University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) combines the emphasis on teaching found at the best liberal arts colleges with the innovation of a research university. You’ll find students—inspired by and often working alongside faculty who are leaders in their fields—thinking about the hard questions of society, science and creative expression, and then moving beyond the classroom to make a difference.
President Freeman Hrabowski, III, has been named one of America’s Best Leaders by U.S. News and World Reports, which in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 has ranked UMBC the #1 “Up & Coming” university in the nation and also ranks UMBC in the top ten for commitment to undergraduate teaching. In 2012 President Hrabowski was named one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World and was also listed as one of America’s 10 Best College Presidents.

Serving as President of UMBC since 1992, Hrabowski co-founded the Meyerhoff Scholars Program. For high-achieving minority students committed to pursuing advanced degrees in science and engineering, the Meyerhoff Scholars Program has become a national model, and led UMBC to become leader of those fields. Hrabowski has earned national attention for his focus on innovation, job creation and the accessibility of higher education.

The recipient of numerous awards, accolades and honors, Freeman Hrabowski began as a child-leader in the Civil Rights Movements. President Hrabowski was born in Birmingham, Alabama and has dedicated his life to learning and education. As he approaches his twentieth year as President of UMBC, Hrabowski continues to be a trail-blazer for the university.

What is an Honors University?
An Honors University is an institution that attracts motivated students and rewards them with all the resources and attention they need to succeed. Here are just a few examples of the special opportunities available at UMBC:

- Scholars Programs
- The Honors College
- First Year Seminars/Introduction to an Honors University
- Living Learning Communities
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Awards (URAs)
- The Shriver Center

General Information
UMBC was established by our first president Albin O. Kuhn in 1966, and is located on 500 acres of land.

UMBC is located 15 minutes from Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, 30 minutes from Washington, D.C., and five minutes away from BWI Airport, as well as the AMTRAK and light rail stations.

Mascot: Chesapeake Bay Retriever
Spirit Colors: Black and Gold

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Let's Begin the Tour!

You will find directions to navigate you around campus in italics.

On the final page of this packet, you will find a map outlining your tour route. (Please refer to the bolded line for tour route)

Albin O. Kuhn Library

Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation

The tour begins at the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation is located in the Albin O. Kuhn Library (pondside). Here you can meet with Admissions Counselors, ask questions about UMBC or sign-up for a Black & Gold Tour.

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is located pondside in the lower level of the Library adjacent to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships assists students and their families secure the resources necessary to fund their education. Students are encouraged to work directly with their Financial Aid Counselor. Counselors are assigned based on the student’s last name and are available by phone or email and in-person, by appointment.

As you exit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation, turn left and find a set of stairs to your left hand side. At the top of the stairs, you will see a building directly in front of you, the Albin O. Kuhn Library. Enter in the main doors and stop in the front entry way.

You are currently standing in the Atrium of the library.

To the right is the Retriever Learning Center. Both the Atrium and the Retriever Learning Center are open 24 hours. Just beyond the Atrium, you will see the beginning of the library. Library hours for the Fall and Spring semesters are 8 a.m.-12 a.m. Monday thru Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 p.m.-12 a.m. on Sunday. Summer and Winter hours vary, so please visit the website for those times.

Open to the general public, the library is the visual centerpiece of the UMBC Campus. The library is named after Albin O. Kuhn, the first chancellor of UMBC. It houses more than 950,000 books and 4,200 periodical subscriptions. Its Special Collections of National Significance include photography, scientific archives, science fiction, graphic satire, Marylandia and Utopian Literature.

Honors College

The Honors College program, located on the second level of the library, provides an opportunity for students seeking exceptional intellectual stimulation. Honors College students have the benefit of special honors sections of regular courses and honors seminars.

Technology Support Center

Housed on the first floor, staff assist students with technological issues within their myUMBC as well as software and hardware problems with their personal computers. These are free services for UMBC students.

Retriever Learning Center (RLC)

The Retriever Learning Center is a social learning space that facilitates peer-to-peer teaching, group learning, studying and informal interactions among students and faculty. The RLC is a model of educational excellence for peer-to-peer learning.

As you exit the Albin O. Kuhn Library, begin walking down the straight walkway next to Erickson Field, the open field located on your left hand side. Continue down this walkway until you reach Center Road.

