



UMBC

# Get Ready for UMBC

*Division of Professional Studies*  
**Office of Professional Programs**

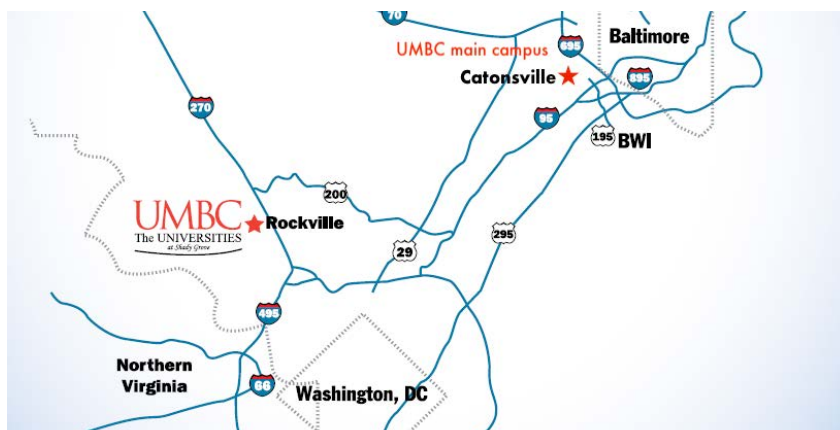


## Why UMBC?

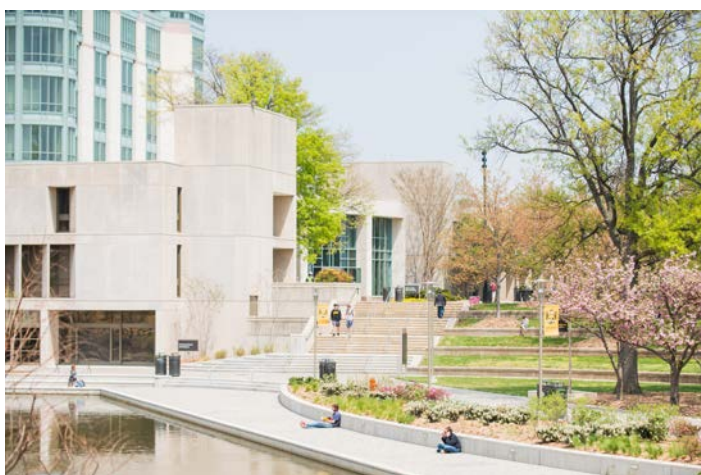
UMBC is listed among the nation's "Top 100 Public Universities," according to Kiplinger's list of Best Values in Public Colleges and the 9th most innovative school, by the U.S. News & World Report. UMBC is located outside of Baltimore in a safe and quiet area and is close to many government and corporate partners. It also has an on-campus technology incubator that offers many research and internship opportunities. Here is a [welcome video](#) from UMBC's President, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski.



## LOCATIONS



UMBC's Division of Professional Studies offers graduate programs to help you develop the leadership skills and advanced educational background needed to succeed in today's competitive employment market. Courses are conveniently offered in hybrid and in-person formats at our main campus in Catonsville and at The Universities at Shady Grove campus in Rockville, MD.



## UMBC Main Campus

Located in Catonsville, Maryland the [UMBC](#) main campus is 20 minutes from Baltimore's Inner Harbor, 45 minutes from Washington, D.C. and 6.5 km from the BWI Airport. Catonsville offers a vibrant, diverse and safe community, where students have access to international food stores as well as undisturbed nature trails.



## Shady Grove Campus

UMBC is one of nine institutions represented at [The Universities at Shady Grove](#) (USG), a consortium of universities within the University System of Maryland. USG is located in Rockville, Maryland near Washington D.C. and about 45 minutes (60 km) from the main UMBC campus.

## OVERVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

Congratulations on your acceptance to UMBC! Beginning a graduate degree program in the United States is exciting, but can also be daunting, especially for students traveling from other countries. International students often have questions about their transition to the United States throughout the admission process. Below is an overview of graduate programs offered by the Office of Professional Programs at UMBC and contact information for Graduate Program Directors and Graduate Program Coordinators.

