UMBC
SELF-GUIDED TOUR
Welcome to UMBC – where highly motivated students are taught and mentored by faculty who have been consistently recognized for their commitment to undergraduate teaching. In our world-class facilities you will find students and faculty tackling hard questions posed by today’s society using science and creative expression.

We invite you to tour our campus and discover more about our innovative spaces and approaches to learning and campus life.
ABOUT UMBC

OUR MASCOT

Established by our first president Albin O. Kuhn in 1966, UMBC is a campus community built around students of all types. UMBC’s mascot True Grit – an aptly named Chesapeake Bay Retriever – represents the values of our university: academics, community, wellness, and civic agency. It’s the essence of what it means to be a Retriever. Be sure to rub his nose when you pass his statue, located outside of the Retriever Activities Center.

OUR LOCATION

Nestled between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., and minutes from airports, trains, and bus routes, UMBC is perfectly situated in a location bursting with internships, job opportunities, and thousands of Retriever alumni.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

*U.S. News and World Report* has repeatedly ranked UMBC the #1 “up and coming” university in the nation. UMBC also consistently gets top ratings for its innovation and “commitment to undergraduate teaching.”

OUR PRESIDENT

Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, was named one of America’s Best Leaders by *U.S. News and World Report* and in 2012 President Hrabowski was named one of *TIME* magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World. He was also listed as one of America’s 10 Best College Presidents.

The recipient of numerous other 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. After more than 25 years as President of UMBC, Hrabowski continues to be a trailblazer for the university.

LET’S BEGIN THE TOUR!

The main tour takes approximately 30-45 minutes. Allow an additional 15 minutes for the extended tour. Directions to navigate you around campus are styled as follows:

- **MAIN TOUR DIRECTIONS**
  PAGES 4 - 13, 20 - 49

- **EXTENDED TOUR DIRECTIONS**
  PAGES 14 - 19

- **COMPLETE TOUR MAP ROUTE**
  (centerfold)

- **PAGE 26 BWTECH@UMBC RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY PARK**

THE TOUR BEGINS AS YOU EXIT THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS. AS YOU STEP OUTSIDE, THE LIBRARY POND WILL BE DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU.
LIBRARY POND

The pond provides natural beauty to UMBC students and a lush home to fish and birds. It is designed to protect downstream ecosystems by reducing water pollution, providing thousands of native plants that act as living filters.

Along the pond side of library you can find the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Orientation. Here you can meet with admissions counselors, ask questions about UMBC, or sign up for a Black & Gold Tour.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is next door. It assists students and their families to secure the resources necessary to fund their education.

Nearby on nice days you might see students relaxing in hammocks or studying on the steps.

Lower level biology classes can sometimes be seen taking samples from the pond to analyze the water. Students also have the opportunity to work with nature at the community garden, which lies up the hill near the campus police station.

Some of the tiles near the pond form a giant chess board – see if you can find them! The giant chess pieces are on display in the Commons.

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ALBIN O. KUHN LIBRARY

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.

Enter the main doors of the library and check out the atrium. To your left you will see Einstein Bagels as well as the Albin O. Kuhn Library Gallery. Feel free to peruse the gallery as well as any other areas in the library.

To the right – just off the atrium – is the Retriever Learning Center (RLC), a secure, 24-hour space where students and faculty interact together informally. The furniture is made to be moved around, so every day the room looks a little different. The RLC came about due to a student effort a few years ago, when a determined group decided there was a need for such a dynamic learning environment.
ERICKSON FIELD
Students can be seen playing frisbee or hanging out on Erickson Field. It is the center of action during the fall Homecoming carnival and spring Quadmania(4), which is a carnival and concert. Performers for Quadmania have included Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, Snoop Dogg, Ludacris, Wale, Third Eye Blind, My Chemical Romance, Yellowcard, and more.

ERICKSON HALL
Across the field, you will see Erickson Hall, one of our residential halls. UMBC’s residential facilities(5) are set up suite-style, with two rooms joined by a bathroom. All rooms have wall-to-wall carpeting, self-controlled heating and air-conditioning units, free cable services, microfridges for rent, and high-speed wireless internet connections. For a virtual tour of each of the residence halls, please visit umbc.edu/reslife.

