



University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The final page of the NSSE Web version asked students to respond to the following question in an open text box:

“If you have any additional comments or feedback that you’d like to share on the quality of your educational experience, please type them below.”

Confidential student responses to this question appear on the following pages. **Please note that these comments appear exactly as the students entered them and may not be suitable for immediate distribution.** Faculty members, administrators, or other students may be mentioned by name, and comments were not edited for grammar, offensive language, excessive length, or otherwise questionable content. Comments are sorted by class, gender, and enrollment status. UnitID (your institution’s identification number) is also included.

Because student comments are confidential, student identifiers are not given in this report but are provided in a separate SPSS data file. For this reason, please use discretion when using, storing, and disseminating the SPSS file.

Student Comments

August 2012

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	I have a great social life here, based on the academic background of those I choose to befriend. I said that my general relationships with other students are very "meh" because I also very much dislike those who are more focused on going to parties at UMCP than doing well in their lives. My professors have been very good at their jobs, but I find them very inaccessible for the most part. I am in an interdisciplinary studies class, which is the only one that has really done any cross-discipline analysis or integration. My answers to questions regarding such are based mostly upon that experience. My other classes are rather straightforward and require little effort on my part to maintain low A's to high B's.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	I've loved everything except for the discover portion of CHEM101 - which hasn't done much for me except increase my patience and teach me to not care about a grade.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	At every turn, I am impressed by the university's commitment to undergraduate research and academic excellence.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	I am a Christian. I do not quite know how UMBC has affected my "spirituality" other than to challenge and strengthen my convictions and deepen my desire to bring glory to my Maker and Redeemer in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. I have experience much kindness and it is a great joy to be able to help others even a little.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	Housing in combination with tuition is way to high, that's the ONLY reason why I'd consider college park over UMBC because it's easy to commute in college park but there are not many public transportation services in catonsville :(other than that, UMBC rocks!
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	There is a major issue with your freshmen gen chemistry program that I need to bring to your attention. First of all, my Chem 102 lab professor spent about 3 weeks lecturing us on lab safety, yet ironically, I come to lab only to discover my lab TA can barely speak English and has no clear idea of what she is doing; this being perhaps the most dangerous situation of all! This has also been a problem with the new Chem 102 Lab professor- if one cannot effectively communicate his/her ideas in English, one should NOT be up in front of the lecture hall. Additionally, the Chem 101/102 Discovery program is a complete waste of time. Despite all the roles, at every table, there is one "smart" person who does all the work anyways. We should be given the documents to complete on our own during our own time, rather than waste student's valuable time!
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	The students at UMBC earn the right to say 'I attend an honors institution'. Students do not come to UMBC to party for four years, they come to WORK. It is my belief, that in the future, UMBC will be the difference between the haves and the have nots.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	I love this institution without a doubt! I do, however, have some concerns about the quality of teaching from a couple of my professors this semester. Otherwise, my experience has been superb!

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	UMBC PLEASE READ! It's too hard to get help with chem 101 and 102, the tutorial center is available but it's about 10 students to one tutor and the teachers are rude and short with the students when one has a question. Even a simple question can be shot down and the teacher makes a spectacle of the student. In my English 100 class I had to write a 23,000 word paper, that's 66 pages on a word document, plus several other papers. I spent majority of my first semester writing papers for a freshman English class. It is too hard to do a room switch if you don't have a good RA. I tried in the beginning of the semester to get out of my room and switch because of my roommate but the RA didn't know how to go about the process. I went to my CD and he said that it sounded like my roommate was crazy and he would help me swap rooms but he wasn't allowed to get involved until the RA did something about it. So I'm still living with my crazy roommate because the RA didn't know what to do about the situation. Living with my current roommate makes me want to live in a single room for the rest of my time here because it is that bad. I go home on the weekends to avoid her and try to come back on Monday morning so that I only have to live with her for 4 nights of the week. Her boyfriend practically lives in my dorm he should just put his clothes in her wardrobe and not bother paying room & board. I have also considered transferring schools because of the lack of helpful or even just kind faculty. The teachers are short with their students and have no tolerance or patience for people who can't keep up or understand. Most of the time they can be plain rude. Of all the classes I have taken only one of my teachers was helpful and kind enough to deserve positive feedback. I am also isolated from my friends because I live in a building on the other side of campus and don't want to walk across campus at night alone. I feel uncomfortable living on my floor because my roommate has turned all the floor occupants against me for no reason at all except that I don't like that her boyfriend is living in my dorm. The gym only has a few bikes and ellipticals and most of them are broken or always in use when I try to go.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	I love UMBC, and would like to meet Dr. Hrabrowski one day.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	none
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	I just want to say that I love UMBC. I transferred here from a 4-year institution so I have something to compare it here. I love the quality of the classes and the fact that I have been pushed to exceed. That classes are challenging, but rewarding. I also feel that I have become very involved and that is because there are so many wonderful opportunities available at UMBC. Thank you.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	None
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	Some of the teachers aren't good at teaching. They're better at determining who is cheating than the actual course material.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	I feel like the school cares only about the Meyerhoff Scholars students.
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	This school emphasizes science and technology. It does little else. It does not try to provide students with a well-rounded education, a decent social life, or healthy social awareness. If you want to live in a lab, this school is great. If you want to do anything else with your life, I would not recommend this school at all.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	First-year	Female	Full-time	I thoroughly appreciate the opportunity to cultivate my academics as well as my passion for dance and my Christian spirituality while living on campus.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	The Survey feels a little prescribed.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	Do everything you could do to improve yourself
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	The Meyerhoff Scholars Program helps to address a lot of the topics and areas targeted by this survey.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	It's a great place.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	none
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	I am so bored during any free time and suffocated by work load and expectations all the rest of the time. Here at UMBC if you don't enjoy playing Starcraft or Skyrim at the end of the day you're shit out of luck. A *truly* depressing place.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	We need more school spirit, which UMBC lacks. There needs to be a balance of social life and academic life.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	UMBC needs an Accounting major, not just a certificate program.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	I live in a Firehouse and work nearly 90 hours a week as a firefighter paramedic making it impossible to come to campus more than i already do
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	UMBC is a great place to improve academic knowledge but it lacks the fundamentals of social interaction.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	The UMBC Instructor's seem qualified; however, some seem to belittle their students or not give them at least a bit of respect
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	N/a
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	Introductory level classes are dull, especially with AP credit for equivalent classes (material wise, at least). The rest I'm used to (especially since most of the rest is my fault, reading ahead and such) and it has been a very enjoyable experience so far.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	I love it here. I really messed up my first semester but I'm very proud to be going here and I am freshly dedicated to improving my GPA and staying at UMBC. The academic success class LRC 101 has helped me quite a lot.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	The financial aid office isn't very helpful and seems to always be busy when it matters. And the food staff isn't very friendly either, at True Grit's and at other food locations in the commons. I understand people have bad days but I often feel bad for getting food just because of the disgust on their faces, and anything requested outside of a basic meal they always roll their eyes, or give me a fit.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	Residential Life, specifically the RA's, in my experience often abuse their powers of discipline in unethical ways. Specifically, I have observed and experienced personally several occurrences where RA's treat students disrespectfully and hypocritically. Fellow students, including myself, have been victims of condescending treatment by RA's and have been antagonized through redundant and unnecessary write-ups, and even verbal abuse. While I personally understand the purpose and necessity of the RA presence in dorm housing, I feel the RA's are given unchecked power over the students which becomes abused when personal judgement, prejudice, and emotion becomes a factor in the RA's behavior. This abuse has proven itself degrading to my learning environment and that of others. RA's have the ability to write up students for infinitely many unnecessary and excessive infractions without having any consequences or doubts come of the their actions. While in the most extreme case most if not all extraneous write-ups would not hold up in the judicial system, it is the burden that these excessive write-ups have when considering the time taken for hearings, preparation for hearings, and not to mention emotional stress that unfairly hurts the student. Some RA's have used this knowledge to attack students who they disagree with or simply do not like for whatever reason. As stated, I have been a victim of this and have observed its occurrence on many occasions. This problem is one of very few that I have with the University and to have it solved or mitigated would very much improve the personal and academic experience for myself and other students. Thank you for your consideration.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	I hate going to this school, I am so humiliated.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	Honestly I couldn't ask for a better school. It is a bit hard to adjust to if your not the "academic" and was more of a slacker in High School. But it's worth it.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	I enjoy that UMBC stresses the importance of education and interdisciplinary approaches as well as the balance of social interaction and campus involvement. Some current obstacles with the school are these: academic and career advising (that system right now is very bureaucratic), putting brilliant students behind (some underclassmen complain that they are lumped with the average student, are relearning things they learned in high school AP/IB courses, and thus are beginning to lose interest), and is almost self-defeating in its emphasis on diversity. I find it amazing that through being a school which prides itself on being diverse and tolerant, this avocation might be making the school more segregated and against the principles it preaches. By pushing ideas of diversity onto students, they become more, at best, jaded or, at worst, annoyed to the point that they think it is unimportant. Interracial friendships should be something natural and not forced, because people become more resistant when they feel forced to do something (especially with a generations-long social issue). Also, with programs like the Meyerhoff Program and the Honors College, and the fact that one has more of a tilt toward racial equality, it actually ends up separating the scholars since few members of each of those programs interact with the people of the other. UMBC should learn to be diverse in a way that is active instead of vocal.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	Parking services should get new people

