



NSSE 2013 Student Comments

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The final page of the NSSE survey 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."

Important:

- Confidential student responses to this question appear on the following pages. 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.
- **These comments appear exactly as the students entered them and may not be suitable for distribution without prior review. 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, enrollment status, and gender. Information for these variables was provided by your institution.

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Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Female	I feel that there are some teachers that move too quickly with their material in class and are very inaccessible in person.
First-year	Full-time	Female	I love UMBC! Thank you so much Dr. Hrabowski and Mr. Meyerhoff! And of course all the faculty and staff that make this school and program so great. I'm so proud to be here.
First-year	Full-time	Female	UMBC doesn't care about you if you aren't in an honors program or a minority. It's difficult to arrange time with an advisor, let alone an informed advisor that can actually help the student. So far, I'm disappointed in this school. I'm surprised by the amount of professors who aren't actually professors, they just teach on the side. It certainly affects my education. My favorite classes have been with professors who teach for living.
First-year	Full-time	Female	I attended first year seminar and I learned a lot. My first semester was awful and now the second isn't so bad because I'm able to right my wrongs. I didn't enjoy the first year book experience because it was as if students were forced to read a book they either enjoyed or either hated. I love the living learning communities. We have similar majors and we always study together which can be fun and stressful at the same time.
First-year	Full-time	Female	I really love how UMBC is known as a smart school. However what I would really like to do is to make UMBC known as the smart school that knows how to have fun. I wish UMBC would emphasize socializing and having fun. One way of doing this would be by offering late night on Friday and Saturday nights. These are the nights students have off and can socialize on their own time. However if food establishments are closed, it discourages students to go out on these nights, the nights by which we CAN have off. I also think that UMBC should use some of its land and sell it or make a deal with a contractor to build a mall or small town center. The closest thing to this campus is a residential neighborhood. If there's a small town center with shops, food places, bars and maybe a hotel or another major attraction that students could walk to right off campus, I think we could attract a lot more students. Also, the town center would be sponsored a little bit by UMBC. So maybe in the contract in selling or renting the land to build a town center, a small percentage of the money could go to UMBC. This extra revenue could help lower future tuition costs, provide more scholarships or go towards anything the school deems necessary. I know I won't be around when or even if this happens, but I really want to help make UMBC a better place. I want to make it my own. I already call this place my home and I want future students to have similar if not better experiences than my own. If a student had an idea like this 8 years ago, I would've wanted them to submit it. I would've wanted them to take their time to improve this school for future students like me.
First-year	Full-time	Female	=D
First-year	Full-time	Female	I love UMBC. My first semester has changed me for the better and I've grown as a person. UMBC is very into student involvement and action. I have learned how I can contribute to my community and make change.
First-year	Full-time	Female	This is a great environment to learn, because the classes aren't too big so you feel connected with your teachers.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Please work on your financial aid division. Many people working within the office do not seem to know what they're doing and are generally unhelpful in providing answers. Along with this you should work on your system of payment online, not accepting Visa (one of the world's most widely accepted forms of payment) and enforcing a fine with credit/debit card payments is simply rude.
First-year	Full-time	Female	I didn't fully understand what you meant with some of the culture questions in the last part. Try to change it to be less broad and more direct.
First-year	Full-time	Female	i have had issues with communication with my advisers, but otherwise, it has been a great experience thank God
First-year	Full-time	Female	UMBC is great but needs to promote its residential life more if it wants to move away from being a "big time commuter school". I'm not saying commuters are bad, but I think it would be easier to break that reputation if the residential life was promoted more.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Useless class prerequisites waste students' time and money, especially within the CSEE department.
First-year	Full-time	Female	I think general education courses are unnecessary. For many of the students, those courses are waste of time and money.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Attending college as a second semester freshman, it is very easy for me to say that I am being rigorously challenged. This is something I truly appreciate as I was raised with the ideas that if you're not being challenged, you're not pushing yourself enough. So being able to come to UMBC and take part in this has been an interesting experience so far. It is also easy for me to say that never in my life have I been placed in a community so diverse as this one. The people I have met and the things I have learned from them really goes to show how much of the world there is to see and how much of it that is yet to be appreciated. UMBC does a wonderful job of exposing its students to these aspects.