University Health Services (UHS) can be found on the ground floor of Erickson Hall. All students are eligible to use UHS for their health care and education, with services ranging from primary care and acupuncture to immunizations and gynecological exams.

We have six residential facilities on campus: Susquehanna, Chesapeake, Patapsco, Potomac, Erickson, and Harbor. The names of the dorms come from Maryland’s waterways (except Erickson, which is named for a donor.)

Within them, UMBC offers communities built around interests and groups like Visual and Performing Arts, Shriver (service and civic engagement), Humanities, STEM, the Honors College, and an Intercultural Living Exchange.
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. You will also find the Shriver Center, named for Robert Sargent Shriver Jr. and Eunice Kennedy Shriver, prominent advocates for the poor, powerless, and disabled. Through the Shriver Center, UMBC has become a national leader in applied learning, civic engagement, and community-based service delivery. For more information about the Shriver Center, please visit shrivercenter.umbc.edu.

Enter the main doors into the lobby and you can see a variety of inspiring quotes on the wall, encouraging students to help change the world. Also see if you can find the time capsule that has been buried in the lobby corner.

In the Shriver Center, off the main lobby, you might find Luwam Gebreyesus, a student and a volunteer with the Refugee Youth Project, College Journey Upward Mentoring Program (JUMP). JUMP’s student volunteers mentor 11th and 12th grade refugees through the college exploration, application, and preparation process.
TRUE GRIT’S DINING HALL

True Grit’s is an all-you-can-eat dining facility with a variety of foods including salads, sandwiches, pizza, and more. True Grit’s caters to many student diets, including kosher, vegan, and vegetarian. All student residents are required to purchase a school meal plan with the options of 10, 14, or unlimited meals per week. To view more specific meal plan options as well as other on-campus dining information, please visit dineoncampus.com/umbc.

Enter True Grit’s and take a peek at some of the all-you-can-eat offerings students can enjoy right next to their residence halls.

UMBC has its own nutritionist who helps students make healthy choices and avoid the “Freshman 15.”

You can follow @UMBCdining on Instagram to see some of the delicious dining options on campus, including fun treats like pop-up sundae bars and “brain fuel” boxes full of healthy snacks for finals week. True Grit’s even has “pie” themed activities for Pi Day on March 14!
UMBC EVENT CENTER
This brand new 5,000 seat facility is home to many UMBC sports teams. Among them is the UMBC Men’s basketball team, which made sports history in the NCAA tournament in 2018. UMBC also holds concert, live theater, and other events here. Behind the UMBC Event Center are additional athletic fields and the UMBC Stadium Complex.

The UMBC Event Center officially opened February 6, 2018, for a sold-out Retrievers basketball game. It has hosted many musical acts such as Papa Roach, Ginuwine, Halestorm, and more!

Jairus Lyles ’18 (8), was among the first to play in the new Event Center. During the historic game on March 16, 2018, he converted an amazing 9-of-11 shots from the floor in a 28-point effort in the 74-54 NCAA Tournament victory over No. 1-seeded Virginia. Currently he plays for the Utah Jazz. Photo by Michael Layton.

EXPLORE INSIDE
RETRIEVERS AT WORK
DID YOU KNOW
CROSS AND TURN RIGHT ONTO COMMONS DRIVE, THEN PAUSE BY THE ROCK SCULPTURES. IF YOU’D LIKE, YOU MAY TURN LEFT AND WALK DOWN THE SIDEWALK AND ACROSS THE BRIDGE INTO THE SCULPTURE PARK.
JOSEPH BEUYS
SCULPTURE PARK

This simple, serene space is used by UMBC students for quiet time as well as interactive art activities, some of which are done in collaboration with local public schools. Under the benches are journals where passersby can write their thoughts. All these journals are eventually stored in the library collection.

There is an underground pedestrian tunnel near the Joseph Beuys Sculpture Park that leads to the UMBC Stadium Complex.

Joseph Beuys (1921–1986) was an influential German artist, activist, and teacher known for his performances, sculptures, and environments. Beuys highlighted the need for greater environmental awareness through an ongoing social sculpture project entitled 7000 Oaks. With the help of over 20 organizations in Baltimore, this project inspired the planting of over 350 trees and several stones in Baltimore Parks and at the UMBC sculpture site in 2000.
INTERDISCIPLINARY LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING

COMING SOON!