### UMBC'S PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

Master's of Professional Studies (MPS)	Master's of Science (MS)	Post-Baccalaureate Certificate
Focuses on career development with applied research, specialized skills and hands-on learning	More rigorous admission requirements, applied research, specialized skills and hands-on learning	Meets specific career requirements
Instructors are working industry experts	Instructors are working industry experts	Instructors are working industry experts
Concludes with applied capstone project	Concludes with applied capstone project or specialization	Credits earned may count towards MPS/ MS degree

Program	Program type	Full Time Eligible	STEM designation	Graduate Program Director	Graduate Program Coordinator
<b>Main UMBC campus</b>					
<a href="#">Cybersecurity</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Richard F. Forno, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Faith Dinh</a>
<a href="#">Data Science</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Ergun Simsek, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Stephanie Allen</a>
<a href="#">Engineering Management</a>	MS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Toby Gouker, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Kim Edmonds</a>
<a href="#">Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership</a>	MPS	✓		<a href="#">Gib Mason</a>	<a href="#">Renee Eisenhuth</a>
<a href="#">Health Information Technology</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Shimei Pan, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Faith Dinh</a>
<a href="#">Systems Engineering</a>	MS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Toby Gouker, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Kim Edmonds</a>
<a href="#">Technical Management</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Toby Gouker, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Kim Edmonds</a>
<b>Universities at Shady Grove</b>					
<a href="#">Biotechnology</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Annica Wayman, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Karina Jenkins</a>
<a href="#">Cybersecurity</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Richard F. Forno, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Karina Jenkins</a>
<a href="#">Data Science</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Ergun Simsek, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Karina Jenkins</a>
<a href="#">Geographic Information Systems</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Erwin Villiger, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Karina Jenkins</a>
<a href="#">Industrial/Organizational Psychology</a>	MPS	✓		<a href="#">Elliot Lasson, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Karina Jenkins</a>
<a href="#">Technical Management</a>	MPS	✓	✓	<a href="#">Toby Gouker, Ph.D.</a>	<a href="#">Karina Jenkins</a>

For information about other master's and doctoral programs at UMBC, see the Graduate School [website](#).

### Still have questions?

We are here to help answer international students' questions about housing, transportation, health insurance, pre-arrival, work opportunities, and other on and off-campus support services.

#### Contact:

Natalia Panfile  
Division of Professional Studies  
Email: [natalia.panfile@umbc.edu](mailto:natalia.panfile@umbc.edu)  
Tel: 410-455-2713

# FINANCIAL RESOURCES & WORK REGULATIONS

Because UMBC professional programs are designed primarily for working professionals, graduate or teaching assistantships are not available. Curricular Practical Training, or [CPT](#), is available to F-1 international students to work off-campus in paid positions after completing one academic year of full-time study. F-1 students are also able to work up to 20 hours per week on campus during the fall and spring semesters, and up to 40 hours per week on campus during the summer and winter sessions.

The table to the right, provides estimates of the costs you will incur while enrolled at UMBC. Total estimated costs may vary for students who live off campus.

# TUITION & OTHER COSTS

Tuition (non-resident)	\$1,154/credit
University fees	\$140/credit
Application fee	\$50
Matriculation one-time fee	\$200
Health Insurance cost	\$200/month
Campus Housing*	\$4,456 - \$5,080/semester
Meal Plan*	\$1,958/semester

\*Optional expenses – students may live off-campus



# CHECKLIST

Once you accept admission to UMBC, there are steps that you will need to take to successfully complete all of your immigration and registration requirements.

## Pre-arrival checklist

- ☐ Review costs
- ☐ Request an I-20 document from IES
- ☐ Apply for F-1 visa
- ☐ Create myUMBC account
- ☐ Review and secure housing
- ☐ Prepare immunization records
- ☐ Review medical insurance information
- ☐ Prepare financial documents
- ☐ Prepare for travel
- ☐ Check in with Graduate Program Director (GPD)

## Post-arrival checklist

- ☐ Register for courses (unless required before arrival)
- ☐ Obtain UMBC ID card
- ☐ Attend orientation sessions
  - ✳ Graduate School Orientation
  - ✳ Graduate Program Orientation
  - ✳ International Education Services (IES) Academy
- ☐ Secure health insurance
- ☐ Pay your bill



# UPON ACCEPTANCE

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## IMMIGRATION PROCESS

### I-20 Process

The I-20 is issued by an individual school in the U.S., and includes a summary of all relevant information for the school and student, including the date you anticipate to enroll in the degree program at that school and how you will cover the costs of your education in the U.S.

### F-1 Visa Process

The F-1 student visa is required for individuals who will enter the U.S. to pursue an educational degree, assuming you do not already have U.S. citizenship, permanent residency, or another visa category that allows you to study in the U.S.



## CREATE *my*UMBC ACCOUNT

*my*UMBC is a web-based portal to various services and online community resources at UMBC. Use *my*UMBC to register for courses, view account balances, pay bills online, register for a parking permit, check grades and university email. [Create your account](#) with your date of birth and UMBC Campus ID (provided in your acceptance letter).

## HOUSING

Finding suitable housing is an important component to having an enjoyable experience during your studies in the United States. It is important to find housing in which you feel comfortable but also can afford. Please review the available information for [off-campus](#) and [on-campus](#) housing.