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	Corners are definitely cut in the music/art departments. The school seems to spread itself too thin trying to offer a variety of opportunity to students rather than quality experience. Many teachers seem to have a low expectation of student ability and students are walked through the material. Some faculty is incredibly knowledgeable and approachable, yet some seem to be complacent with assuming the role of a high school teacher and are unaffected by whatever their students produce, and students too often are satisfied with this. I find myself bored and unfulfilled during my time spent on campus not in class and find myself working off-campus during this time. I feel like it would be more beneficial to get involved in service activities or internships in the humanities, but relevant opportunities that are of serious aim are for upperclassmen. Fellow peers tend to be uncultured and immature. I feel like it would be incredibly difficult to not succeed here. Everything about this school is very much like high school. No matter what I do, I will walk out of here with a great transcript and a degree from an average school. In some parts of my major I will certainly be less knowledgeable than students from other institutions because of specific educators. Anything I do to make myself stand out from the crowd will be completely of my own effort without much help from the institution.
163268	First-year	Male	Full-time	This entire survey is a lame excuse for quality feedback. If you want real answers, ask students to type in answers like this, based on how positive or negative certain aspects of college were. Sapping multiple choice answers and finding correlations is a disregardable type of research, and this method just seems lazy. How about asking for constructive criticism on what the students want to talk about? This was a waste of my time
163268	First-year	Male	Part-time	The Student Judicial Board is a joke. Dr. Cullen is incompetent and uncaring, and there is no real due process.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	My educational experience at the University of Maryland Baltimore County has been wonderful although I wish the University would take the time to offer more financial aid to majors other than science and technology. I would also like to see more recognition of other majors that are successful and popular on campus.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	History department is excellent! Education department is extremely unorganized. I would not attend or recommend UMBC for education.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	My experiences at UMBC were absolutely fantastic, and I owe many of the highlights to my Interdisciplinary Studies degree which has allowed me to design my own major, drawing from three core disciplines as well as other departments on campus.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Although I like my experience so far, I regret that the financial aid is not very supportive; there are many loans but not enough grants. Even for merit based students it is hard. Yet everybody is not athlete, in the STEMs, in the military or a veteran. Some of us really strive to better ourselves but are not given the means. By the time I graduate, with only a Bachelor degree, I will have about \$20,000 debts, enough to discourage me from Grad school. I just do not think it is fair.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Music Program itself is excellent. Very thorough. Choral Music Education program needs some attention. Lots of missing elements.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	<p>I was very dissatisfied with my academic advisor. I felt that the individual was very difficult to get in contact with and did not care about me personally. I felt that I could not contact this person with questions. I ended up staying an extra year in college because she gave me false information, which led to me taking extra credits to fulfill my requirements. I ended up going to a graduate student during my senior year of advising. She was much more personable and involved. I felt that she really cared and was easy to contact. I wish I had someone like her when I first arrived at UMBC. I have also come into contact with a majority of the professors that work in my field of interest. Although I would like to say the majority of my professors were amazing, I felt that I only really connected with a handful. I think that the professors here are very intelligent and can be very inspirational. I understand that many professors come here to conduct research. I believe that those professors who are mainly concerned with research, do not pay enough attention to their classes; and it shows. Unfortunately, I have given some pretty poor student evaluations for some of the professors that I have come into contact with. I prefer a class that is discussion based, allows you to think critically and analyze information as a group and an individual, and relies heavily on the professor sharing their own ideas and experiences on their field of interest. I don't think that this happens enough in class. Many times a professor will rely entirely on a textbook. I understand that textbooks are a valuable tool, but I learn best on a personal level. I would much rather hear or be taught by the professor than by an informal book. I like a combination of the two. Despite these unfavorable experiences, I love UMBC. I started out at the University of Maryland, College Park. While attending that university I felt that the faculty was very distant, the course work was not challenging, and the student body was too concerned with partying to gain any insight from classes. I transferred to UMBC after a semester at UMCP. UMBC was a much better fit for me. Smaller classes, more intelligent student body, and caring professors made me feel at home right away. I have met my best friends here and I thank you for providing me the opportunity to grow as an adult through the education you have provided with me. I am the highest educated person in my immediate family, and am looking at continuing my education into grad school (sadly, not at this institution). Thank you once again for an amazing opportunity that you have provided me. I wish UMBC the best in the future.</p>
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	While group projects are important, and help one develop critical skills, being forced to work in a group with people who don't care about the project and are less than competent, (something I have experienced numerous times,) is merely an energy drain and extremely frustrating. Therefore I would like to point out that group projects are not always a good idea, and professors should please think very carefully about their group project policies.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I loved UMBC! It was the right University for me and it has molded me into a great individual and a responsible adult.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I wish I could see more diversity among professors. So far, I have not had a Hispanic/Latino professor in any class at UMBC. I would like to see more critical thinking homework/tests than memorizing concepts or definitions.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I love UMBC!!!
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	N/A
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I feel like I've been able to learn a great deal during my time at UMBC. I love the general academic, studious vibe that most of the students have. I've met many really great people who have helped me enjoy and make the most of my time spent here. There are so many good opportunities and I'm grateful for everything I've learned.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I am not quite sure how UMBC has "earned" the high credit portrayed on campus. I did not take any general education requirements at UMBC, so I can only critique the English Department. The Chair of the department is very helpful, but I am afraid she is one of a kind. Most of the English professors have a difficult time even speaking English, let alone teaching literary history and/or theory. I have taken classes with Polish, Indian, and Asian professors; and feel that I have not done as well as I could academically in their classes because I cannot understand most lectures. More than one of my English professors has also brought aspects of their personal lives into the classroom. Basically, the professor's issues in his or her homelife are clearly taken out on the students. The professors are next to impossible to meet with for any reason including advising. For the past year, I have switched advisors twice and ultimately stopped going to an English advisor altogether. I now frequently visit the registrar's office because their advisors seem to genuinely care about a student's classes and graduation; unlike the English department. I transferred to UMBC from Salisbury and due to UMBC's English department, I sincerely feel as though transferring was a mistake. UMBC's tuition is more expensive than my previous university, but I have yet to enter a classroom in most of the buildings in which all of the ceiling tiles are in tact, the desks are not disgusting, and the technology in the classroom does not fail. Moreover, the bathrooms in the buildings are unsanitary and old. Most stall doors have no locks, and some sinks, paper towel dispensers, toilets, and toilet paper holders are beyond fixable. I try my best to avoid using the restrooms at UMBC. The only, ABSOLUTE ONLY reason why I have not transferred out of this institution is because I am graduating this semester. I honestly have no idea what my thousands of dollars a semester goes to; clearly not hiring sufficient English professors or maintaining the buildings. I do not plan on walking across stage for graduation because I am not proud of the school (UMBC) that I am graduating from. I have never experienced so much frustration about buildings that are literally falling apart, dealing with a broken everything, finding a place to park at any time of day, but mostly dealing with the English department. I certainly will NOT recommend this institution to anyone, and upon receiving my diploma in the mail, I will never go anywhere near UMBC's campus. Again, I am not quite sure how UMBC acquires such fantastic ratings; my only guess would be that the English department is not included in these figures.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	The campus needs better atmosphere to study after-hours. Ex> Some other buildings to be open 24hours other than library where people now all gather and stay noisy all the time until at least 3-4am.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Very unsatisfied with the education I have received from this school.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	cheating is still an issue...people will take the exams for others...or if the professor is too lazy to change their exam questions from the previous year, then the students who are able to obtain the old exams can just memorize the answers and receive a better grade than they deserve.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Many students unfortunately do not know about the Shriver Center or the Learning Resource Center. Please try to promote these more!
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I have attended other 4-year colleges, military-friendly online/weekend colleges, military learning institutions, and government agency offered courses. I already knew that I preferred the bricks and mortar, research-centric, hands-on type of learning environment that UMBC provides. I thought that I would do well, without too much effort based on life experience, talent, and dedication to studies. I have been challenged in many aspects of my education here which have truly helped me grow into a better consumer of information. I have been able to work with people, students and faculty alike, who have helped me to grow and stretch my boundaries academically. I have made lasting relationships in the most unlikely of situations, which have all been centered around my experiences on campus both in and out of the classroom. Every course I take, major-related or not, has helped me to become a better, stronger student which makes me more prepared to work professionally when I complete my degrees. My experience here has been so great, that I have decided to continue on past the undergraduate level and pursue my PhD. This is in part due to the high caliber of my education, as much as it is due to the encouraging atmosphere in all aspects of my UMBC experience. I know my B.A will establish a strong foundation for my continued studies.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I wish that UMBC had a required internship/ co-op program> I feel like I'm graduating with a lot of knowledge but little practical skills in my field.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Advisors here do not seem to care about students and don't answer e-mails. RAs are too strict and treat people like children.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I have found Professors Kathryn Bell and Callie Neylan to be wonderful. Their experience in the design field, willingness to share, and overall compassion and passion for students makes me glad I choose UMBC. I've learned, been challenged, inspired, and more in their courses.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	To be honest, most of the skills I have developed I learned elsewhere - not from UMBC. At UMBC I have had a chance to practice those skills, but I am not gaining new ones, other than to learn how to operate on my own. I look at my fellow undergraduates and feel that they aren't making the best use of resources available - but UMBC doesn't help them with that, either. I'm older and working on a second bachelor's degree, and I am utilizing the skills I learned (but didn't use, necessarily) during my first degree and letting them flower here, at UMBC. This contrasts with my classmates, who aren't learning these skills of critical thinking, effective and clear writing, formulating and defending viewpoints, and metacognition that I learned at my old institution. They are generally allowing themselves to become cogs in the machine, and UMBC seems to be okay with that fact. Perhaps it's different in majors that have smaller classes, but Psychology, with its "smallest class size allowed is 25", lets its students be drowned out by the white noise. Yes, I've developed good relationships with several faculty members - by going above and beyond what's required in class and seeking out those relationships. Most students don't know or care that these things are available, and they don't even think to try. Are UMBC students learning anything? Certainly. Are they getting a true liberal arts education that lets them think creatively, critically, and intellectually? That - I'm not too certain of.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	This University is horrible. Parking is practically non-existent, it took years to find a good adviser, and the amount of work required for a bachelors degree is the amount of work my friends did at a better university for their masters. I have gone and spoken to my high school guidance counselor and she is not referring anymore of her students to UMBC.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I really wish there was more to do on the weekends and announce things better. Sometimes I don't even know what is happening on campus because they are not announced, either through email or some other medium.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I had research experience for 4 years through a co-op. I also am in a social work field placement right now.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	The emphasis on active learning at this school is fantastic. I never would have learned as much without it.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	<p>I attribute the majority of my successes in my education to myself and not this institution. While I cannot speak for other departments I have experienced numerous problems with the Psychology department and the Foreign Language department. The professors are inconsistent with grading and disengaged from the students learning experience. Grades for previous exams/papers are not reported to the students before the next exam/paper is given leaving the students no room to improve their study habits. In many cases students may be unable to know their grade or progress before the end of the semester when it is too late. Professors do not answer email or in some cases even post office hours. It is my feeling that some of the reason for this poor quality of professionalism lies in the institution of tenure. Professors do not use the resources available to them such as blackboard or email to better help them manage their responsibilities as professors. It seems that many of the professors are caught up more in their personal matters, research responsibilities, or are not up-to-date with the current state of education. I have had to take these matters all the way through the ranks of the administration to Diane Lee who was very surprised to learn about the actions or lackthereof from professors, although she was very understanding other than the blue sheets given at the end of the semester there is nothing that can be done. Any attempt to reconcile these issues must be made during the semester when students are busy enough trying to complete assignments in addition to compensating for the professors lack of engagement. I am an A & B student and I had to work hard for those grades but it should never be the students burden to make sure that professors are ethically doing their jobs. I am a member of the student Judicial Board and several honors programs so I am clearly invested in this institution but it is not my feeling that they are as invested in me, I pay for my education and I have talked to several students from other institutions in the area who have never heard of the problems that students have in my department at UMBC being had at their schools. I have also known several people who transferred out of UMBC to go to other institutions who's professors are dedicated to teaching first, which is what the students that enroll in college pay for. Students and professors should be considered equal stakeholders in the outcome of their education and experience. I am not a completely unrealistic person in my expectations either. Professors such as Adia Garrett, Steve Pitts, and Professor Borrerro all are exceptional professors who are dedicated to their students success and treat them with respect and dignity. These professors use all of the technological resources that are available to them to help them maintain there level of teaching as well as make personal efforts to help students understand and improve outside of class on class material as well as there personal and academic pursuits. I would also like to know what qualifies this institution as the #1 up and coming college two years in a row because if it was the votes of myself and the many other students who have had my experience but who are simply too busy trying to get by in this shotty system I can say that probably wouldn't be the case. I regret to say that when ever someone asks me about my experience at UMBC I have very few positive things to say and I do not recommend attending this school.</p>
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	N/A
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	no

