an account with your phone number for discounts at some stores.
- You can also look at online coupon websites or the Sunday newspaper for coupons to save extra
- Check out local student discounts at sga.umbc.edu/initiatives/student-discounts/

EXPLORE AROUND CAMPUS

Arbutus

Arbutus is less than 1 mile away from campus and a great place to go out to eat, shop, or see a movie. Be sure not to miss the annual Arbutus Arts Festival usually held in late spring. arbutusartsfestival.com

OCA Mocha

A coffee shop, multi-use space, and event center. OCA Mocha is a catalyst to create genuine symbiotic relationships between UMBC and its surrounding communities. ocamocha.com

Historic Catonsville

Less than 2 miles away from campus, and accessible via UMBC Transit, downtown Catonsville is a chill place to visit shops, restaurants, services, and more. They often host community events as well, check out their calendar for more information www.catonsvilleartsdistrict.org

Extend Beyond Campus

Many local businesses have special deals for UMBC students and families throughout the year. We encourage you to explore beyond the campus and see everything our broader community has to offer ogrca.umbc.edu/extend-beyond-campus

Old Ellicott City

More than just a historic and shopping district, Old Ellicott City feels like home, even when it's your first time visiting. Fall in love with the architecture, river, hills and eclectic community full of artists, shop keepers, restaurateurs and residents. visitoldellicottcity.com

Patapsco State Park

Patapsco Valley State Park encompasses 16,043 acres and eight developed recreational areas which include hiking, fishing, camping, canoeing, horseback and mountain bike trails, as well as picnicking for individuals or large groups in the park's pavilions. There are 70 miles of maintained trails. The park is open to the public, but there is a small entrance fee that changes with the seasons. dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands

Baltimore City

Accessible by UMBC Transit, downtown Baltimore boasts museums, dining, theater, historical sites, and more. Some popular events include:

- Baltimore Ravens games (football)
- Baltimore Orioles games (baseball)
- International Edgar Allan Poe Festival
- Artscape
- Maryland Film Festival
- Baltimore Running Festival
- And much more!

Learn more at: baltimore.org/events

Washington DC

Washington DC, is the capital city and federal district of the United States. You can take UMBC transit to the Halethorpe station and then travel straight to DC via MARC train. There is so much to do in the city including:

- Smithsonian Museums
- Visit U.S. historical sites
- Dining and Nightlife
- Annual Cherry Blossom Festival
- Cultural and holiday celebrations

Learn more at: washington.org

JOBS & INTERNSHIPS

F-1 Work Authorization

F-1 regulations allow for several work options. Visit the [OISS website](#) for more details about the options listed below.

On-campus work

F-1 students are eligible to work on-campus without prior approval from the OISS office. Students can work part time (up to 20 hours/week) during the fall and spring semesters and full time (more than 20 hours) during the summer and winter breaks.

Off-campus work

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

F-1 students become eligible for CPT after completing two full academic semesters (fall and spring) in the US. Positions must be related to the student's program major.

Students must receive approval from OISS before working.

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

F-1 students who have completed their program requirements are eligible to work for 1 year on OPT. **Prior approval is required.**

- Students can work for multiple employers or change employers.
- Positions can be paid or unpaid.
- Students must work a combined total of at least 20 hours/week during OPT.
- Like CPT, the position must be related to the student's major 1.

STEM Optional Practical Training (STEM OPT)

Students who graduate with a [STEM-eligible degree](#) may be eligible to extend their OPT an additional two years.

Contact OISS if you have any questions about any of these work options!

Check the Career Center's website for upcoming webinars, workshops, and career fairs! **[careers.umbc.edu](#)**



Career Center

The Career Center works with students at every academic level to provide students with skills and resources for work opportunities. [careers.umbc.edu](#)

Services include:

- Career advising
- Applied learning opportunities (internships, co-ops, and research)
- Networking events
- Career & professional skills education
- Recruiting
- Interviewing

"Join in the events that UMBC has to offer to find the resources you need. The Career Fair is a great event open to all students."
_Giovanna



Taxes

International students are required to report their taxes every year. Taxes must be filed by April 15. The ISSS office will send out a newsletter in February about how to file tax returns and who to contact for questions. For more information, visit the ISSS ["Helpful Resources for Taxes"](#) web page.

The ISSS team are not tax professionals and therefore cannot provide tax advice. Please speak with a tax expert if you have specific concerns.