## MEDICAL INSURANCE | IMMUNIZATION RECORDS

International students are required by law to carry [health insurance](#) and are enrolled automatically into UMBC's student insurance plan. The bill for the insurance usually appears on your student account a month after the semester begins, but the coverage is effective at the beginning of the semester. UMBC requires all new students to prove they have had certain [immunizations](#), to prevent the spread of dangerous diseases. If you have not had the required immunizations or do not have a record of this in English, you can receive the immunizations again once you arrive at UMBC. The UMBC Health Insurance plan covers most of the expense associated with the immunizations.

## ARRIVING IN THE U.S.

U.S. immigration regulations allow you to enter the United States no more than 30 days prior to the program start date listed on your Form I-20 or Item 3 of your Form DS-2019. Please review UMBC's International Education Services Office [guide](#) for international students entering the U.S.

## UPON ARRIVAL

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### REGISTER FOR COURSES

Upon acceptance to UMBC, you will receive an email notifying you of your registration options. Some programs require advising with the Graduate Program Director (GPD) prior to registration.

### ORIENTATION

All graduate student are required to attend [Graduate School Orientation](#) as well as a program-specific orientation. International students are also required to enroll in the [IES Academy](#) which is your first opportunity to experience life at UMBC as a student. It will help you to feel at home in Baltimore, become familiar with academic and co-curricular opportunities, learn about campus traditions, understand how to access campus resources and support services, and meet fellow students and members of the UMBC community.

### CAMPUS ID

Your UMBC student ID is also called your Campus ID or University ID. You can get your Campus ID card once you arrive on campus and enroll in classes. This card is a library card, gives you access to the UMBC gym, and serves as a meal card for students with meal plans. To get your card, take personal identification, such as your passport, and visit the [Campus Card and Mail Services](#) during business hours.

### BILLING

The bill for UMBC tuition and fees appears on your student account after you register for classes each semester. UMBC does not mail paper bills for tuition and fees.

Use the [billing calendar](#) to determine when your bill is generated and when it is due, based on the date you register each semester. When your statement is generated, you and any individuals authorized to view your statements will be notified by email, so that you can login to myUMBC and [pay online](#).

### PERSONAL FINANCES

U.S. Immigration law requires that students requesting an I-20 and an F-1 visa must prove that they have adequate funding to support all expenses for at least one year of study in the U.S. Please review the [financial requirements forms](#) for more information on estimated costs and acceptable sources of income.

When traveling to the U.S., it is recommended that you carry a small amount of U.S. currency for initial expenses upon arrival. Although not required, it is highly recommended that you [open a bank account](#) in your first month at UMBC.





# STUDENT SERVICES | CAMPUS AMENITIES

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## ACADEMIC ADVISING

International students are required to carry a full-time course load each semester. Three classes (9 credits) per semester is considered full-time. Some programs require advising with the Graduate Program Director (GPD) prior to registration. Please feel free to consult with your program GPD if you have questions about course selection.

## WRITING ADVISING

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) Writing Advisor assists graduate students with any writing project/assignment across all curricula. For more information, visit the [GSA website](#). An English language reading and writing tutor is also available through the ELI.

## CAREER SERVICES

UMBC's [Career Center](#) is an office dedicated to helping you prepare for, search for and apply for jobs. Their office also offers many other services, such as career exploration, and hosts a full-day International Student Career Conference that focuses on the unique needs of international students in their job search process in the United States.

## LIBRARY

The [Albin O. Kuhn Library & Gallery](#) is one of the main resources for international students at UMBC. The library is at the center of the research university and offers high quality resources and services for UMBC's growing and evolving teaching, learning, research and service environment.

You can check out books, CDs, and DVDs from the UMBC Library. In addition, the Library Gallery and Atrium feature a variety of rotating exhibitions for students to enjoy.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (ELI)

The [ELI](#) assists current international students to further enhance their academic English skills through courses such as professional English and pronunciation. The ELI serves as a "home away from home" for international students, and provides cross cultural services and awareness for the entire UMBC campus.

## RECREATION & FITNESS

[UMBC Recreation](#) is part of the UMBC Department of Athletics and Physical Education. Housed in the Retriever Athletic Center (RAC), the recreation program provides a variety of programs, services, and facilities that serve the UMBC community. Use your valid UMBC card for access to the RAC.

## UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

UMBC's [University Health Services](#) (UHS) provides health care and health education to all registered UMBC students, faculty, and staff. It is important to know where UHS is located, what services they provide, what to do in an emergency if UHS is closed, and where to go for health services that are not provided on campus.

## THE COUNSELING CENTER

After moving to the U.S. you will encounter a variety of experiences, including different foods, entertainment activities and new friends. Some students thrive and feel energized in a new environment. Many students, however, can feel overwhelmed by all of the changes. It is normal to have emotional reactions during the adjustment to a new school and a new country. Fortunately, UMBC offers resources through the [Counseling Center](#) to help manage stress and assist in adjusting to a new environment.