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Pre-med advising here is AWFUL. The adviser is inaccessible, unwilling, and very discouraging. I have been very pleased with everything here except that, and a slight lack of social events that promote a sense of school spirit.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I really love this college. However, I feel like the amount of coursework is too overwhelming, and takes away from social life due to a lack of time and because people are feeling too stressed and underslept to be themselves and/or act in an appropriate and cordial manner. I think this institution should discourage students from using study aids such as adderall because this only intensifies students' lack of self-control, discipline, time-management and overall health. I am also very aggravated with the way this organization makes it very VERY difficult to graduate within four years or to get on pay-roll. The requirements and steps for each of these circumstances should be made more clear to students. There should be a larger focus on advising and advisors (many of whom do not have the time to deal with as many students as they have). There should also be more focus on the arts and the liberal arts. These are very important, especially in a day and age where the government is considering taking it out of our schools all together. THIS IS NOT OKAY.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I am glad I applied to this school and now getting a first bachelor degree in the family:)
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Being a minority student has many challenges especially when it comes to grades. Even when you have been a B student all throughout the semester a Professor can reduce your grade to a C so that you cannot apply for Advanced standing or worse still never get into a Graduate program unlike the Caucasian counterparts/classmates some of whom are not better than we are in class.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I would like the advisers to be more attentive to their assigned students.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Joining Greek Life was the best decision I made while attending UMBC.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	More emphasis should be placed on your options after graduation (job opportunities etc.)