A brand new, state-of-the-art building* will be opening soon to provide flexible, adaptable research and education spaces for interdisciplinary life science programs.

*Artist renderings of the interior(10) and exterior(11) building can be seen below.

Retrievers will soon be able to support their research by studying the growth of cells, bacteria, fungi, yeast, and algae in the new BioProcess and Cell Science Facility.

The new building will feature a flexible, high-bay environmental systems lab to support field research in aquatic and environmental ecosystems.

CONTINUE THROUGH THE PATHWAY, TOWARD THE RIGHT.
PHYSICS BUILDING

The Physics Building features the Department of Physics, which is one of the most rapidly growing physics departments in the country. The building is home to classrooms, lab spaces, the UMBC Nanolmaging Facility (NIF), the UMBC Observatory, the Meckler reading room, and a physics machine shop, clean room, and tutorial center.

Atop the Physics Building, you will find a large silver dome, the UMBC Observatory.

The Physics Building is home to the Atmospheric Lidar Group, faculty and students that use laser remote sensing to detect levels of smog and air quality. One of those students is Christiana Sasser(12) who is pursuing a BS in Mechanical Engineering. You can check out their data on the “Smog Blog,” alg.umbc.edu/usaq.

The Cassegrain telescope(13) 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.

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THE COMMONS

The Commons is a hotspot where UMBC students go to be together – they can eat, work, hang out, play, and coordinate activities. A wide array of dining options are available as well as the Campus Information Center, Bookstore, the Office of Student Life, and Off-Campus Student Services.

Inside The Commons you’ll find the information center where you can ask any questions you may have. Down the stairs, you will find the Main Street area. This area is home to PNC bank and the Bookstore – feel free to stock up on UMBC merchandise! Nearby, you’ll also find the Yum Shoppe, which sells a large variety of convenience-store food items, as well as the Women’s Center, which is active in holding many different events including an annual “Take Back the Night” walk.

On the other side of The Commons, you’ll find a wide variety of restaurants from Salsaritas and Au Bon Pain to Masala and Wild Greens. We cater to a wide variety of tastes and dietary needs, including vegetarian, vegan, Halal, and kosher.

Above the main doors in the lobby you can find a display of giant chess pieces. UMBC is famous for its award-winning chess team, and occasionally these big pieces are used for students to have games of epic proportions.

Inside the Women’s Center you may find Jess Myers, its Director. She works tirelessly to promote diversity and inclusion by creating and developing innovative social justice programming for students, faculty, and staff.

UMBC has a game room located on the second floor, with pool tables, table tennis, video games, and more.
MEYERHOFF CHEMISTRY BUILDING

In addition to chemistry classes, 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 has been used to establish this research facility.

Through the windows in the Meyerhoff Building next to the staircase, you can see some of our chemistry labs. You might even get a peek at chemistry students as they perform their class experiments.

The undergraduate students who work with Dr. Summers (about 25 per semester) have been published in major journals for their work with the HHMI.
FINE ARTS BUILDING

The Fine Arts Building is home to several campus departments, including Visual Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies. The Fine Arts Recital Hall is used for a variety of performances, including those by the a capella group The Stilettos.

In front of the Fine Arts building, you can see the award-winning Kinetic Sculpture float, The Kraken\(^\text{16}\), UMBC students adapt the float every year for the parade held by the American Visionary Arts Museum. It is made entirely of recycled materials.

The Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture\(^\text{17}\) is also located here and is one of UMBC’s principal exhibition spaces – a forum for students, faculty, and staff to exhibit contemporary art and performance and to engage in dialogue about important cultural and aesthetic issues. The Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Fine Arts building has a 360-degree camera students use for all sorts of projects including animation.
PERFORMING ARTS AND HUMANITIES BUILDING

The Performing Arts and Humanities Building’s (PAHB) award-winning architecture provides an inspiring setting for arts and humanities departments and programs, as well as the Dresher Center for the Humanities. Built in 2014, the PAHB is LEED certified, meaning it is built to save water and energy as well as to generate less waste and support human health. The sculpture in front of the PAHB is called Forum, designed as a metaphor for the content which links the performing arts with the humanities.