DISCOVER COMMUNITY AT UMBC

UMBC students are from over 100 countries! Connect with other UMBC International students before and after your arrival!



**Chat directly with current UMBC
Global Ambassadors on The
Ambassador Platform!**

globalstudent.umbc.edu/ask-a-student

**All admitted students are invited
to join a Community Group on
TAP so they can connect with
others in their cohort.**

**Check your email for more
information!**



SHADY GROVE STUDENT INFO

What is UMBC - Shady Grove?

UMBC at the Universities at Shady Grove is located in Rockville, Maryland. With select undergrad and grad programs available, USG offers the reputation of UMBC in a convenient location near Washington, D.C. USG has easy access to government agencies, contractors and major healthcare organizations. One of nine institutions at the Universities at Shady Grove, UMBC is part of a consortium of schools within the University System of Maryland (USM), which allows students to explore opportunities as they complete their UMBC degree.

Course Sharing

Full-time UMBC students at USG are eligible to take part in course sharing through the other institutions at USG. [Click here](#) to learn more.

- If you find a “course shared” course that you want to register for, you must contact your Advisor for approval and complete the necessary paperwork (IIR form).
- The credits and grade earned will count as resident credit, appear on the student transcript, and count toward GPA calculations.

Transportation

Students can access public transportation in the area including Montgomery County's Ride-On Bus System and Metrorail and Metrobus systems. Transit info and directions using the RideGuide found [here](#). More info regarding transportation options and services found [here](#).

USG Local Housing Resources

While USG does not offer on-campus, residential housing for students, there are rental options and opportunities available in the surrounding local community.

- Off-Campus Housing Guide: [Link here](#)
- Nearby suburbs: Gaithersburg, Rockville, Germantown, North Potomac, Derwood

Parking at USG

To park on the USG campus, students must purchase a parking permit, pay by the hour, or pay the daily visitor rate. Purchase permits and learn more [here](#).

- Student parking is located in the Shady Grove Garage and Parking Lot 1 during day hours.
- Students may park on level 2-6 of the Traville Gateway Garage only between 4 pm-6 am and all day on the weekends.
- Disabled parking is available in Lots 2, 4 and 5.

USG ID Card

A USG ID Card is required for all USG students to access USG campus services. Policy requires all students obtain and carry a USG ID card anytime they are on campus. **Learn how to obtain your USG ID card [here](#).**

Office of Information Technology

For IT-related needs and services at USG, please visit OIT [here](#).



SHADY GROVE STUDENT INFO

USG Logon

Your USG Logon ID is the username used to access computers and other computer services at The Universities at Shady Grove. Please see more information regarding how to claim your USG Logon ID [here](#).

- If you need help accessing USG self-service portal or technical support, contact USG OIT (in Building III). Contact info [here](#).

Student Life & Engagement

Students have many opportunities to be involved in student organizations and engage in activities on the USG campus. More info [here](#).

Campus Recreation Center (CRC)

The CRC provides students at the Universities at Shady Grove everything needed to maintain a healthy and fun lifestyle at an affordable price. The fitness center has a variety of resistance equipment along with an assortment of aerobic/cardio classes. Students can access strength training, free weights, cardiovascular & selected fitness equipment. Personal trainers are also available. [Learn more about CRC here](#).

USG Student Accommodations

UMBC-Shady Grove works very closely with UMBC's Student Disability Services (SDS) Office on the Catonsville campus to provide services for registered students with disabilities. Students with physical or learning disabilities who request accommodation services must register with SDS. [Applications and info here](#).

USG Priddy Library

UMBC students use their library code at Shady Grove for library reservations and to access UMBC's Library online to print articles. You can find this number on your USG Campus ID Card. Please [visit USG's Library website](#) to learn more.

- UMBC-Shady Grove students can access services offered through UMBC's Albin O. Kuhn Library [here](#).

The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) Student Services

USG's Student and Career Readiness centers support students from all of USG's nine partner universities. Service centers include the following:

Career Services:

- Gain assistance with professional toolkit preparation (Macklin Center for Academic and Leadership Success) and connect with employers and mentors (Office of Strategic Partnerships). More info [here](#).

Center for Counseling and Well-being:

- Services: personal & career counseling, individual, couples, & group counseling, and workshops. [More info here](#).