## STUDENT CONDUCT & COMMUNITY STANDARDS

All students at UMBC, including international students, are responsible for adhering to UMBC's Code of Student Conduct. The [Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards](#) offers resources regarding the Code of Student Conduct, appeals hearings, and other UMBC policies.



## DAILY NEEDS

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### PHONE/INTERNET

Cell phone: If you have an unlocked cell phone from home, you can convert it to a [local cell phone service](#).

UMBC Campus WiFi: Free Internet service for your laptop computer is available throughout the UMBC campus, at some restaurants and cafes, coffee shops, and at local libraries.

Internet at home: Check with your housing provider or building manager for information on accessing the Internet.

### FOOD OPTIONS

It is important to find places on or off campus where you can obtain healthy foods that you enjoy. International Education Services (IES) has put together a [helpful list](#) of on and off campus dining facilities, as well as a comprehensive list of local food markets that serve the greater Baltimore immigrant population.

### POSTAL SERVICES

[Campus Card and Mail Services](#) works in conjunction with the United States Postal Service to send and receive mail on campus. The closest full-service Post Office is located [three kilometers](#) from campus.

### BANKING

We recommend that you open a local bank account that provides a checking account, debit card for cash withdrawals, and a credit card for larger purchases. It is not customary in the U.S. to keep and carry a lot of cash. For campus ATM locations please visit the UMBC Financial Smarts [website](#).

### DRIVING

If you plan to drive while in the U.S., we recommend that you get a Maryland license within the first 3 months after arrival, even if you have a driver's license from another country (with a few [exceptions](#)). For more information on the process, please visit the International Education Services (IES) [website](#).

### PARKING

All UMBC students may request a free virtual parking permit to park in designated parking [lots](#) on campus. UMBC Parking Services uses License Plate Recognition to identify your vehicle by its license plate, removing the need for physical hangtags. You can request a parking permit once you have enrolled. For additional information, please visit the UMBC Parking Services [website](#).

### PUBLIC/UMBC TRANSPORTATION

UMBC Transit offers free shuttle service to UMBC students, faculty, and staff. Off Campus Student Services (OCSS) offers monthly MTA bus passes to UMBC students enrolled in more than 6 credits during the month of purchase. For more transportation options, please visit the OCSS [website](#).

### SAFETY AND SECURITY

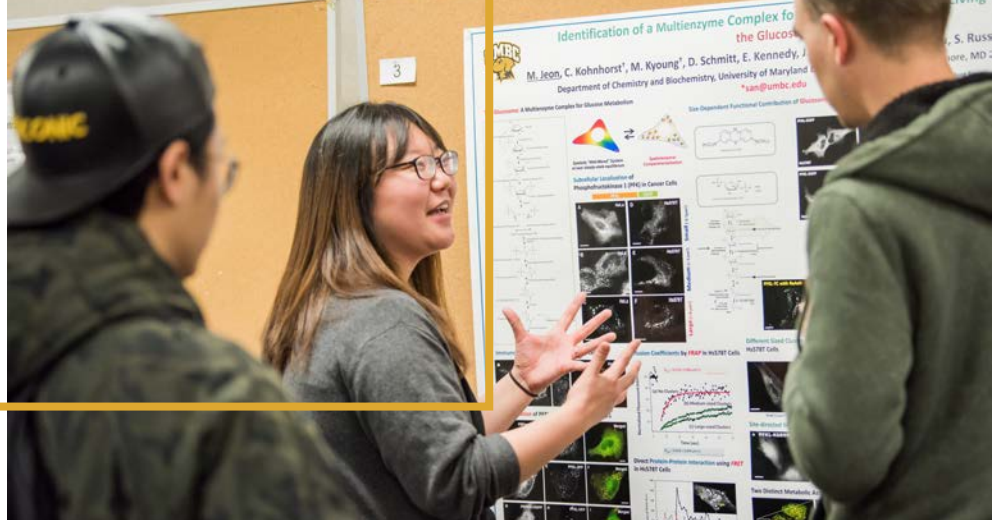
Being [safe and secure](#) is an important aspect of your university experience in the U.S. UMBC Campus Police provides multiple ways for students to stay safe, including a [beamSmart](#) app, the UMBC [Emergency Alert System](#), a campus escort service, as well as by calling 410-455-5555. When on and off campus, students are advised to avoid walking alone at night, to be aware and alert, to not leave valuable items unattended and travel in groups.



## GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### Graduate Student Organizations

(GSO's) are created and run by current graduate UMBC students and offer a wide array of academic and research opportunities.



## FUN THINGS TO DO

Your time at UMBC will be one of the **best experiences** of your life! You will work hard on your academics, make new friends, and progress in your academic and professional career. You're also fortunate to study and live in the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area, which offers easy access to two large American cities.