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	This survey asked only 2 questions about advisors/faculty and that is where I see the most problems. I continue to be more and more dissatisfied with the service of this school. My advisor had me take 3 classes I didn't need to for my major. He did not attempt to help me, he only berated me for not coming in to see him sooner (although at the time I was going to school and working full time). He has never once suggested what I can do to help my career in the future. As well this semester there was a mistake where my credits were counting for my minor and not my major and told me months after he found out. I now have to stay in school an extra semester to graduate. I did not know this. The financial aid department here I'm sorry to say is a joke. Every year I need to sign up for more aid it is never an easy matter. This semester alone I have emailed their department 3 times with no reply and when I went into their office they had me wait 10 minutes while I could clearly hear an employee laughing while she made a personal phone call. They are not helpful but many times rude and condescending. The fact is we college students need support and guidance, we are not asking them to baby us or give us all the answers. I am never given enough information and when I ask questions I am given an attitude as if I need to keep my mouth shut. I'm not saying the school is all bad, I've gotten quite an education. It's just the people paid to help us are not doing their job. Even worse they are costing us time and money that we can not get back. Taking a survey like this one really shows how important diversity is to UMBC. This campus does a great job at connecting people across cultural, religious backgrounds. But that is all you are focusing on! The school prides itself on being "diverse" yet your own survey leaves out sexual orientation and as well only lists 2 genders to choose from. Not all students here identify as purely female or male. If you truly believe in diversity perhaps being better inclusive of the LGBT community could help. This school might rank as an up and coming top school, but will always remain up and coming if these problems are not addressed.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	As a returning student, UMBC is awesome and has been a rewarding experience. I do not believe, however, that the younger students grasp the gem they have been given.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I have enjoyed my educational experience here at UMBC however, as a returning student, I have often faced ageism on campus as well as in the classroom. I feel UMBC is focused on traditional students and need to incorporate within their environment more opportunities for non-traditional students. Although the Women's center is a great opportunity, the hours are geared to one day. Not all students are on campus everyday.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I believe my educational experience at the UMBC would've been different if there was guidance for transfer students. I was "lost" in the beginning of matriculation at UMBC for about two semesters. I've experienced racist teachers, students who lack social skills and an unwillingness to socialize outside of their cultural heritage. It has been an disheartening and painful journey but I persevere to obtain my undergraduate degree despite my experiences at UMBC.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I felt that I had to always calling main Campus about some information that has not been taken care of. I always had to advocate for myself, and if I try to explain the situation to staff they look at you as if you have gone completely crazy.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Advising at UMBC is a joke. The only reason I am on track to graduate in three months is because I am on top of it. The professors assigned to me haven't even met with me in the past two years.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	The administration is very poor. Administrative processes are slow, ineffective, and expensive. The Registrar's Office is the worst.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I absolutely love UMBC. My advisors, both in my department and the Honors College, have been extremely helpful and encouraging. I was also encouraged to find a research project, which I have done.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	The educational experience was good. I learned a lot. I would like to say that I never really talked to my professors or had any bond with them, but this is because I choose not to. I think many of my professors would have been more then willing to talk to me. At the same time, I have had professors who did not make themselves available and told us not to contact them, which was disappointing. The education was well worth all the hard work. I would like to say that UMBC has a reputation for having a lot of classes that rely on a curve. There have been many classes where my test average is in the 60s yet I pass the class with a B! I feel like UMBC does not want to give people an A. Since the grade reports have been available for some of my classes, I can see the number of A's being given out and it is kinda low in a lot of my classes. That being said, I have had the BEST experience socially. This school has brought me out of my shell and made me so extroverted. I have hundreds of friends at UMBC. HUNDREDS. I never want to leave sometimes because i love the people here so so much. Greek life here is so much better then other campus'. You really should brag about greek life more because it really is such a positive experience. I have made friends for life both in my sorority and outside my sorority. I have had so many memories that I will carry forever.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	Overall, I consider my experience at UMBC to have been a very intellectually stimulating and enriching culturally. My instructors were wonderful! I believe I have learned a great deal of information and have a great preparation to begin a successful career.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	The living learning community for aspiring teachers is being shut down due to lack of funding. I am going to enter into phase I and II next year to earn my teaching certificate I will also be a 5th year student and live to far away to commute. Not only would the aspiring teachers floor be beneficial and supportive during my internship, but it would also allow me to remain in on campus dorms rather than move off campus or pay more money to live in Walker apartments. I think it is unfair to shut this community down and I do not understand why none of the other learning communities are not being affected as well. For future students please reconsider and reinstate the floor.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	It was an experience from a different culture.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	The sociology department at UMBC is heinously disappointing; professors are unorganized, poor administrators of lectures and class lessons. It seems they do not even know their own material; or are so fed up with administering that material that they have become completely disaffected. These professors (who teach CORE COURSES required by the university) are inarticulate, inefficient and unprofessional. I have had only ONE effective professor in this department throughout my entire career at UMBC (Cousin-Gossett). However this was for an elective course. In core courses (300, 301, etc), the professors do not know how to profess! This creates an even worse situation for the students because not only must they pay for these terrible courses and waste their time, but they are required to do so, in order to graduate! Additionally, the student-teacher dynamic in these classrooms resembles that of high school. Perhaps it is UMBC's fault because these professors have taught the same courses for years on end, and are obviously burned out. This is a serious INSTITUTIONAL DYSFUNCTION that has not been remedied in the 3 years I have attended this school.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I love UMBC! :) It's my favorite place in the whole world! I have learned a lot about myself, others, and the world here.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	UMBC is the most racist and socially backwards institution I've had the displeasure in being a part of. There is no "pride in diversity" and the faculty and staff do not care about their students. I'm speaking on behalf of more than just myself, but hundreds of African American students that are fed up with the ignorance. I'm truly embarrassed to have UMBC as my alma mater.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I love the classes offered at UMBC! So rich and diverse!
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I have learned so much from going to UMBC. I am so fortunate to have discovered this university! I have had so many more opportunities than my friends at other schools and have been especially impressed by my ability to participate in research.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I received very poor help from my advisor throughout my experience here and am very unsatisfied with that experience.
163268	Senior	Female	Full-time	I am not a Meyerhoff scholar and I exist. Professors need to understand that priding themselves on a reputation that they are very hard is not a mark of excellence, but that having students actually learn and be successful in mastering difficult material is a better determination as to their effectiveness.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	I have found that it is difficult to complete a Biology degree while working a full time regular job, because there are very few Biology classes offered during the evening sections. The school is still focused more on a younger crowd that lives either on campus or near the school and doesn't have to worry about working full time. It isn't really geared for the older adult returning to the school environment to finish a science degree. I have noticed that it is much better for adult going into computer science, but not for any physical science. I am currently a Junior in college and have to attend part-time due to the availability of classes. I have also had to find other work in my pursuit to try and finish my degree because my classes are only offered during the daytime and the lab and lectures are offered at times of the day that make it difficult to arrange work. For example, I have a two credit lab class that the lecture portion is Monday at 8 a.m. and the earliest lab offered was Monday at 2pm and ranged to different days at odd times. The way the class works, one really needs at least a day between lecture and lab since I have found they add on work at lecture to be turned in during that lab for the week. Very difficult if you have other commitments between the Monday lecture and lab class. The other thing I found shocking to me was that the same 2 credit class required me to take my first exam on Wednesday morning at 8a.m. I work on Wednesday and I would assume other students are scheduled for other classes at that time, so I was a bit upset to find that I have attend a make-up exam or call out of work. As an adult this is really unacceptable. I scheduled a class because of the class times listed. I shouldn't be told to come on a different day for an exam that should take place during regular class time. This is really my only gripe about the classes.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	I was very divided on this survey. I have had a very positive experience within my major since I returned to continue my studies at umbc. However, I have also taken some courses which were simply required for the bachelors. I'm not against this, but several of these (two I'm currently taking) are hybrid or online. I must say that I am very unsatisfied with these courses and the quality of instruction (or lack thereof). I plan on contacting the university at the end of the semester, but in short, I am appalled that these "Professors" earn a salary "teaching" these classes (and I say this because there has been consistent lack of interaction and extremely slow grading in all three of the courses I have taken hybrid/online) and that my tuition for these courses runs the same as other classes which have actually been engaging, stimulating, challenging and overall a real benefit to my education.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	More help for nontraditional students, such as more evening/online classes, less group projects, and respect for our experiences. Improved community for older, commuter students.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	UMBC is considered to be a "honors college", but it is far from being one. There are VERY FEW inspirational professors, no student life, parking is horrible and the administration is not helpful nor educated. All together these are just the few reasons that made my (as well as many other students at UMBC) educational experience at UMBC horrible, my degree from this institution worthless and a waste of money and time. If I could do it all over again, I would have never transferred from my previous 4-year college.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	It is unfortunate, but the quality of education in the Animation/Interactive Media degree programs is significantly lacking. Industry professionals are fully aware of the inadequacy of the program, and students unpreparedness to enter the working field upon graduation. Consensus amongst students within the Animation/Interactive concentrations is that we made a bad choice, and we must all fear for our futures. Many have been, or will be taking it upon themselves AFTER graduation to learn what should have been included in the curriculum. What is being taught now may have been sufficient 10 or 15 years ago, but the program is far out of reach with current industry. A few (alumni) alumni instructors have come back to UMBC to help students understand this. Also, comparing the working environment (lab) for Animation/Interactive students to the community college that I came from (Harford), it is apparent that UMBC has no understanding of, or care to create a productive/collaborative environment for students. Having access to the latest software and hardware is great, but if you put people in an awkwardly arranged bunker with horrible wooden chairs (that was a slap to the face), they will NOT be very productive. In conclusion, I actively warn people of this program, and would push for a refund of my tuition if I could.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	Having more evening hours available for full time working adults in all semesters.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	Tuition is TOO EXPENSIVE! Almost to the point where it's unaffordable. I'm not sure where the cut-off amount for financial aid is but that number needs to increase. School doesnt take into account all the bills students currently have.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	As an older student who works full-time, it would be helpful to have more online or hybrid classes. Most institutions offer many more than than this one does.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	The parking situation is horrible. It almost made me change my mind about returning to the school. The commute is enough but it takes me longer to find parking than it does to commute sometimes.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	I am dissatisfied with the Psychology education I received from this institution. It was not very engaging and the mentality of both the students and the teachers made it hard to care about what we were learning. I did not feel a sense of community in the Psych department and I wish more Community Psychology programs and internships would be available and/or advertised. I feel that the classroom atmosphere in most Psych courses overall did not encourage discussion or a hands on approach for applied problem solving. I feel that clinical or assessment psychology should be a required course rather than an elective. I realize that this response is department specific, I cannot speak for the other departments that I was not involved with.
163268	Senior	Female	Part-time	The quality of the education is great; the overall quality of the instructors and courses are high. However, if the administration is not up to par with the education in terms of quality, the school system is spoiled. Losing admission application and 2 transcripts IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. Not transferring courses only because of what it looks on the transfer credit form without proper assessment IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. I am dissatisfied with the way that the administration has been treating me so far.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Could have been unlucky with my advising experience, but it felt like the faculty were research scientists first, professors second, and untrained advisers lastly. Other than that I have the utmost respect for the credentials of the faculty and the rigor of the courses they offer.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	UMBC is awesome! The chemical engineering program is very tight knit and rigorous. Please give all of the faculty members a raise. You could find the money to if you didn't pay contractors twice to replace hot water pipes in the engineering building.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Overall very good. I would comment that I felt that the difference in difficulty going from 300 to 400 level was very strong. While I felt challenged when taking mostly 300 level courses, I basically feel extremely stressed all the time as a senior taking several 400 level courses.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I'd change the course load for incoming freshmen. I had to do 18 creds my first semester as a Biochemist and failed horribly. Also, my advisor was less than helpful and told me things like I'm not going to get in grad school, achieve in life, around this time. Lastly, find a way to combine the sects of students. You find that mostly same major people are together, which is understandable, but it limits their social and group abilities a lot.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I am a Mechanical Engineering undergrad at UMBC. In a typical week, I spend 50-70 hours on school-related work. I work hard in my classes, and receive excellent grades. However, the overall quality of the professors in the ME department is poor. I can name three ME professors that I thought were good or excellent. The rest of them have been worthless. They make no attempt to explain the material in a clear and cohesive manner. They spend lecture time copying derivations from the textbook onto the board. My attempts to clarify the material during office hours is usually futile. When a question is posed to them, they simply read the sentence back to me in the textbook. As a result, many concepts are still extremely abstract to me. Overall, very disappointed in (some of) the undergrad ME professors. In addition, lab equipment is often inadequate or broken. Advising is unhelpful. Also, we need chairs. The chairs in the ME building look like cast-offs from all of the other buildings.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I would like to see more online courses available. These are very helpful when a student, such as myself, is forced to work many hours part-time and attending school full-time.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Nearly all of the instruction I've received at UMBC has been greatly helpful. Both within and outside my major, my classes have significantly contributed to my intellectual growth. Overall, though, I wish professors had placed less emphasis on group discussion and more on professor-mediated discussion, which I found more helpful than less-guided small-group discussion.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I love the attention to detail that most professors in the field of psychology use. I have received more help at this university than any other I have attended. This university challenged me and I am better for it. This has been a dream of mine to finish a degree and thanks to this institution, i was blessed enough to do so.