Macklin Center for Academic & Leadership Success:

- Services: oral & written communication coaching, disability support, student life, organizations & leadership opportunities, workshops, and professional toolkit preparation (assistance with resumes, cover letters, interview prep, LinkedIn, etc.) [More info here](#).

Center for Scholarships

- USG scholarships and financial support, financial wellness, emergency financial assistance, and food access. [More info here](#).



SHADY GROVE STUDENT INFO

Bank Locations Near USG

Local banks include:

- PNC Bank ATM (located inside Giant) 3 minute walk from campus
- Citibank ATM: 6 minute walk from campus (located near Trader Joe's grocery)

Don't forget: USG Campus ID required for UMBC-Shady Grove students

A USG ID Card is required for all USG students to access USG campus services. Learn how to obtain your card [here](#).



Weather & Emergency Alerts

UMBC-Shady Grove follows USG's campus closings which may be different from UMBC-Catonsville Campus.

You can check on the status of closings by calling USG Student Services at 301-738-6000 or [sign up for campus alerts through E2Campus here](#).



Need more help? See below for important USG contacts

UMBC at The Universities at Shady Grove

- shadygrove.umbc.edu
- 301-738-6081
- Email: shadygrove@umbc.edu

Universities at Shady Grove

- shadygrove.umd.edu

Food Access

USG recognizes food insecurity can have a negative impact on physical, mental, and emotional health. USG offers on-site resource to increase food access and promote wellness. More info [here](#).

Dining and Grocery

- Dawson's Market at USG provides fresh food service in the café on the first floor of Building III (Monday-Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). Their menu includes a variety of hot and cold food options, sweet treats, and beverages.
- The two Micro Market locations on campus - the first floor of building III and the first floor of building IV (BSE) - have snacks, beverages, microwavable foods, and coffee for purchase. Micro Markets are open whenever the campus is open.

There are several grocery store options near the USG campus including: Giant, Safeway, Trader Joe's, H Mart, and Lotte Plaza.

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus Contacts & Services

Find who to contact with your questions

Academic Advising (Graduate)

Search by program name and then go to department website for more information

<https://umbc.edu/admissions/graduate/graduate-degree-programs/>

- Grad student advising, credits & course loads, degree requirements

Academic Advising (Undergraduate)

Academic & Pre-Professional Advising (410-455-2729)
advising@umbc.edu advising.umbc.edu

- UG student advising, credit & course load info, degree requirements

Academic Advising (Undergrad) Pre-Medical, Pre-Dental

Academic & Pre-Professional Advising (410-455-2729)
<https://alliedhealth.umbc.edu>

- UG student advising for students in pre-professional programs

Adding or Dropping Courses

Registrar's Office (410-455-2500)
Sondheim 504

registrar@umbc.edu registrar.umbc.edu

- Adding & dropping courses, enrollment, & pre-requisite policies

Billing, Tuition, & Fees

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

- Paying tuition & fees, payment plans & resolving financial holds

Campus Life, Clubs, & Organizations

Campus Life (410-455-3462)
campuslife@umbc.edu campuslife.umbc.edu

Community Service & Engagement

Shriver Center (410-455-2493)

shrivercenter.umbc.edu

- Service learning, leadership, community & civic engagement opportunities

Disability Services

Student Disability Services (410-455-2459)

sds.umbc.edu

- General info/accommodated testing: disAbility@umbc.edu Note-taking inquiry: sdsnotetaking@umbc.edu
- Test/exam accommodations, note-taking assistance, interpreting/transcribing services, alternate format for printed or inaccessible text, assistive technology, accessible housing

Office of Equity and Civil Rights

Office of Equity and Civil Rights (410-455-1717)

ecr.umbc.edu

- Report instances of non-emergency cases of harassment, discrimination, and hate

Emergencies

UMBC Police (410-455-5555) or 911

police@umbc.edu police.umbc.edu

English Language Support

English Language Institute, contact: eli@umbc.edu
eli.umbc.edu

Health Services

Retriever Integrated Health - Health Services

Location: The Center for Well-Being

(410-455-2542) rih@umbc.edu uhs.umbc.edu

- On-campus health clinic, medical services
- My Retriever Care: myretrievercare.umbc.edu/

