



UMBC

THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

ADMISSIONS GUIDELINES

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.

To submit the Graduate School on-line application go to <http://www.gradschool.umbc.edu>. For additional information about the degree programs in the School of Public Policy, contact Shelley Morris, Graduate Program Coordinator, School of Public Policy, gradpubpol@umbc.edu.

Areas of Specialization:

<i>Policy Options</i>	<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Email</i>
Public Management	Dr. Lauren Edwards Dr. Chul Hyun Park Dr. Mir Usman Ali	ledwards@umbc.edu chpark@umbc.edu miruali@umbc.edu
Health Policy	Dr. Nancy Miller Dr. Zoe McLaren Dr. Loren Henderson	nanmille@umbc.edu zmcclaren@umbc.edu loren@umbc.edu
Evaluation & Analytical Methods	Dr. Jane Lincove Dr. Zoe McLaren Dr. Yusuke Kuwayama	jlincove@umbc.edu zmcclaren@umbc.edu kuwayama@umbc.edu
Education Policy	Dr. Pamela Bennett Dr. Jane Lincove	pbennett@umbc.edu jlincove@umbc.edu
Urban Policy	Dr. Pamela Bennett Dr. Loren Henderson	pbennett@umbc.edu loren@umbc.edu

Emergency Services (Ph.D. only)	Dr. Jungwon Yeo	Jungwon.Yeo@umbc.edu
Economics (Ph.D. only)	Dr. Lisa Dickson	ldickson@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 (pbennett@umbc.edu) before they apply. 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.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Domestic Applicants	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
M.P.P.	February 15	November 1
Ph.D.	January 15	No Spring enrollment

Application Documents Required:

Materials to submit directly to the Graduate School

- 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 college or university faculty; letters from employers are acceptable but they should refer to the applicant's research skills and experience
- **GRE scores are not required or reviewed. Please note that any submitted GRE scores will not be considered upon application review.
- An English proficiency test is required for most international students; Go to <https://umbc.edu/admissions/graduate/international-applicants/> for specific requirements and exceptions

* *Fee Exceptions:* The School of Public Policy does not provide application fee waivers. UMBC's Graduate School does offer limited exceptions to the application fee requirement. More information on these exceptions can be found [here](#) (look at the "Application Fee" section).

Getting Financial Assistance for Graduate School

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.

Graduate Research Assistantships: The School of Public Policy offers graduate research assistantships (GAs), 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.

All full-time applicants to our graduate programs are considered for a graduate research assistantship with faculty when they apply to the program; there is not a separate process. Please note these positions are highly competitive and acceptance to the program does not guarantee funding.

Office of International Students and Scholars: This office issues the I-20's and offers useful information for international students transitioning to life in the U.S. (See <https://iss.umbc.edu/>)

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.

Handshake: The UMBC Career Center's online system Handshake is available to all current students and alumni. This online recruiting and job/internship listing system allows you to view and apply for full-time, internships/co-ops, part-time and temporary opportunities. 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). Public Policy has a designated liaison at the Career Center to assist our students with career development.

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

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

Updated: May 2026

www.publicpolicy.umbc.edu