NSSE 2012 Student Comments

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	During my educational experience at UMBC I have faced many different challenges that include physical health problems and lack of educational funding. The staff at UMBC has been helpful and supportive for my continued educational success. One possible way to improve the educational experience for people like myself that are Non – Transitional Students is to add more evening classes and more available time frames for classes. I feel by doing this you will increase the enrollment of Non-Transitional Student at UMBC. Overall, I am thankful to been given a change to learn at UMBC and have noticed the ways that been able to implement materials learned into my personal life.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I personally feel In the Geography department there need to be more Minorities in the staffing along with the students, because in those departments the interaction with races other than white is not much seen.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	<p>I have received an excellent education at UMBC. This University has a superb staff and faculty and is highly supportive of academic success. The only thing I will regret in attending (and graduating from) UMBC, is what I feel I may have missed out on by not attending a different school. While I have found a way to have an extraordinary experience both academically and socially at UMBC, I will always wonder whether my overall experience would have been heightened by a social experience similar to those of flagship state schools. What UMBC needs to understand, is that while not having a football team, or allowing tailgates, or creating on-campus Greek housing may keep the "ruckus" down on our campus, these things have their merits. Sure, issues of violence and alcohol abuse may be a concern. But these social experiences generate a number of advantages for the institution. One being, namely, the likelihood and amount of alumni financial support. Alum are much more likely to contribute to their school's athletic programs, or to the school as a whole as a result of their experience. Also, whether we like it or not, National Publicity (as it is clearly something we are working on) only goes up through sports. Consider the press we received from our basketball team's national bracket placement in 2008. Whether we like it or not, winning chess championships does not help us generate a higher influx of applicants or place us in the league of premier schools. Further, that period in 2008 has been the most memorable and most engaging student experience I, or any of my graduating class has taken part in. We have a tendency to assume only the negative ramifications of having strong athletics and placing emphasis in our sports groups, but that attention to athletics isn't for the athletes. It isn't for the sport itself. Supporting our sports is for US. The students' experience. I am more likely to give back if I had a better experience at my institution. I am more likely to have a positive experience at my institution if my sports teams are playing well. Having successful athletics isn't simply an excuse for students to drink and party, it is a unifying, pride-evoking experience for every member of the campus community. It includes Arbutus, Catonsville, Baltimore, UMBC, and all outlying areas. If you want more involvement from the community, if you want stronger alum support, if you want more MONEY, start thinking about what the students have been begging of you for years. There is a reason we are still just, "up and coming," and not "recently arrived." You have the academics, you have the public attention, now why don't you think about retention. Think about the student experience.</p>
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	<p>The Education at UMBC was above average, but the Administration was far below par for what is claiming to be an institution of higher learning. When others ask me about UMBC I tell them exactly that, and that I would likely choose another school as a result. You need to fix this or soon the reputation of this school will begin to suffer. I will not be contributing as an alumni because of this.</p>

