

# School of Public Policy

University of Maryland Baltimore County

## ADMISSIONS GUIDELINES (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)

**Degrees Offered:** Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.). Moreover, the School offers an Accelerated Bachelor's/ Master's for UMBC Students in most majors. A joint M.A. in Economic Policy Analysis is offered with the Department of Economics. In addition, dual degrees (such as J.D. /M.P.P. and J.D. /Ph.D., M.P.P. /M.D.) are offered by UMBC School of Public Policy and the University of Maryland, School of Law and the University of Baltimore, School of Law; and the M.P.P. /M.D., is offered with the University of Maryland, School of Medicine in Baltimore.

To submit the Graduate School on-line application go to <http://www.gradschool.umbc.edu> Please note that an interview is not required, but a campus visit may be helpful for local applicants. For additional information about the degree programs in the School of Public Policy and funding, contact Shelley Morris, Graduate Program Coordinator, School of Public Policy, [shelleym@umbc.edu](mailto:shelleym@umbc.edu), 410-455-3202.

### Areas of Specialization:

<i>Policy Options</i>	<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Email</i>
Education Policy	Dr. Pamela Bennett Dr. Jane Lincove	pbennett@umbc.edu jlincove@umbc.edu
Environmental Policy (M.P.P.)	Dr. Tim Brennan Dr. Lauren Edwards	brennan@umbc.edu ledwards@umbc.edu
Emergency Services (Ph.D. only)	Dr. Lucy Wilson	wilsonl@umbc.edu
Evaluation & Analytical Methods	Dr. Jane Lincove Dr. Zoe McLaren	jlincove@umbc.edu zmcclaren@umbc.edu
Health Policy	Dr. Nancy Miller Dr. Zoe McLaren	nanmille@umbc.edu zmcclaren@umbc.edu
Public Management	Dr. Lauren Edwards Dr. Susan Sterett	ledwards@umbc.edu ssterett@umbc.edu
Urban Policy	Dr. Pamela Bennett Dr. John Rennie Short	pbennett@umbc.edu jrs@umbc.edu
Economics (Ph.D. only)	Dr. Tim Gindling	gindling@umbc.edu
Policy History* (Ph.D. only)	Dr. Daniel Ritschel	ritschel@umbc.edu

**Accelerated Pathways applicants** must complete the *Application for Accelerated Bachelor/Master's Program* and submit that form along with a resume, transcripts, and 3 letters of recommendation by spring or summer of their junior year at UMBC. All Accelerated Pathways applicants should schedule an interview with the Graduate Program Director ([brennan@umbc.edu](mailto:brennan@umbc.edu)) before they apply. All documents should be submitted to him. During the final semester of the student's senior year, the student should formally apply to the M.P.P. through the Graduate School.

**Non-Degree Option - Taking a course or two as a non-degree student:** Non-degree applicants must submit an electronic application for non-degree status with the Graduate School, and send all transcripts for all college level work to the Graduate School. In addition, the School of Public Policy requires a resume and a statement of goals. It is helpful if you provide GREs as well at that time. Potential non-degree applicants should contact the School of Public Policy to discuss this non-degree option BEFORE applying online.

### APPLICATION DEADLINES

Domestic Applicants	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
<b>M.P.P.</b>	Jan. 15, however, we have a rolling admission and will continue to accept applications until all slots are filled.	Nov. 1, however, we will continue to accept applications until all slots are filled.
<b>Ph.D.</b>	January 15	Do not accept mid-year applications

<b>International Applicants</b>	<b>Fall Semester:</b> Jan. 1	<b>Spring Semester:</b> May 1, No spring admission for Ph.D.
---------------------------------	------------------------------	---

### Application Documents Required:

Materials to submit directly to the Graduate School (electronic submission highly preferred)

- Graduate School online Application and Application Fee\* (Program code: PUBL); includes statement of goals; Go to <http://www.gradschool.umbc.edu> for online application.
- Official Transcripts from all higher education institutions attended
- Current resume (required) and research paper (recommended)
- Three letters of academic recommendation from your college course professors
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores on the general test are required of all applicants (<https://www.ets.org/gre/>). The School does NOT waive the GRE requirement. Even those with a previous master's or law degree MUST provide GRE scores. The school code for UMBC is 5835. The School does not have minimum cutoff scores for GREs and does not use them to choose one applicant over another. The scores provide information that can supplement transcripts, recommendation, and the applicant's statement of goals to help the admissions committee decide if our program – a research-oriented program, with strong components in both writing and quantitative methods -- is suitable for the applicant.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) required of international applicants (<https://www.ets.org/toefl>) who do NOT have a U.S. bachelor's degree
- Mailing address for M.P.P. or Ph.D. application documents, if not sending all documents electronically:

*UMBC Graduate School, University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, M.D. 21250  
Re: Public Policy Graduate Program  
E-mail: gradschool@umbc.edu*

\* *Fee Exceptions:* Some students are eligible for a fee waiver, including: UMBC graduates; students in the B.A./M.P.P. Accelerated program, current Peace Corps volunteers, Meyerhoff Scholars, McNair Scholars, and Graduate Horizons participants. For fee waiver instructions, contact us.