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus Contacts & Services

Find who to contact with your questions

Fitness, Sport & Recreation

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

- Gym, sports clubs, intramurals, group fitness

Food Insecurity

Retriever Essentials retrieveressentials@umbc.edu
[retrieveressentials.umbc.edu](mailto:retrieveressentials@umbc.edu)

- Access to essential food and goods for emergency situations

Gender Equity Support & Resources

Women's, Gender, & Equity Center (410-455-2714)
womenscenter@umbc.edu [womenscenter.umbc.edu](mailto:womenscenter@umbc.edu)

- Programming, support, & advocacy for marginalized communities

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

Graduate Student Association (410-455-2773)
gsa@umbc.edu [gsa.umbc.edu](mailto:gsa@umbc.edu)

- Grad student orgs, research, writing support, GEARS

International Student Support

Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS)
iss.umbc.edu Contact: iss.umbc.edu/contact/

- Support, programming & services for UMBC's international community

Student Belonging

campuslife@umbc.edu [campuslife.umbc.edu](mailto:campuslife@umbc.edu)

- Culture & diversity resources, LGBTQ+ support, religion & spirituality resources

Jobs, Internships, & Career Planning

Career Center (410-455-2216)
careers@umbc.edu [careers.umbc.edu](mailto:careers@umbc.edu)

- Resources, workshops & career planning services

Library

Albin O. Kuhn (AOK) Library 410-455-2232
aok@umbc.edu [library.umbc.edu](mailto:aok@umbc.edu)

- Access books, databases & materials, study space, technology rental

Mailing Services

Retriever Card Center & Mail Services
(443-612-2273) campuscard.umbc.edu

- Postage & shipping services

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Retriever Integrated Health - Counseling Center
(410-455-2472) counseling@umbc.edu
[counseling.umbc.edu](mailto:counseling@umbc.edu)

- Free, confidential counseling services, mental health & wellbeing support for students

Off-Campus Housing

Retriever Support Services (410-455-2770)
<https://studentaffairs.umbc.edu/student-support/retriever-support-services/mission/>

- Finding off campus housing; leasing info, housing policies

On-Campus Housing

Residential Life (410-455-2591)
reslife@umbc.edu [reslife.umbc.edu](mailto:reslife@umbc.edu)

- Campus housing, residence halls & apartments

Parking

Parking Services [Request Help](#)
(410-455-2551) parking.umbc.edu

- Parking permits, parking rules, regulations

Printing & Design Services

Commonvision (410-455-1884)
commonvision@umbc.edu
[commonvision.umbc.edu](mailto:commonvision@umbc.edu)

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus Contacts & Services

Find who to contact with your questions

Registration & Enrollment

Registrar's Office (410-455-2500)
registrar@umbc.edu registrar.umbc.edu

- Enrollment, registering for classes & pre-requisite requirements, graduation progression

Scholarships

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships
(410-455-2387) financialaid.umbc.edu

- Administration & information about UMBC scholarships

UMBC at Shady Grove Information

UMBC at The Universities at Shady Grove:
(301-738-6081) shadygrove@umbc.edu
shadygrove.umbc.edu

- Support for UMBC students attending the Universities at Shady Grove campus

Student Identification Cards

Retriever Card Center & Mail Services (443-612-2273) campuscard.umbc.edu

- Getting a student ID card, lost or damaged campus card, meal plan info

Study Abroad as a UMBC student

Education Abroad (410-455-8175)
educationabroad@umbc.edu
studyabroad.umbc.edu

- Education abroad opportunities for current UMBC students

Technology Support

Technology Support Center (410-455-3838)
doit.umbc.edu

- Assistance with email accounts, software, campus network, lab use, Blackboard

Transcripts

Registrar's Office registrar@umbc.edu
(410-455-2500) registrar.umbc.edu

- Requesting transcripts & transcript evaluation

Tutoring & Academic Support (Undergrad)

Academic Success Center (410-455-2444)
academicsuccess@umbc.edu
academicsuccess.umbc.edu

- Peer tutoring services for 100-300 level courses, academic policy information & placement testing

UMBC Transportation

UMBC Transit (410-455-3974) transit@umbc.edu
umbc.edu/transit

- Campus and surrounding shuttle service

24 Hour Study Spaces (including printer & computer access)

Retriever Learning Center (410-455-2232)
aok@umbc.edu library.umbc.edu

- Computers, printing services, study rooms, tutoring centers, whiteboards

Source: Undergraduate New Student Orientation & Advising Guide