

University of Maryland, Baltimore County MISSION AND GOALS STATEMENT

Summary Mission Statement

UMBC is a dynamic public research university integrating teaching, research, and service to benefit the citizens of Maryland. As an Honors University, the campus offers academically talented students a strong undergraduate liberal arts foundation that prepares them for graduate and professional study, entry into the workforce, and community service and leadership. UMIBC emphasizes science, engineering, information technology, human services, and public policy at the graduate level. UMBC contributes to the economic development of the State and the region through entrepreneurial initiatives, workforce training, K- 16 partnerships, and technology commercialization in collaboration with public agencies and the corporate community. UMBC is dedicated to cultural and ethnic diversity, social responsibility, and lifelong learning.

Institutional Identity

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), established in 1966 is a diverse, highly-selective, public research university. The graduate schools of UMBC and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), combined in 1985, comprise the University of Maryland Graduate School, Baltimore (UMGSB) as one of the University System of Maryland's (USM) two principal centers for research and doctoral level training.

As an honors university, UMBC aspires to be one of the finest of the new American research universities that effectively blends high-quality teaching, advanced research, and social responsibility. UMBC is a research institution with a profound commitment to liberal education and its relevance to contemporary life. A strong liberal arts and sciences core provides the foundation for the undergraduate educational experience. UMBC offers a complement of disciplinary and interdisciplinary masters and doctoral programs with an emphasis on selected areas of the sciences, engineering, information technology, human services, and public policy. These programs are closely linked to undergraduate programs in the liberal arts and sciences and engineering. The University has developed particular strength in interdisciplinary instruction and research by building bridges among the cultures of the sciences, engineering, humanities, visual and performing arts, and the social sciences.

At the core of UMBC is a steadfast commitment to engage leading research faculty in the liberal arts and sciences education of its undergraduates--guiding students in critical thinking, creative problem solving, experiential learning and development of conceptual skills. UMBC actively promotes interaction between students and faculty, undergraduate research projects, and service to the community. Members of UMBC's faculty are selected and promoted on the basis of their scholarly and creative productivity, successful teaching outcomes, and service to the profession and the public. They are at the forefront of their fields, nationally and internationally, and apply their knowledge and scholarship to advancing institutional partnerships with government, non-profit organizations, and industry.

UMBC cooperates with other educational segments in Maryland and collaborates with other USM institutions to provide access for citizens to high-quality educational services and to meet the educational, economic, and cultural needs of Maryland. As UMBC's reputation for excellence grows, the numbers of students who seek admission from beyond the region and State will also grow.

UMBC is committed to diversity at all levels and seeks to create a campus community rich in intellectual, cultural, and ethnic diversity. The University is committed to the success of each of its students and seeks to attract well-qualified students through special scholarship initiatives in the humanities, arts, and public affairs and through the nationally recognized Meyerhoff Scholarship Program for talented high school graduates in science and engineering. UMBC expects to continue to attract private and public funding to facilitate the success of minority and female students in the sciences and engineering. Its emphasis on quality, high achievement, and the integration of research, teaching and learning, and civic engagement is designed to prepare all students especially for success in graduate and professional education as well as success in the workplace. UMBC's graduate programs are also known for their academic excellence and commitment to diversity. UMBC has received national recognition from the Council of Graduate Schools for its success in building a more inclusive graduate community.

Reflective of its research and doctoral mission, UMBC is classified by the Carnegie Foundation as a Research University (High Research Activity). UMBC continues to expand both the number of Ph.D.s awarded and its federally funded research portfolio.

UMBC has emerged as a major center for intellectual and creative activity in the Baltimore metropolitan region and as significant contributor to the economic and social development of the region and State. As a prototype of the new American research university in an era of increasing globalization, UMBC actively connects its intellectual and research capacity to significant social, economic, and technological challenges in a search for understanding, applications, and solutions.

To meet the needs of Maryland, as identified in the State Plan for Higher Education, UMBC is strategically developing carefully designed and integrated undergraduate and graduate-level programs. UMBC intends to selectively expand existing areas of strength at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including credit and non-credit offerings, and to build on internal research strengths unique to the campus to develop offerings in emerging fields, such as bioscience, bioengineering, and environmental science. As a result of an interdisciplinary strategic planning effort, the University will strengthen its academic programs at the interface of disciplines in the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural and mathematical sciences, and engineering and information technology, and will expand the capacity of its programs to help address K-16 issues.