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	This schools devotion to diversity works instead to segregate students by race rather than to integrate them. The most popular student organizations on campus are the ones devoted to a specific race of people, including the black student union, south asian student union, and chinese student union. Because these students have nothing to unite them under a common goal (ie no successful popular sports teams) they are reverting back to the simplistic social structure where one stays with his/her own race or group of people.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	This school needs to understand that Just because it's challenging does not mean it's good. I came here on the basis of getting a good education and quality lifestyle here. Both I was not given. The math classes here are not academically supportive and the teaching I have received is low brow.This needs to change if this school gets to be number 1 instead of up and coming. This school is not socially supportive nor academically supportive. There is no reason why youtube teaches me better than most of the professors and TA's. I am disappointed as a person who has contributed alot to this school working in Reslife and the commons and in other parts of this community. And only in return denied of the opportunity to achieve graduation sooner. This school needs to change that.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	AMERICA DOES NOT HAVE AN EDUCATION SYSTEM, IT HAS A MEMORIZATION PROGRAM
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Residential Life has by far been the worst thing at this school, they are just awful. It takes forever for them to get back to you, they ignore problems, and will only fix your issues if you threaten to go to the administration. The doors to get to Harbor south/east 2nd floor was blocked and being held open by a box, and they refused to fix it in a timely manner until a fellow student called and said it was a severe safety hazard. This past week there was vomit by the elevator in the south/east week of harbor, and nothing was done about it for 3 days, it just sat there right in the doorway, vomit. When people ask me about UMBC, I tell them how much I love it, but also warn them that Res Life is awful. Almost every issue I have had with this school in a negative sense has been from Res Life, and I feel that if we really want to be looked at as a great school in our nation, Res Life must clean house or change ways. Most students feel this way.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I have grown as both a student and an individual thanks to the Chemical Engineering curriculum here at UMBC. When I first started engineering I did not think in 5 years I would be where I am today with all this knowledge. I am truly prepared and eager to move on from college and use what I have learned here at umbc. I would like to personally thank all the faculty members in the Chemical Engineering department for all their support over the years.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Club sports taught me more than most of my professors.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	UMBC seems to have a lot of good ideas being implemented poorly, and the main reasons behind it are bureaucracy and top level employees trying too hard to look good to outside supporters. I really wish they would concentrate more on actually helping current students.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	UMBC seems to favor their Honors and Meyerhoffs with their special privileges such as free printing and academic followup/opportunities that is taken for granted. Also parking is terrible, it should be tailored to the majority of the students commuting.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I really disliked most of the faculty. I'm sure it is worse at other institutions, but honestly I don't know how much. I was just surprised at how poor all of my advisers were. At one point I was actually lied to because an adviser was unwilling to help me. I was able to do what I was told I could not by going over her head.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Parking for commuters need to be fixed.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I enjoyed UMBC for many reasons, however it does not change my opinion that the methods of teaching in our society are completely outdated and need heavy modifications and restructuring to make sense in the modern world. Not a problem with UMBC, just teaching in general
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Not all of these questions were easy to respond to due to phraseology. Mistaken interpretation of the results may occur.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	The quality of the equipment in the engineering labs, especially the fluids/energy lab was very poor and ought to be upgraded or replaced as soon as possible.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	UMBC is a great school for the student who truly desires a great education. For the student who is hoping to have the full "college experience," this is not the right school. That being said, college is what you make of it. This case follows that adage.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Because of the University's involvement in research and feedback from students with programs such as this, it has cultivated a sense of responsibility to its students among the faculty. This creates a unique environment, especially from local universities such as University of Maryland, College Park, where the opinions of students are disregarded and lost. This is by far the best undergraduate school I have ever attended.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	FYI, I haven't had to write any papers at UMBC b/c I did that elsewhere.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Although I do have some qualms with UMBC, I would not change my my college experience whatsoever. Academically it is a hard university, but they do a great job of preparing you for the real world and for that I will be ever grateful.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Because i am older than some of my class mates i sometime feel as if the instructors think i should not be in this college i find this to be very sad. You should be able to go back to school and obtain higher education at any age. May if more people had higher education this world ans country would be a better place.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I hope this will help in the evaluation of this class
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Better advising is needed. Registrars office is terrible to deal with rude!

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	UMBC is a quality school with instructors who genuinely care about their students, and are devoted to instilling their passion for the subjects they teach. Mrs Tighe, Drs. Spence, Irvine, Wilson are just a few of the top educators you will find here. They know how to take difficult material and make it engaging and are able to relate it to real life. Additionally in my 4 years here I have personally interacted with the president on at least 6 occasions, he always greets you and walks with you to get feedback when you see him out walking around campus. I challenge you to find a school where the entire staff is this engaged and devoted to their students success! Nick Hock
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Advising lacks motivation/genuine care for student futures. Information between departments and professors is shoddy at best, and the lack of information is detrimental to student success.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	In my opinion UMBC failed to educate its students effectively in the following ways: 1.Courses were primarily taught on theory with little to no emphasis on application. 2.Courses that required extensive writing demanded that students meet page requirements and use unnecessary amounts of words. While in the business world employees are taught to write in efficient manners so that documents don't become wordy. I feel that UMBC needs to realize this and begin to close this disconnect it has between its academics and the business world. 3.As a full-time Information Systems major and working as a full-time network security analyst I was afforded the opportunity to see the lack of current technology that UMBC is teaching its students. UMBC has tendered professors who have worked at the institution for the last twenty years, this should be looked at as not an advantage, but rather a disadvantage. This disconnect that tendered professors have from the working environment causes them to teach outdated technologies, thus creating a disadvantage for the students at UMBC. The reasons outlined above are the main points that I feel UMBC needs to strongly consider restructuring its Information Systems program. In doing that, students of the future will be awarded the opportunity to get an education that will matter well beyond their academic careers.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	<p>After speaking with friends from high school who are currently in other colleges around the country, I've come to the conclusion that all colleges have the same problem. The quality of education in college is worse than high, middle, or elementary school. College shouldn't be required by jobs. Students who go to college spend ridiculous amounts of money to have someone tell them to read an over-priced book that can only be bought through their school. Going to school means that you learned something, however if any graduate were given an exam on something that they had taken a few years back they couldn't get the same answers again because all college is now is memorizing and NOT learning. Assuming we look past the validity of college and focus on professors I can say the following: we need to learn from someone who actually CARES about teaching (and their students learning) and KNOWS how to teach. Just because you are a professional doesn't mean you know how to teach. This idea of having people who have PhDs do their research and requiring them to teach is stupid. If you still don't believe me have someone who knows Calculus and has no teaching experience teach an elementary student lower-level math. It doesn't work! When someone is an expert in something teaching the basic things are difficult and a professor can sometimes misjudge their questions as being easy or common sense but is not to people just learning it. Let's look pass the validity of college and the unfit 'professionals' who are teaching us. Let's look at the tools that students AND faculty get to use. College should use technology to teach. Using things like video games/visuals, etc. I believe certain schools are actually looking into the idea of using video games to teach. Now let's go away from what should happen and what is actually happening. 'Professors' are using powerpoints or chalk and board to teach. First off they are the same thing, you can't just move words from a chalk board to a powerpoint and then say that your 'school integrates technology into it's classrooms for a better learning experience'. We have such great technology out there that can help others teach and we aren't using them. I saw a video the other day where a group of people brought and XBOX 360 with the KINECT and taught students in Africa. AFRICA! and we are not doing this here why?! Looking pass the validity of College, unfit professionals, and the lack of technology, Why are we so narrow minded on our education? Why does a person who is a biology major know nothing about psychology? Why does someone who is an engineering major know nothing about programming? Why does a computer science major (more specifically a programmer) know nothing about sociology? I'm sure this question has been raised before and I feel like at that time everyone decided : to fix this we are making everyone take general requirements. This might've been one of the biggest mistake to ever be implemented in college. Why are we forcing our students to take general requirements like foreign language and physical education? This solves nothing and actually further destroys the validity of college. Why do we not have more classes that combine majors? I currently live with a mechanical engineering major and he is taking a class where the professor made it a combined course consisting of Mechanical Engineers and Computer Engineers. The Mech. E.'s can build things that the Comp.</p>
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Very outstanding
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I LOVE YOU FREEMAN HORSEBOWSKI