Residential Life

We have six residential facilities on campus: Susquehanna, Chesapeake, Patapsco, Potomac, Erickson, and Harbor.

Off to the left, you see Erickson Hall. In front, you see Susquehanna Hall. The other residential facilities are located behind these two buildings.

All of UMBC's residential facilities are set up suite-style, with two rooms joined by a bathroom. All rooms have telephones with individual phone extensions, wall-to-wall carpeting, self-controlled heating and air-conditioning units, free cable services, and high-speed wireless internet.
connections. For a virtual tour of all the residence halls, please visit www.umbc.edu/reslife.

University Health Services (UHS) is located on the bottom level of Erickson Hall. UHS assists students, faculty and staff in becoming knowledgeable consumers in the health care system and maintaining a healthy campus community. All registered UMBC students, faculty and staff are eligible to use UHS for their health care and health education.

Behind Susquehanna Hall is our on-campus Dining Hall, True Grit’s. True Grits is an all-you-can-eat dining facility with a variety of foods from salads, sandwiches, and a grill, to special kosher and vegetarian options. All student residents are required to purchase a school meal plan with the options of a 10, 14, or unlimited meals per week. To view more specific meal plan options as well as other on campus dining information please visit www.dineoncampus.com/umbc.

Turn right and continue walking down the sidewalk located in front of the Public Policy and Physics Buildings. Walk until you reach the circle on Commons Drive. Stop in front of the Physics Building.

PUBLIC POLICY AND PHYSICS

Public Policy Building
The Public Policy Building is home to the following academic departments: Economics, Political Science, Public Policy (Graduate program), Health Administration and Policy, and Sociology/Anthropology. The UMBC Shriver Center, which coordinates cooperative education and internship programs for students, in addition to community service and learning placements, is also housed here. For more information about the Shriver Center, please visit shrivercenter.umbc.edu.

Physics Building
Atop the Physics Building, you will find a large silver dome. This dome houses the University’s 0.81m Cassegrain Telescope. This telescope is the largest public telescope in Maryland and is one of the largest on the eastern seaboard. The telescope is open for public viewing the first Thursday of every month.

Continue on the diagonal sidewalk that intersects with Commons Drive Circle. Walk in between the Commons Building (on your right) and the Theatre/Academic Services Building (on your left). Stop in front of Academic Services.

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Advising and Registration
Academic Services is home to the Office of Academic and Pre-professional Advising and the Office of the Registrar. These offices offer an array of academic resources and services for students. Here you can find information on advising, registering for your courses, transfer credits, applying for graduation and more.

Begin walking on the diagonal gray sidewalk cutting across the large field. This is known as The Quad.

THE QUAD

The Quad
As you walk on this diagonal sidewalk, you’re walking through what the students at UMBC refer to as “The Quad.” Most students use The Quad as a cut-through from one end of campus to the other. It is also common to see students sitting on the grassy areas to eat lunch or study. Students will also use The Quad as a great place to play games like Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer, or Flag Football.

Every year during the last few weeks of school, the Student Events Board (SEB) hosts a weekend long celebration known as “Quadmania”. Students are able to attend concerts with guest performers, have fun at the carnival, and celebrate the closing of another school year. Performers for Quadmania have included Gym Class Heros, Snoop Dogg, Ludacris, Wale, Third Eye Blind, My Chemical Romance, Yellowcard, and more. There have even been elephant rides in one of the school parking lots!
At the end of this sidewalk, continue on the sidewalk closest to the pool toward a staircase. Walk up this staircase and stop. Enter through the main doors to the RAC. Stand in the Lobby.

**THE RAC**

**The Retriever Activities Center (RAC)**
The RAC is a multi-purpose recreational facility which includes two gymnasiums used for recreational sports and physical education courses. There is a fitness balcony with state-of-the-art cardiovascular equipment, a track for walking, indoor and outdoor Olympic size swimming pools, a weight room and locker rooms. There is also a fitness room where students can take part in free hour long workout sessions such as aerobics, Ab Crunch, yoga, belly dancing, taekwondo, and much more. The RAC Arena, which seats 4,000, is used for varsity basketball, volleyball, concerts and other special events. UMBC is a member of the America East Conference, and all 19 our intercollegiate programs are Division I.