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First-year	Full-time	Female	Please provide more than a simple binary gender option.
First-year	Full-time	Female	UMBC truly creates an environment that allows each student to reach their greatest potential; whether or not a student chooses to achieve this is his or her own choice. I think those who criticize UMBC are simply not taking advantage of all of the opportunities UMBC offers their students.
First-year	Full-time	Female	<p>Although UMBC is a great university financially, it's not the best school to make a student feel at home. While students live on campus, the campus is still very oriented towards commuters. Academically, the school is GREAT. Those that work in the Shriver Center are absolutely fantastic, and many of the professors are awesome. In addition, the school is great at offering extra help to students such as study sessions and the writing center.</p> <p>On the other hand, when it comes to living on campus, the services offered by the school are good in some ways, but not as good as they could be. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *The dining hall closes earlier on Fridays and Saturdays. Why? In addition, it doesn't open until 10:30 on Saturdays and Sundays. Where are the athletes that have a long bus ride and have to leave at 8 supposed to eat? *Only Salsaritas is open on the weekends. I know that athletic teams, such as the hockey team, had games at 4pm both days of the weekend. When they get back to school after 7, is their only option salsaritas or processed food from outtakes? *Res life is absolutely horrible with packages. My parents overnighted an extremely important package to me on Monday. I was still waiting for it on Thursday, and I had to go to the desk to ask for it. Not only did I not get an email about my package arriving, but the senders name was in the book that the front desk keeps for packages instead of my name. *Not only is the gym unsafe because all of the equipment that doesn't work is not labelled as not working, but there's something like 7 treadmills in working condition for a gym that is for a school of almost 11,000 undergrads AND the public too *I'm an undecided student, and when I tried to figure out who my academic advisor is I had some trouble understanding who exactly my advisor was/what's the process for getting an advisor. I still don't know who my advisor is. <p>Basically, I've applied to other schools, and I'm seriously considering transferring next semester.</p>
First-year	Full-time	Female	I really like the UMBC campus. It's friendly
First-year	Full-time	Female	I have been very disappointed with the social aspect on this campus. People in classes make it painfully obvious that they are not interested in making friends because the school's main focus is so heavily stressed on schoolwork. I also think that the athletic teams are given far too many advantages on campus. They call people who are not on teams "NARPS," or "Non Athletic Regular People" and honestly I find to be childish and hurtful. This feels very high school only minus the socializing. I think that the lack of transportation is another issue. As a student who lives on campus with no car, how am I supposed to find a competitive off campus internship with little reliable access to Baltimore or DC? I am well aware that this is an engineering/sciences college, but as UMBC grows I would really like its list of academic majors to as well. I am impressed with how far this campus has come, but it has a long way to go.
First-year	Full-time	Female	UMBC is highly overrated. I feel as though this institution favors those in the scholars' and honor's programs. The teaching experience that I have been involved in has been extremely poor and I do not feel as though I am welcome here. The school embraces diversity and I, a white student, do not feel welcome at all. If I could start this year over, I wouldn't restart it here.