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I'm trying to understand why college is so expensive. Very few of my classes my entire time at UMBC have been engaging. The classes for my major appear to be some sort of running joke and I'm not quite sure how they became classes in the first place. Does anyone ever audit a class? For the amount of dedication that I was willing to give I feel like the experience fell short.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I just want to learn
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Life would be better on this campus were there not a tacit age discrimination by the students and a more open attitude towards others who are different. Another words, things would be better were there less clannishness, less pigeonholing of people according to popular prejudices. In saying this I must emphasize that all races and creeds have had a share in maintaining this state of affairs on this particular campus. If I did not care I would have said nothing with regard to this matter. I am not the only one that has noted this.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	UMBC is best university!
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	The reason that I would not attend UMBC again is because I have completed the teaching certification program, which took more time, the same amount of money and much more effort than getting my Psychology degree. Yet I am forced to spend the time and money to earn a Psychology degree that I don't care anything about. I would rather be teaching than spending my time and money on this degree. The whole system is very frustrating and angering. The Early Childhood education department is fantastic. I recieved a great education and will be a great teacher because of Pat Scully, Sue Small, and Mary Rivkin. However, if I had known that it was going to take me over four years after my AA to earn both my teaching certification and my psychology degree, I would have gone to Towson or Hood College. I could have my masters in education by now, insetad of wasting my time on a degree I will never use and don't care about.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Although I have under performed here at UMBC, this is a great school. I wish I could start all over and take a different approach to my education, but I can't. UMBC provided me with a great academic platform. Although I did not achieve what I wanted to achieve, I am glad I came here. This is a great institution.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	There needs to be more social integration and a greater sense of a community. Encouragement to help a fellow person out especially if they are of minorities.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I absolutely love UMBC and will be a proud alumni this summer. However I must say that I do not agree with or feel that the foreign language requirement is necessary or run successfully.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I wish the physics program at UMBC focused more on quantum mechanics. As it stands there's only one quantum mechanics class offered to undergraduates, compared to 2 or 3 at other institutions such as College Park or MIT. Other than that, I think UMBC is perfect and I wouldn't change a thing.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	As student, we need more businesses to accept us for internship to have hand on
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Improve the advising, Improve the parking, Increase the number of power outlets, Make course catalog and enrollment interface more smooth. Excellent University.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I have been here for three years now, but I transferred a lot of my credits from high school - when I came to UMBC, I had not had a true college experience based on the preparedness of my AP examinations. I have been working on a triple major of gender studies, sociology, and psychology, as well as an honors certificate. I am a Humanities Scholar. As of sophomore year, I have been working in the sociology department, and I have been doing a service placement out of the Mosaic Center as a Diversity Educator Intern. This year I pledged a fraternity that was is run multi-campus out of DC because of the simple fact that I believe UMBC needs to get some things in order with social life and the image it wants to maintain. I recognized a lot of the questions about diversity were very pointed in the survey, but I do not feel like we live up to the advocacy and awareness we want to claim. Free speech is great in some respect, however, we are letting students completely spread messages of intolerance and hate. Last year, I lost my mother during the middle of spring semester. It was a rough time on me and I am thankful to have the support of my professors and friends. At the same time, another student posted things on MyUMBC trying to attack me for my sexuality, using my photographs off of facebook and outright threatening me. Most of my friends and administrators made record of it and contacted various interest groups (police, behavioral services, etc.), but nothing was done. How are students and staff expected to feel safe on campus if the campus itself does not present a message of tolerance or at least try to remedy the situation with an overall statement that expresses some concern for the student who is attacking others (I will not say I know him well, but I do know there might be more going on with him than he will present). I believe I have taken full advantage of the opportunities at UMBC. I've been able to combine a place for academics, work, community, and personal fulfillment. My majors, thankfully, have given me a greater insight into perspective that I feel like everyone could benefit from - even if it is just Sociology 204, which talks about the intersection of identities in the United States. I have done my hardest to make the best of a hard situation: when mom passed, I powered through the semester and have continued to do so even when my father made things difficult. My main concern is that this campus may not completely have everything together to handle situations like this and for as much as we try, we may need a stronger effort to promote our messages of integrity. Kevin Triplett
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	UMBC is a great school!
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	UMBC is great! The classes are hard so you really need to try hard. The CS department is great.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I wish that I felt like graduating mattered as opposed to just fulfilling a requirement. I am now tall enough to ride this ride. I am capable of getting a job.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	At UMBC I would like to see the elimination of the foreign language and physical fitness requirements. I do not think those are courses I should have to pay money for in order to graduate. I think the Arts/Humanities/Social Science/Global Cultures requirements should be condensed to only having to take about 5 courses total in those areas. In the physics department I would like to see an additional semester of classical mechanics and classical electrodynamics. Also, I think the course "Modern Physics" should be expanded into another semester (total of two semesters) focusing some more on quantum mechanic and particle physics. Overall I am very pleased with the education I have received at UMBC. The faculty is excellent.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Some professors can teach, but there are many that seem to be nice people but lack any sort of teaching ability. It is in those classes that GPAs and motivations are crushed.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	If it was not for me finding my own internship, and proving myself there, my 3.9 GPA in Political Science would be useless and I would be unemployed.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	The teachers have been good overall, but the administration is very hard to work with. There is no good method of finding out who I should contact with a problem. None of the school's policies are in the students' favor.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Educational experience was great until this semester (8th semester here). Wish the Mechanical Engineering program was more customizable. Teachers are generally friendly and understanding. I had terrible experience with Chair of the Math Department. Met in person to discuss and he was very rude and inconsiderate, did not let me speak without interrupting me. I wanted to know why a teacher swap wouldn't warrant an email. In addition, wanted to know if teachers were required to have a syllabus ready for students before the drop date. Wanted to express that students care about whose teaching a class. Worst experience ever - very disappointed and I do not know who to go to to discuss this with.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	Interesting study. Please make the results easily accessible to the UMBC community in their raw (data) form.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	PARKING IS HORRIBLE
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	The Cinematic Arts department is very poor. I did not learn very much, as many of the classes showed and explained the same content. There was hardly any emphasis on the technical side of filmmaking, and all we did was sit in class and watch excerpts from films, not discussing them or sharing any opinions on them. This was not an enjoyable experience, and I would not recommend attending this school to be a film major. My other concern is UMBC's lack of school spirit and lack of planning interesting events. Everyone seems to go home on the weekends and very few people actually seem to follow what happens on campus. The events thrown together are usually not very exciting, and the average event I've seen mainly advertise free food and the ability to ask questions to people. UMBC is not a very engaging school, and the only reason I enjoyed my time here was because of my friends, but not because of anything remotely academic. Based on my experiences, I would not recommend this school to anybody.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I feel that my degree in Mechanical Engineering is worthless because I have been almost exclusively graded on academic performance rather than my ability to function as an actual engineer. I have repeatedly been stuck in groups with classmates who know nothing about engineering but have higher GPAs than I do which further demonstrates how worthless the education I have received is.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I think that there are some great teachers here at UMBC, however, there are also some horrible. I think the horrible ones need to go, despite tenure status. It's pretty ridiculous that I have to worry about getting bad teachers. My only way around it is to sacrifice my preferred schedule to schedule having good teachers based on online reviews.
163268	Senior	Male	Full-time	I believe that with some of the courses there is too much material to learn in the length of the standard semester. Also, i believe that some courses should be reformatted so that curving should not be need. I feel that if a professor has to curve a class where a c is 51% then they should re-format it because that is basically saying that that person only learned half of the material.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	I am a part time student taking one corse at a time, while working a full-time job.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	My advisor provided no help to me in any way. Actually he provided me false information that almost cost me a lot of wasted time and money attending UMBC. If I did not catch these mistakes I would be graduating much later. On top of this he was very rude and talked down to me in a way that was not useful to him or myself. I will be writing a letter to the Dean about him. My advisor was Dr. Steve Pitts in the psychology department.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	Please have more supervision on department of political Science at Shady Grove; many students have changed thier major to history or other fields because of the lack of proper management.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	For engineering students, the general advisers do not care about the students, they do not know all of the requirements and are generally unhelpful if you deviate from the standard course progression that they know. Once progressing past that, when you are assigned a faculty adviser, (at-least mine) is VERY helpful.