Exit the lobby of the RAC and continue down the sidewalk until you reach the bronzed dog statue.

**True Grit**
You are now standing in front of True Grit, our Mascot at UMBC. He is a Chesapeake Bay Retriever. If you notice, his nose is shinier than the rest of his body. It is tradition on campus to rub his nose for good luck. Go ahead, rub his nose!

**The Administration Building**
Located across the walkway from True Grit is the Administration Building. At ten stories, this is the tallest building on UMBC’s campus. Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, UMBC’s President, has his office on the tenth floor of this building. The Graduate School is located on the second floor, as is International Education Services (including Study Abroad). Student Business Services, our billing office, is located on the third floor. The Administration Building also houses the Coffee Shoppe, a very popular spot on campus for great sandwiches!

**ACADEMIC ROW**

Facing the Administration Building, you are going to turn right and begin walking down the long corridor, known as Academic Row. Enter the first building on your left, Academic IV. As you read the following section on Academic IV, begin walking down the hallway to your right. Feel free to look into any classroom as you walk. At the end of the hallway, you will come to Lecture Hall 4. Feel free to look through the windows of the lecture hall as well. Exit through the doors to your right.

**Academic IV**
Academic IV houses many various sized classrooms as well as Lecture Hall 4 (seating capacity of 200). Academic offices for Modern Languages, Linguistics and Intercultural Communications, Social Work, Emergency Health Services, and Education are located in this building.

The Learning Resources Center (LRC), provides tutors for many lower level courses and also houses the Student Support Services, which assists students with physical and learning disabilities. This office will assist students with disabilities by providing note-taking, sign language interpretation, and extended time for testing. These services are free to students, but arrangements must be made in advance with appropriate documentation presented. The LRC also handles placement testing for incoming students. The International Media Center, a comprehensive language lab, is located on the second floor of this building.
Sondheim Hall and Sculpture Garden  
Located directly across from Academic IV
Sondheim Hall houses classrooms, the Geography and Environmental Systems Department, and the Cartography and Psychology research labs. The Social Sciences Building was renamed The Janet and Walter Sondheim Hall, the first academic building to be named after University benefactors. The sculpture and building were dedicated in 2005, as a permanent tribute honoring the Sondheim’s life-long involvement in Baltimore.

Math/Psychology Building  
Located to the left of Sondheim Hall
The first floor houses general classrooms. The second floor is home to the Career Services Center, which provides students with assistance in finding jobs on or off campus through UMBCworks. They also assist students with resume writing and post-graduate job searches.

The University Center (The UC)

Directly across from the Math/Psychology Building you will see the University Center. The UC was UMBC’s student union before The Commons was built and it still holds events. The UC houses our English Language Center, with both full and part time instruction in English as a second language. The first floor of the UC houses Campus Card Services, the office you will visit to obtain your Campus ID Card. The on-campus post office is also located here. The UC also houses a Chick-Fil-A and Starbucks.

College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences (CNMS) launched its CNMS Active Science Teaching and Learning Environment or CASTLE, which is located in the UC. CASTLE hosts new active learning initiatives in science and mathematics and is part of a continuing emphasis on student success and retention.

Arts and Humanities Buildings

Fine Arts Building

Continue straight past the University Center. Take a left and go up the stairs, passing the University Center on the left, and the Meyerhoff Building on the right (check out the windows of the lab; we’ll head over here later). Cross the walkway and the Fine Arts Building is on the right.

Located on the first floor of the Fine Arts Building, the UMBC Fine Arts Recital Hall is home to dozens of music concerts each semester. The music department complements its numerous faculty concerts and student recitals with performances by the UMBC Symphony, Maryland Camerata, and other ensembles, as well as international artists.
Department of Information Systems, the offices of College of Engineering, the Center for Women in Information Technology (CWIT), and the Imaging Research Center, which is a state-of-the-art computer-based research and production facility specializing in high-end computer animation and visualization.

Engineering and Computer Science Building

Begin walking left down the sidewalk. The next building will be the Engineering Building on the left.

Computer facilities for student use are located on the ground, first, and third floors including a 24 hour lab. This building houses the Center for Photonics Technology, which conducts research in fiber optics. You may see students launching water balloons from catapults they designed with their Engineering professors. The Baja Car, designed by students in the Society of Automotive Engineers, is housed in this building. Academic offices for Mechanical Engineering and Chemical/Biochemical Engineering are also located here.