## Getting Financial Assistance for Graduate School

A decision to admit does NOT guarantee any funding from UMBC. Decisions with regard to graduate assistantships are made separately. Graduate research assistants are selected by a merit-based system, while graduate work study assistants are chosen using need-based criteria.

**Tuition Expenditure:** For current graduate school tuition and fees, visit the [Graduate School's website](#). Tuition and fees are charged per credit hour not per semester.

**Residency and Fees:** Applicants seeking classification as a Maryland resident for tuition and charge differential purposes must complete a Maryland in-state status form, which accompanies the application for admission.

**Financial Aid:** Indicate on your application whether or not you wish to be considered for a graduate research assistantship. Receipt of an offer of an assistantship is very competitive and admission does not guarantee that the School will be able to fund your graduate education. All domestic applicants seeking any kind of aid should complete an Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). The UMBC federal school code is 002105. Contact the Office of Financial Aid for details on VA benefits, federal loans, and scholarships: <http://financialaid.umbc.edu/>. For an overview of loans, grants and work-study assistance available to students through the federal government, visit the <http://studentaid.ed.gov>.

**International Education Services:** This office issues the I-20's and offers useful information for international students transitioning to life in the U.S. (See <http://ies.umbc.edu/>)

### UMBC Alumni Tuition Scholarships - RETRIEVER NATION

For spring 2019 and fall 2019, all UMBC alumni who enroll for either a master's degree or a certificate program are eligible for a **\$1000 tuition scholarship** and application fee waiver for summer 2019 or fall 2019.

**Graduate Research Assistantships:** The School of Public Policy offers graduate research assistantships (RA's), with stipends, tuition, and health benefits to qualified admitted applicants to the M.P.P. and Ph.D. programs for full-time study. In addition to a stipend and health benefits, graduate research assistants receive a 5-10 credit tuition waiver each semester (fall and spring).

A graduate research assistant is required to be a full-time student and work 20 hours per week (from typically mid-August - mid-June) as a research assistant for a faculty member (or members) assisting with the research projects or serving as a teaching assistant. He or she may not hold another paid position within (or outside) of the university, without the consent of the director of the School of Public Policy, and the Graduate School. If you wish to be considered for an RA position through the School of Public Policy, you must apply for admission, and indicate on the Graduate School application that you wish to be considered for a research or teaching assistantship. Decisions on funding are made typically by April for the following academic year.

**The Hilltop Institute:** is another on campus research entity. Hilltop hires quantitatively talented graduate research assistants, as well as full-time employees, if the student's skill matches their current needs. For more information, please call: 410-455-6864 or visit their website: <http://www.hilltopinstitute.org>.

**Peaceworker Program:** The Peaceworker Program, which operates through the Shriver Center at UMBC, offers graduate fellowships to returning Peace Corps Volunteers so that they may pursue a master's degree full time at any of the consortium institutions. *Deadline to apply: February 1.* See their website for further details: [www.shrivercenter.umbc.edu](http://www.shrivercenter.umbc.edu).

**UMBCworks:** The UMBC Career Center's online system (UMBCworks) is available to all current students (free of charge) and alumni (fee based). Students use this system to search for internships, part-time and full-time jobs, to post their resume in the resume book for employers, and to sign up for on-campus interviews. Employers with jobs posted to UMBCworks are specifically looking to hire UMBC students/ alumni. You must be a UMBC student or alumni to use this system. The Career Center also coordinates a large number of internships and cooperative education programs ([www.careers.umbc.edu](http://www.careers.umbc.edu)). Public Policy has a designated liaison at the Career Center to assist our students with career development.

**Graduate (Work Study) Assistantship:** For those who qualify for work-study, a number of assistantships are available each year. Information about these assistantships is posted on the Graduate School website under funding opportunities. Students seeking work study funding must file a FASFA application to determine eligibility for work study funds.

**Employment Opportunities:** Professional employees at UMBC are eligible for tuition waivers. For a listing of UMBC full-time and part-time positions, visit <http://hr.umbc.edu/>.

**Employer Assistance Programs:** Some employers offer tuition assistance programs to their employees. Check with your employer to see what funding opportunities may be available to you.

**Veterans Tuition Benefits:** Office of Financial Aid, UMBC; [veterans@umbc.edu](mailto:veterans@umbc.edu)

**Veterans Administration Website:** Visit <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/> for more information.

**If you are seeking more information about funding opportunities, contact our offices, 410-455-3201.**

**Updated: May 10, 2019**

[www.publicpolicy.umbc.edu](http://www.publicpolicy.umbc.edu)