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	<p>Let me just begin with saying that if I did not study on my own, mostly during the summer, I most likely would not get a job right after college! That self-studying that I did on my own involved learning a software: AutoDesk Maya. I basically learned about and how to use different tools, which helped make me a better three-dimensional modeler. Now I believe that going to a college is to be taught about something (a student's major) and to make the student better, stronger with this something, so that the student can succeed with it. A student is not supposed to be introduced to something and then off on their own. I basically was introduced to a few things here and there within AutoDesk Maya and then that was it. The funny thing here is that I did not come to UMBC to be a three-dimensional modeler; not that I am not satisfied with it, but I really came here to be an animator; an animator within the 3D world. While I was taking these 3D animation courses, with the mind set of being an animator, I was being taught mostly about modeling and rigging, and, as I had already stated above, I was only introduced to a few things here and there. I realized that UMBC is not going to allow me to be successful with little bits and piece of knowledge, and therefore, I went out and taught myself so that I can, hopefully, succeed. However, after so much self-study, I realized that this stuff I am teaching myself is a whole completely different major, a whole completely different career. I guess I could say that's my fault, but, then again, why teach this stuff under the animation major. I have heard from an instructor talking to a class saying that coming to UMBC, a student will be introduced to variety of things not just one. After hearing that, I do not ever recall reading about that on UMBC's website when I was deciding about becoming a student at UMBC to major in animation. But, you know what I think, it should be a whole major on its own. Whether or not you, UMBC, decide to create a modeling and rigging major, I think you should while keeping the animation major. Also, while someone is reading this, they might say, even though you (meaning me) did all of that reading on your own, what kept you from becoming an animator. Well, my answer to that would be what I stated above; I am introduced to something, and then I'm on my own. I can explain it in more detail. In the two animation courses that I took, Introduction to Animation and Expression in Time and Motion, most of the class time was spent watching animation videos. Yes, literally watched videos in class all day! I understand that watching videos allows a person to actually witness the workings of animation. That's a part where a student should be "off on their own." A student does not need to be taught how to succeed at watching the workings of animation! I actually go around and tell people all I do in class is watch videos. Literally!! I have actually learned while being a student at UMBC and hearing it from instructors that becoming an animator takes experience; it takes time; you have to build experience. And all I did in almost every class was watch animation videos. And on top of that, while I was in the Advanced 3D Computer Animation course, there was only two assignments that involved animation; the rest was about modeling and rigging. Again, it takes time to become an animator. By the way, there are two UMBC students that I know of that are great at animation, but</p>
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	<p>UMBC is the worst institution that I transferred to. If I could have choose another university to transfer too I would have.</p>
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	<p>Gaining a lot of GIS knowledge and skills, but I'm generally dissatisfied with the resources available to me and some of the instructors abilities to teach.</p>

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	There is a noted difference in the academic abilities of those students attending the main UMBC campus and those attending the Shady Grove satellite campus. I found my coursework on the main campus to be challenging, though-provoking, and highly enjoyable. On the Shady Grove campus, the coursework was not challenging at all, information was spoon-fed to the students (the majority of whom transferred in from the nearby community college), and the class discussions usually consisted of me speaking and others remarking, "wow, that's a good point, I never thought of that." And nice as that is, I am more interested in having challenging and though-provoking discussions, rather than simply hearing myself speak. UMBC main campus and UMBC Shady Grove may as well be two entirely different schools; even though the name on the degree is the same, the quality of the educational experience could not be more different.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	It would be worth including a question about the exact range of credit hours taken during the academic year, and including questions for indicating whether one was involved in an internship program of any sort. I don't believe I am technically considered full time because I am only taking 7 credits, but I consider myself to be a full time student because I am taking those 7 credits in conjunction with a full-time 5 day a week internship. By and large my experience at UMBC has been very good, I have had very few bad teachers. That said, the two bad teachers I did have were truly terrible. The first hadn't been around long, so it wasn't that surprising. However, the second professor had been around for a very long time, there had been multiple complaints voiced about him and nothing had been done because no one had filed a formal complaint. When discussing my problems with this professor with other professors, all of them could guess who this professor was just by the description of the problems and ended up telling me some surprising things. He was bad enough that myself and just under half of the class wrote and signed a formal letter of complaint to the Department Chair and the Dean. I have yet to hear back about what happened to him, but the initial impression I got was that something would absolutely be done about this. I suppose my point is that while the administration and faculty may be very responsive to students, they do not do a good enough job providing pathways for students to raise concerns. That this professor was still teaching after what I believe were decades worth of complaints citing the same problems over and over, is quite frankly astonishing and very troubling to me. (I don't know exactly how long the teacher had been at UMBC, but the impression I got from the department chair was that he had been there for a very long time.) I would suggest that the school works to make it easier for students to report problems, or at least pays more attention to serious verbal complaints in addition to written ones. I also want to emphasize that this professor was an extreme aberration from the norm. Nearly every other professor I have had there has far surpassed almost any other instructor I've had at any other institution.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	most CS students are stultifying, antisocial scum

UnitID	Class	Gender	Enrollment	Additional Comments
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	I feel that because of the many problems that veterans may experience an outreach program needs to be developed to assist veterans so that they can be successful in the academic arena. I feel that more could be done to assist them and whatever is developed for them people need to be creative and think out side of the box, triangle and rectangle.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	n/a
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	Professors need to have more time and to be closely connected to students.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	Non-Traditional Student, or Part Time students, who are enrolled in Mechanical Engineering may find that the class scheduling difficult to fit in with a full time job. This also applies to required courses for the school such as the foreign language requirment. If UMBC is interested in attracting more non-traditional students, they need to make more classes available at night and on-line.
163268	Senior	Male	Part-time	The physical plan of the college is deplorable. Desks are 1970s vintage middle school. Lecture hall seats are horribly uncomfortable