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Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Male	I'm not really sure how one would go about implementing this, however, I would like to see something that encourages study groups. I don't want group projects or work as everyone has their own opinions and perspective and I think that should be reflective in their personal work rather than compromising to reach a common goal (being completion of the assignment). I think that it's important to express yourself and that we shouldn't settle for reaching a middle ground to complete work. I do, however, prefer to work in groups which isn't happening this semester. I like to bounce ideas off of one another, to promote group discussions in smaller groups than the class room, to learn and encourage using your peers as a tool to accomplish the ultimate goal of learning the material as thoroughly as possible and having the best educational experience as can be had. I like to work in groups, it helps in understanding different perspective, which I think is one of the most important aspects of mastering any subject, especially anything in the liberal arts. I feel that these groups aren't promoted enough, and groups that do form are within already formed groups of friends. It is very hard for someone in my demographic, older, from out of state, and a commuter, to meet people and be able to find my way into such groups. I feel something should be done to promote this initiative and help students like me have a full and enlightening educational experience which will ultimately help the groups, the university and myself.
First-year	Full-time	Male	LEGALIZE IT
First-year	Full-time	Male	I wish i was able to test out of the intro classes instead of repeating stuff that I already know and can do well.
First-year	Full-time	Male	UMBC is a great school and I am very glad that I chose to go here. Overall my experience has been awesome and I have met so many new people and made tons of new friends! Academically I feel like I am learning lots of new things and getting a great education, but my high school prepared me very well so I do not feel overwhelmed at all with the amount of high level work. In general I am really excited about all of the things I will be doing here at UMBC in the next several years!
First-year	Full-time	Male	Some of the last questions were a bit strange in their wording. I believe the question, or rather statement, "I intentionally interact with people of other ethnic/cultural backgrounds" is a very strange question. I never think "Oh man, I need more friends of a different ethnicity." I choose to associate with people based on their characteristics, not necessarily their background.
First-year	Full-time	Male	In my opinion, UMBC's major strength is its students. They are the most tolerant, open-minded, and kind people I've had the opportunity to be around. I think what UMBC could improve on is the quality of a few of the more tenured professors. Some are completely old-school with no flexibility in their teaching style or views. The school could also make a greater emphasis on healthy living. While UMBC is very focused on academics, I'd like for the school to make it easier for students to get healthier food. Perhaps through simple things such as including bottled water and not just soft drinks as part of a meal and creating an on campus (small) grocery store. Aside from these issues, UMBC seems to be heading in the right direction.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Surveys are an ineffective means of gathering information
First-year	Full-time	Male	just that a quarter of the guys here are decent, a quarter are sub-par, and the rest are weirdos.
First-year	Full-time	Male	I love UMBC. The high school I went to was 98% Caucasian and the diversity here is something that I have come to quickly love and wouldn't ask for it any other way. Given the choice again, I would go to UMBC every time! One of the only criticisms I have for this institution is that there is not enough school spirit or respect for athletes on campus. Athletics and academics need to find an equilibrium so that it is not completely one sided towards the academic aspects.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Boring
First-year	Full-time	Male	needs more PONIES
First-year	Full-time	Male	I don't know how UMBC did it, but they accepted every misfit while successfully avoiding more 'normal' people.
First-year	Full-time	Male	I would be cautious with the information that I have provided you with because I have only studies at UMBC for one semester. Secondly, the closet think I can relate my experience to my high school's IB program.
First-year	Full-time	Male	I LOVE UMBC! FREEMAN IS THE MAN!!
First-year	Full-time	Male	My time at UMBC has been very interesting. I am a freshman, so my first semester was spent getting acclimated to the school. Especially as a biochemistry major, there were hardcore classes that were both demanding and hard. So I was not involved as much on campus. However, now that I am in my second semester and have got acclimated and know exactly what works for me and what does not, I am able to join other groups and organizations (such as SGA) and meet people that I would not otherwise met. And overall, enriching my undergraduate experience.