UMBC will continue to innovate in its instructional programs making full use of the internet, different approaches to experiential learning, encouraging international experiences, participation in living learning communities, engaging faculty in skillful mentoring, and supporting tutorial centers. Through these efforts and others, UMBC can provide a more customized and personally supportive learning experience. While primarily a campus that serves full-time residential degree seeking students, UMBC's activities will include program delivery at Shady Grove and other centers when resources permit. In addition, UMBC will encourage web-based courses and programs for students seeking to learn at a distance, will explore educational partnerships with other institutions, and will offer a rich array of professional and continuing education initiatives with both non-credit and credit courses. Recognizing that we are part of an international community, UMBC will continue to strengthen and support programs and activities that promote cross-cultural understanding and global perspectives.

Institutional Capabilities

UMBC seeks to enhance the quality of undergraduate education and to retain increasing numbers of academically talented students in Maryland. The University also seeks to serve the greater Baltimore region and the State by continuing to strengthen and selectively expand its programmatic base, especially at the graduate level. UMBC seeks to transfer benefits of faculty research to the public and industry through its research park, technology center, technology transfer program, and engaged scholarship. Despite the increased competition for Federal funding of research, UMBC's talented faculty will continue to expand its research support, diversify its funding sources, and, where appropriate, involve private enterprise in sponsored programs across disciplines. However, for many of UMBC's liberal arts programs, viable Federal research support is often minimal or non-existent. In these departments and subject areas our faculty will continue to receive national honors and recognition for their scholarly and creative contributions as evaluated by their academic peers.

In keeping with the State Plan for Higher Education and the University System of Maryland Strategic Plan, UMBC is increasing the number of students pursuing degrees in the sciences, engineering and information systems, and is meeting Maryland's other identified workforce needs. UMBC will continue to contribute to Maryland's economic future through academic programs, workforce training, and applied research in biotechnology, health care, engineering, public policy, education, telecommunications, and information technology. UMBC's continued collaboration with UMB to address research and graduate training needs within the region and State also remains a priority.

UMBC possesses a strong and diverse faculty, in the arts and humanities, engineering, sciences, and social sciences, whose achievements in teaching, basic and applied research, creative endeavors and service have received national and international recognition. Scholarship is central to the University's mission, and UMBC promotes research and creative activity across the disciplines. Particular research priorities are linked to the economic and social needs of the region and State. Supportive partnerships with Federal laboratories, such as NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, link research, education, and economic development.

By adapting and creating new technologies for commercial use, UMBC is an interactive partner in Maryland's economy and works with business and industry to increase the research and development capabilities of the region and State. UMBC contributes to the economy of the region and State via a technology center and incubator program to help small high-technology businesses. Its research park, **bwtech@UMBC**, has attracted corporations and government agencies with the potential to complement many of UMBC's academic and research programs. A continuing education program provides diverse training opportunities for businesses as well as programs designed to enhance the effectiveness of Maryland's private and public sectors.

Integrating much of the interdisciplinary research on campus has been the emergence of campus-wide research centers and institutes. These centers, primarily funded by federal sources, are engaged in basic and applied research that include such broad topics as earth sciences, photonics, urban environment, astrophysics, and gerontology. Through the administration of the centers, faculty are encouraged to cross disciplinary boundaries and pursue innovative research. We anticipate sustained growth in the development of these structures to support research that cuts across our departmental sectors.

UMBC is committed to supporting its efforts in service learning, civic engagement, and community-based service delivery. Its nationally recognized Shriver Center provides opportunities for faculty and students to connect theory to practice through community-based programs addressing critical

social needs in the greater Baltimore region. The Shriver Center exemplifies the University's commitment to producing socially engaged citizens who graduate with the commitment and experience to serve responsibly in their communities, state, and nation. Moreover, UMBC is committed to fostering an environmental ethic throughout the campus community with an emphasis on stewardship values, resource conservation, and environmental education. To better respond to the burgeoning of the aging population in Maryland, UMBC has established the John Erickson School of Aging Studies. The new School will provide opportunities for non-credit study, undergraduate and graduate educational programs, as well as research for those interested in working in the rapidly expanding senior housing and care industry.