Meyerhoff Chemistry Building

Continue walking down the path, past the rear of the University Center. The next building on the right is the Meyerhoff Chemistry Building.

This building houses the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI). Dr. Michael Summers, chemistry professor, was awarded a Howard Hughes Medical Investigator Fellowship for his research on the components of AIDS. A portion of the research funds awarded to Dr. Summers have been used to establish this research facility for him and his staff. The undergraduate students that work with Dr. Summers (about 25 per semester) have been published in major journals for their work with the HHMI.

Biological Sciences Building

Walk ahead and down the steps to the right. The Biological Sciences Building is located directly across from the Meyerhoff Chemistry Building on Academic Row.

This building was UMBC’s first academic building and housed all academic and administrative departments, as well as the library for the 1966-67 academic years. Now, this building houses Biology labs and classrooms, as well as tutorial centers and departmental offices.

The Performing Arts and Humanities Building

Walk up the stairway on the left of the Fine Art Building. Across the grass is the Performing Arts and Humanities Building.

The Performing Arts and Humanities Building (PAHB) provides state-of-the-art facilities for arts and humanities departments and programs, as well as the Drescher Center for the Humanities. In the LEED Certified PAHB you will find the 200+ seat Proscenium Theatre, Black Box Theatre, rehearsal studios, technical design lab, costume shop, scene shop, dressing rooms, conference rooms and class rooms. The PAHB is a major component of campus and community life, providing a home for the arts in Baltimore.

Science, Technology and Engineering Buildings

Information Technology and Engineering Building (ITE)

From facing the PAHB, turn to the left, walk behind the Engineering Building and take a left at the stairs. Walking down the stairs, the Information, Technology and Engineering Building is on the right.

The ITE building houses the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, the Department of Information Systems, the offices of College of Engineering, the Center for Women in Information Technology (CWIT), and the Imaging Research Center, which is a state-of-the-art computer-based research and production facility specializing in high-end computer animation and visualization.

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THE COMMONS

The Commons

Continue straight through the Breezeway. To the right, is Lecture Hall I, which is converted into a Movie Cinema for students. Continue walking until the Commons. Enter through the first set of doors on the left. Walk through the dining areas, continuing straight to the UMBC Bookstore off to the right.

The Commons is a very popular spot among UMBC students. This is the center of campus, consisting of dining options, the UMBC Bookstore, Campus Information Center, the Office of Student Life and Off-Campus Student Services.

Dining in the Commons is very popular. Options for food include: Salsaritas (Mexican Cuisine), Jow Jing (Asian Cuisine), Famous Famiglias Pizzeria, Mesquite BBQ Grill, Mondo Subs, Outtakes (grab-and-go food), Au Bon Pain Coffee and Soups and Wild Greens.

UMBC offers over 200 clubs and organizations, many of which are based out of the Commons from the Student Involvement Center on the second floor. There is also a game room located on that floor available for students to play pool, table tennis, video games, watch television, and hang out with their friends.

You are currently standing in Mainstreet, which consists of our on campus bank, PNC, and the UMBC Bookstore. Many students choose to open a checking account for easier access and convenience. The UMBC Bookstore is a great place to purchase textbooks, UMBC apparel, school supplies, computers, computer programs, and so much more! Feel free to visit our bookstore as this is the conclusion of your tour.

Thank you for taking the time to visit UMBC!

CONTACT US

The UMBC Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation staff are available to answer your questions.

By Phone
410-455-2292 or 1-800-UMBC-4U2

By E-mail
www.umbc.edu/ug/learn/contact_us.html

By Mail
UMBC Office of Undergraduate Admissions
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

In Person
The Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation is located in the Albin O. Kuhn Library (pondside). Designated Admissions visitor parking is available or the top level the Administration Drive Garage.

Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

UMBC Web
www.umbc.edu is a place where you can get valuable information about UMBC, admissions information and more. Some highlights that can be found on the web are below:

Undergraduate Admissions
www.umbc.edu/undergraduate

Orientation and Welcome Week
www.umbc.edu/orientation

Schedule a Visit/Campus Tours
www.umbc.edu/ug/experience/visit.html

UMBC Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/umbcpage