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First-year	Full-time	Male	UMBC Needs to get there act together if I did not have friends here I would leave
First-year	Full-time	Male	this survey is sooo stupid
First-year	Full-time	Male	Overall it's a good campus but maybe too small for me. Still trying to figure out what I am truly passionate for.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Pretty fantastic education here, minus Dr. Vetter's garble!
First-year	Full-time	Male	OverallI feel that UMBC has provides many opportunities for both personal success and making a positive influence in other people's lives. I'm very glad that I'm a part of its community.
First-year	Full-time	Male	N/A
First-year	Full-time	Male	UMBC is a fantastic institution and every student that attends UMBC is blessed!
First-year	Full-time	Male	What I love about UMBC is that it doesn't play games like other institutions. With a focus on STEM and Public Policy, along with an emphasis on undergraduate education, it's exactly what any pragmatic person is looking for when trying to get a foot into a tertiary education.
First-year	Part-time	Female	I'm thankfull to share the opportunity of being one, among another new students of UMBC.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I would like to see the coding system for this questionnaire.
Senior	Full-time	Female	UMBC was a great institution that fit what I needed when I first came here, but now that I am nearly graduation I find that I am growing out of it and ready for something different.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I would ask for my money back, but I had a full-ride scholarship. I suppose you get what you pay for.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I've always thought that UMBC has a good quality of education, and is very encouraging of its students to reach out for opportunities. UMBC is also good at providing support for students seeking internships or employment after graduation. Needless to say, as long as the student seeks out the opportunities, the opportunities ARE there. The class size is a bit large though, and gets complicated by all the classes also having discussions- maybe offering more classes per semester than just the one time slot, and making discussions optional (like just have SI), so it's more on the student. Because it really is on the student once they leave college. You shouldn't leave them with the impression that others will provide the extra time, when it's the student who should be putting in the extra time and effort to get help if they need it.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Nothing was handed to me, I worked hard to get to UMBC. I was put on probation my first year for no fault of my own except I could not find the classes I needed because I needed to be a full-time. I had to sign up late because my schedule would not allow me otherwise. Just saying. I have proved since then I am a competent student despite migraines I get once in a while and my allergies I deal with. Also, I would like to take a bit of time here to inform that the school needs more selections of food that does not always includes soy because I am one of many who suffers from an allergy from SOY products. There is so much thought for other allergies but, not to soy because it is not seen so often, but that does not mean they are not there and they can and will manifest themselves at any time.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel that the way advising should kind of be revised, i have talked to many people that have felt advising to be kind of useless. Until now I have found an advisor who I truly love because she makes me feel like if she cares, by opening her doors at her most busiest time and encouraging me to my path of success.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I am pleased with everything at my university except for the Office of Registrar. They have consistently created problems for many people I know, such as providing certificates enabling graduation, and then after graduation saying, we revoke your graduation and you must return to finish taking classes without a clear explanation, or responding to proper emails we requests to take questions elsewhere, when their department is the one that clearly handles such issues. They have been unhelpful when searching for information. While studying abroad, all questions I asked the office were not responded to properly and I had to go through my study abroad adviser for them to respond to me about registration and credit specific questions. I have been very dissatisfied with their service and it has almost caused me a few problems. Other than that, the teachers I have had have been wonderful, incredibly intelligent and able to help me with any sort of question or problem I have had. I learn many things, and am pushed to give as best an effort as I can. They are really incredible people that I am happy to have met and learned from. Though my department is rather new, it is already making things easy to be a part of the community and create a sense of togetherness. I am quite happy with this aspect of my school and look forward to my final semester there.
Senior	Full-time	Female	This institute provides numerous opportunities to get involved in yet the course assignments are so time consuming that one hardly gets time to do anything else than course related work. Also, the parking is too limited and it takes about 30-40minutes to find a parking and get to class.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I enjoyed that this survey made me think about what I do and how it does and doesn't align as well as it can with my lifestyle.