Inside the PAHB you’ll find modern architecture as well as student artwork on many of the walls. Inside is a 200+ seat Proscenium Theatre(18), Black Box Theatre, rehearsal studios, technical design lab, costume shop, scene shop, dressing rooms, conference rooms, and class rooms. On the second floor, you can find an archaeology exhibit of ancient items.

Pick up a schedule in the lobby and check out the upcoming performances in musical theater, plays, and dance. You might be able to come and see our students’ artistic talents for yourself in the near future!

More than 200 music or art performances happen here every year. At any time when you are outside, you might be able to see dancers rehearsing for their shows in the Dance Cube, the glass structure upstairs near the Forum.

Inside the PAHB is a Gamelan, an Indonesian instrument ensemble that fills a whole room with a variety of bronze percussion instruments played by UMBC students.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING BUILDING (ITE)

The ITE building houses the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, the Department of Information Systems, the offices of the College of Engineering, and the Center for Women in Technology (CWIT). CWIT is dedicated to increasing the representation of women in engineering and information technology fields.

The second floor of this building houses one of the most advanced visualization facilities in the Mid-Atlantic region, the PI² Immersive Hybrid Reality Lab (19). Students and faculty use 3D glasses to conduct virtual reality research in this state-of-the-art space.

This building also houses the Imaging Research Center, which is a computer-based research and production facility specializing in high-end computer animation and visualization.

TURN LEFT TO ENTER THE ENGINEERING BUILDING.

EXPLORE INSIDE  RETRIEVERS AT WORK  DID YOU KNOW

34

35
ENGINEERING BUILDING

Upon entering, you can see a display of Baja cars (20) designed and raced by students in the Society of Automotive Engineers. These off-road vehicles present an exciting engineering challenge for the students who compete annually against other teams from across the state.

Also inside are students in engineering and computer science classes as well as the Center for Photonics Technology, which conducts research in fiber optics. Academic offices for Mechanical Engineering and Chemical/Biochemical Engineering are also located here.

You may see students launching water balloons from catapults they designed with their engineering professors or hard at work studying in the atrium.

Naomi Mburu, ’18 (21), chemical engineering, was the first UMBC student to win a prestigious Rhodes scholarship. She is one of only 32 in the nation to receive the honor.
**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BUILDING**

The Biological Sciences building houses biology labs and classrooms, as well as tutorial centers and departmental offices. Research in this building enhances students’ education while also pushing the boundaries of what is possible – like Professor Rachel Brewster’s work on finding new methods to preserve organs for transplant. Her team was recently awarded $400,000 by the National Institutes of Health to further pursue that goal.

Inside you might find Professor Phyllis Robinson, who was recently honored by UMBC for not only her exemplary work with students but also for her two decades of advocacy for women faculty in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.)

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.

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**EXTENDED TOUR OPTION**

**NATURE WALK**

TURN RIGHT ONTO ACADEMIC ROW, WALKING TOWARD THE MATH & PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING.
MATH & PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING

The first floor houses general classrooms. The second floor is home to the Career Center.

The Career Center helps students explore their career options, weigh decisions, and gain experience through internships, co-ops, and research positions. They also connect students to employers seeking to hire UMBC talent through on-campus networking events and career fairs\(^{(24)}\). They also assist students with resume writing and post-graduate job searches.

Here you can find the office of Psychology Professor Charissa Cheah\(^{(25)}\), who received a Fulbright award to engage in research exploring the group identities and adjustment of Muslim Tunisian adolescents in Sicily. Among the courses she teaches are Psychology and Culture, Child Development and Culture, and Cultural Aspects of Human Development.

UMBC has an employment portal for students and alumni called UMBCworks. This online recruiting and job/internship listing system allows students and alumni to view and apply for full-time, internships/co-ops, part-time, and temporary opportunities.
UNIVERSITY CENTER

Directly across from the Math & Psychology Building you will see the University Center (UC). The first floor houses Campus Card Services, which provides a multitude of services including campus ID distribution, postal services, printing, meal plan purchases, and more. The WMBC student-run online radio station is also located on this floor, as well as Chick-fil-A and Starbucks.

The English Language Institute (26), located on the second floor, is where students can learn English as a second language. You might see students having all kinds of conversations with each other — including English-fluent students talking with English language learners to help them build their skills.