UMBC enriches the lives of citizens of the region and State through its links to K-12 education, its outreach to community organizations, its lectures and artistic exhibitions, and its cultural activities. UMBC has been among the K-16 leaders in Maryland working with public and private universities to produce more teachers for Maryland public schools, including those identified as high-need, and is committed to continuing that leadership into the future by way of instruction, research, and service activities.

Institutional Objectives and Outcomes

As an honors university in Maryland, UMBC has emerged as one of the nation's best public research universities of its size, combining the traditions of the liberal arts academy, the creative intensity of the research university, and the social responsibility of the public university. UMBC faculty seek to integrate research, teaching and learning, and civic engagement so that each advances the others for the benefit of the State and society.

In response to the external framework provided by the Maryland State Plan and the USM Strategic Plan and in fulfillment of the campus' aspirations, internal planning priorities, and Managing for Results submission, the University has identified the following institutional objectives and outcomes:

- 1) To enhance the quality of undergraduate education: by ensuring that all students have access to an honors university experience that is defined by a strong liberal arts and sciences core, is enriched by research and service learning experiences, incorporates technology across the curriculum, and cultivates a sense of civic responsibility; by strengthening the first-year experience program to assist freshmen and transfer students making the transition to UMBC; by expanding campus programs and services that support the success of all UMBC students; by improving the articulation of transfer students; by demonstrating a commitment to high quality teaching through a vital faculty development program; and by expanding the array of academic program options available to students;
- 2) To promote research, creative activity, and high quality graduate education: by investing in the University's research infrastructure and enhancing the research environment; by strengthening support for a high quality and diverse faculty through increased salaries and start-up packages, improved grants management systems, and enhanced research facilities; by increasing investment in the library so that its holdings, access to online resources, and staffing accommodate the growing research agenda of the campus and scholarly activity of the faculty; by building and supporting graduate programs that attract high quality students and meet economic development needs; by developing interdisciplinary centers of excellence that build upon the research strengths of our academic departments; and by facilitating discussions among relevant disciplines concerning public policy issues related to the role of technology in contemporary society;

- 3) To build on the University's historical commitment to diversity and cultivate a sense of an inclusive and welcoming campus community: by maintaining a campus climate that promotes equality, diversity, respect and support; by building on success in minority achievement and expanding the capacity and reach of current programs that support the advancement of minorities and underrepresented groups at both undergraduate and graduate levels; *by emphasizing its leadership in the area of minority STEM achievement and building on its national reputation for sending large numbers of minority students to graduate and professional schools nationwide (according to the National Academies, UMBC is the nation's leading predominantly white baccalaureate origin institution of African American doctorates in the natural sciences and engineering)*; by increasing the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of UMBC's faculty and staff; by enhancing student life outside the classroom; and by creating a greater sense of institutional pride and identity among students, faculty, and staff;
- 4) To collaborate with the private and public sectors to contribute to the growth of Maryland's economy: by increasing efforts to bring promising university developed technologies to market; by fully developing bwtech@UMBC, the University's research and technology park; by ensuring that UMBC's academic programs are responsive to the needs of the marketplace and Maryland employers; by expanding partnerships between the campus, Federal laboratories, and the business community; and by continuing to work together with UMB to address research and graduate training needs within the region and State;
- 5) To bring the knowledge resources of the University to bear on the problems and concerns of the communities we serve: by continuing to serve as a national model in promoting service learning and civic engagement; by improving public policy and welfare in the State; by maintaining a leadership role in K-16 efforts and teacher education initiatives; by expanding our outreach efforts and university/community partnerships; and by continuing to foster connections between faculty research and public policy issues;
- 6) To ensure that we are a campus known for our excellence in administrative and student services and our responsible use of public resources, just as we are known for our academic excellence: by upgrading our information technology infrastructure; by ensuring that a UMBC education remains affordable and accessible to Maryland citizens through reasonable tuition and fee increases and adequate levels of financial aid; by addressing staff development needs; by pursuing administrative efficiencies and, as appropriate, the reallocation of resources in support of the campus mission; and by ensuring that our campus infrastructure sustains, enhances, and reflects our educational priorities and research agenda.