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Senior	Full-time	Female	UMBC has changed my life for the better being able to interact with people from many countries has allowed me to grow personally. Also, the challenging course work continued to push me to my goals.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The chemical engineering professors are on point and I will greatly miss the department upon graduation.
Senior	Full-time	Female	In terms of administration (i.e the Registrar, Office of Student Billing, ResLife, Counseling Services, Health Servicesetc.) UMBC needs to perform at a much higher standard. I would say that the times that I have been most frustrated, disappointed, or dissatisfied with UMBC would be when I have to deal with an administrative office.
Senior	Full-time	Female	UMBC is awesome!
Senior	Full-time	Female	I have been very blessed to be a part of the educational and social community at UMBC. I have been challenged in many ways, both academically and spiritually, and realize now, as I prepare to graduate, that every class I've taken, every difficult and rewarding experience I've had, and every new friend I've made at UMBC have been used by God to deepen my friendship with Him and to shape me into who He made me to be. For that, I am very thankful.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I gained the most from the lab that I work in at UMBC, without pay and without credit. It is the main reason that I would come to UMBC again, because the people who work in my lab, grad students, post-docs, research techs, and PI, are all brilliant and have taught me so much. The only course I took at UMBC that was really great was Biochemistry.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I have really enjoyed my experience at UMBC, however there are a few things I wish would change. First, the service I have received when dealing with the registrar's office has been rude or sub-par. I have had to get enrollment verifications filled out for a scholarship, and they have frequently been late and I feel many of the front desk staff there do not understand the basics of customer-service. Many of the other students I have spoken to have expressed the same frustration. Second, I am the President of an organization on campus, and have frequently had to deal with the reimbursement from the office located in 334B in the Commons. Every time I go into that office, the rules for reimbursement are slightly different. One time they needed only a RESGAF, one time only a Post Event form, one time both. One time they refused to accept my reimbursement request until I taped my receipt to a 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of paper, which I thought was quite ridiculous, as I was not told this upfront. Finally, our organization uses their pizza ordering procedure to order pizza for meetings. We submitted the request for pizza 3 days in advance, as they asked. However, they forgot to call in our order, so we never got the pizza we should have had and promised members. When I went to their office they told me that they couldn't do anything about it, and that we'd just have to figure something else out. I was very dissatisfied. I speak for my fellow officers and others I have spoken to on campus who have said that the service in this office is poor and the staff are frequently not knowledgeable or rude. Third, many of the professors I have had at UMBC have been fantastic. However, I have had a few professors that have been frustrating. I took MATH410 in Fall 2012, and that class was crazy. The professor did not grade ANYTHING the entire semester because he didn't have a grader and didn't want to do it himself. He finally stopped assigning homework because he realized he wasn't going to grade it. He gave multiple "quizzes" every class on new material directly after he "taught" it without any examples. He frequently cancelled class, or rescheduled for 8am on a different day. This was the most frustrating class I have had as I did not know how I was doing. There are also some professors at UMBC who everyone will admit are the nicest people and really know their math, however they cannot teach. From what I understand, these professors have tenure, thus they cannot be dismissed for poor performance. However, I feel that there should be some policy in place where if a professor's performance falls dramatically/there are multiple complaints, something will be done. It is not fair to students who are stuck with these professors when they are the only ones teaching a required course. It causes some students to switch majors. I hope you will consider these concerns, as I have heard them frequently when speaking with my peers. I would be happy to discuss the issues further with someone if you would like.
Senior	Full-time	Female	As a commuter, it was extremely difficult to feel a sense of belonging to the campus community.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I really love my school, I made the right choice to come here. I am a performing arts student, and how to pursue acting and theatre arts, but also see how my skills in theatre and arts can be translated towards many different fields and efforts.

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Senior	Full-time	Female	In my opinion, an education should be about growth in all aspects of life (mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually, etc.). I find UMBC stresses the mental, but it has lost the idea of physical growth and well-being. It is much easier to expand the mind when physical fitness is a part of the daily routine. Physical fitness provides increased emotional stability and promotes happiness. However, the conditions of the RAC are horrible and fail the students in their personal quests for physical fitness. There is not enough equipment for the 13,000 students we have attending our school. The hours are not long enough to accommodate class and studying schedules. The equipment is not in good condition and is a safety concern because most of it is broken. There is a lack of sanitary wipes to disinfect the machines after they are used. This is a problem. PLEASE improve this space so that UMBC students can all have the opportunity for better physical health, overall wellness, and consequently a better educational experience.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Great college, but sometime faculty incorporates their political beliefs in the lessons.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I am currently student interning at a Baltimore County middle school which has consumed my time this semester. I feel extremely fortunate to have a fantastic host school and mentor teacher. I have a prior degree and am a returning student due to career changes. What a change in the commuter school that I once attended thirty years ago - all for the best! My professors have been fantastic and I have learned much. I have made many friends from all walks of life - what a wonderful experience my second time around has been.
Senior	Full-time	Female	There is no social life at UMBC. The education is great, but the food is terrible and there is a lack of general campus involvement in activities.
Senior	Full-time	Female	GREAT SCHOOL and I would never go anywhere else but I thought I would graduate with a good looking degree which would hopefully get me a job, but instead I will be graduating with nothing to show for it and no job...thanks UMBC
Senior	Full-time	Female	My experience at UMBC has been from the perspective of a student who had the opportunities in high school to take advanced courses and I had a great deal of support at home. Because of this I was able to join scholarship program as well as the Honors College, which provides me with more opportunities and support at the University. Additionally, I was able to skip almost all of my introductory level courses, which means, being a humanities major especially, I have only experience smaller more intimate classes where I can get to know my peers and professors. I feel very lucky in my college experience and I chose UMBC because I knew that I would have those opportunities here. I don't feel that I can speak in any way for students who don't have those advantages.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I came from Notre Dame of Maryland UNiversity when i transferred to UMBC junior year. Both are 4 year colleges but still many things transferred over as electives and were not fair and still having trouble making them count as credits toward degrees. Also, I started as a Biology/UNdecided Major at the first school and tried to take classes over at UMBC and they are way ahead of me even though they said I would be fine from transferring from that school. I also am taking a higher level Biology 303, but they said I need to take Biology 142 alower level biolgy and I tried to convince the department of biology that i already took the lower course in a different way but he insisted I take it anyway and I cant because I had to take a lower level math but I scored low on the math because at my old school you didnt need precalc, only statistics and since i didnt pass the math placement, i had to go to an even beginner course. Also i took a Genetics course at my old school and they recently changed it from a 300 to a 100 level course, i transferred and I had to take genetics again because it was a 300 at UMBC and i had to fight for it again so i didnt have to take it. Now i am totally lost in the world of Biology and may just have to quit and i waisted my time.
Senior	Full-time	Female	UMBC has helped me develop into a well-rounded individual. Attending UMBC has been one of the best decisions I have ever made.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Lectures need to be scheduled on DIVERSE days!! Having every other lecture on a Wednesday at 4 SEVERELY limits the number of students who can attend, which is decidedly unfair when half the lectures are never posted electronically after completion.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Some of the visual arts advisors are severely lacking. I tend to go into advising having planned what I am taking / need to take because the first question I am asked is "So what do you need to take?" Thus if I wasn't as good of a planner or didn't care as much my advising experience could have led to me not graduating in time. I tend to know more about general/ departmental requirements than she does.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I experienced harassment at my school and residential life did very little to help me in the process until the issue escalated and the police got involved. I also have two parents with cancer and, aside from counseling services, received very little support from my professors or the college to not feel alone through the experience.