The University Center is home to The Retriever, the student-run newspaper. Students from all majors are eligible to apply for writing, photography, copy editing, production, and circulation staff positions. Visit retriever.umbc.edu for more information.

The UC was UMBC’s student union before The Commons was built and it still holds events. Its ballroom is one of the sites of URCAD (27), the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day featuring research, scholarship, and creative work carried out by undergraduates. Other events like the student talent show and cultural club exhibitions are also held in the ballroom.

EXIT THE DOORS BETWEEN STARBUCKS AND CHICKFILA, RETURNING TO ACADEMIC ROW.
SONDHEIM HALL

Sondheim Hall houses classrooms, the Geography and Environmental Systems Department, and the Cartography and Psychology research labs. Here you might find students and faculty working on projects ranging from stream restoration to interdisciplinary health justice research.

Inside you might find Professor Andrew Miller,[28] whose work focuses on how urban development changes the landscape of an area and how those changes can affect water quality.

The Sondheim Garden[29] stands in honor of Janet and Walter Sondheim, university benefactors. The sculpture and the building next to it were dedicated in 2005 as a tribute honoring the Sondheim’s life-long involvement in Baltimore.

CONTINUE DOWN ACADEMIC ROW, TURN RIGHT, AND ENTER SHERMAN HALL THROUGH THE MIDDLE ENTRANCE.
SHERMAN HALL

Sherman Hall houses many variously-sized classrooms as well as Lecture Hall 4\(^{(30)}\) (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.

Additionally, Sherman Hall is home to Student Support Services, which assists students with physical and learning disabilities, and the Office of Academic and Pre-professional Advising, which provides advising support for exploratory and allied health students. UMBC also offers specialized advising support for the health professions and pre-law.

If you like, go inside Sherman Hall and walk down the hallway, checking out the classrooms and Lecture Hall 4.

The Learning Resource Center\(^{(31)}\) which provides tutors for many lower level courses, is housed in Sherman Hall, but also has a space in the library within the Retriever Learning Center where students can meet with their tutors.
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, 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.

At ten stories, this is the tallest building on UMBC’s campus. You can see the PAHB from the Administration Building roof as well as Baltimore City.

Outside, UMBC welcomes its diverse student body with bricks that say “welcome” in languages from all over the world.

The Administration Building is home to one of two green roofs on campus. The other green roof can be found on top of the Residential Life Community Center.

TURN LEFT TOWARD THE RETRIEVER ACTIVITIES CENTER (RAC).

NATURE WALK

START

EXTENDED TOUR OPTION

YOU ARE HERE
RETRIEVER ACTIVITIES CENTER

The RAC is a multi-purpose recreational facility which includes two gymnasiums used for recreational sports and physical education courses. The RAC features 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. The RAC Arena, which seats 4,000, is used for sports and other special events. UMBC is a member of the America East Conference and all 17 of our intercollegiate programs are Division I.

Inside the Retriever Activities Center (RAC) is a **fitness studio** where students, faculty/staff, and community members can take part in free hour-long workout sessions such as aerobics, ab crunch, yoga, belly dancing, taekwondo, and much more.

*Community members can pay $5 per class or sign-up for a membership.

The bronze dog statue outside of the RAC has a name – **True Grit**. A Chesapeake Bay Retriever, True Grit is our mascot at UMBC. 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 and try it!

This concludes our self-guided tour. Thank you for taking the time to visit UMBC!
Across Hilltop Circle and down UMBC Boulevard is the bwtech Research & Technology Park center, a local center for business and technology. Many students do internships and research there, often working with UMBC alumni.

This was the first home of Fearless Solutions, a Baltimore software company started by Delali Dzirasa '04 just five years after graduation. Fearless' success and growth led to new offices downtown as well as being named Maryland Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

A bridged walkway joins the main UMBC campus with bwtech@UMBC North and South campuses. The walkway is accessible from Hilltop Drive, directly across from the Administration Drive Garage.
THANKS FOR VISITING UMBC
If you have any questions, please contact:

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1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, Maryland 21250
410-455-2292
admissions@umbc.edu
undergraduate.umbc.edu

CONNECT WITH US
Let us know you were here—join our online community!
#UMBC #RetrieverNation