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Senior	Full-time	Female	I have had one excellent teacher that has made my entire experience at UMBC, and his name is Dwight Polk. I've been incredibly disappointed with many of my other teachers and overall experience at UMBC. However, through what I've learned from Mr. Polk and my clinical experiences becoming a paramedic, I feel very prepared and excited to graduate and start working in a career fire department as a Firefighter/Paramedic. One thing I would like to comment about regarding UMBC is the gym. It is absolutely inappropriate for a relatively large college to have only 2 upright bikes and 4 arc trainers available to students. Also, the weight room is very minimal and is often so crowded it is very difficult to get a good workout. Working out is a huge part of my life as well as a hobby. Also, it is very important to my career. If I wasn't as physically fit as I am, I would never get into a career fire department, as physical testing is a requirement. I shouldn't have to plan my entire day around when the UMBC gym will be the least busy.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Although we are ethnically diverse, so much racism still persists. It saddens me that at the college level, I was referred to as "nigger." Education and togetherness is supposed to broaden our views but things like this still happen. I understand that not everyone can be changed but it still shocks me.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The advising staff at UMBC is the worst I have ever seen in any school I have attended, and country I have lived in. Because of poor advising, I had to attend one additional semester at this institution. I was advised to take classes that should never be taken together; I was misinformed (even though I asked for advice on the matter two semesters in a row) about graduating requirements. It was not until I was assigned a new advisor that I had my questions answered, at which point damage to my plans and academic progress had already been done. Most of the professors do not care about teaching us something valuable. Their main priority is their research, and they act like it is our fault that they are required to teach classes. Syllabi change frequently, there are not clear due dates on some of them, and the majority of homework assignments and projects are vague, abstract and irrelevant to what we are presented in class. About eighty percent of the professors do not bother creating notes of their own. They usually read out loud power point slides that are provided from the book without explaining the topic clearly. At the same time, we are expected to master everything on our own. Most required classes discuss abstract ideas that are clearly topics for research, not class material. I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of classes I have taken at UMBC that actually helped me acquire technical and problem solving skills I could use in the real world. Many of the teaching assistants do not know to solve homework problems, cannot answer questions, and are available only two hours per week, yet they are given the position of a teaching assistant. Class scheduling and the variety of classes offered are incredibly poor. Most classes are scheduled on the same day/time, so for example, out of 10 CS classes offered, 5 are relevant to my graduation requirements, 2 of them are scheduled at the same time as other two classes, and there is one more class to "choose" from. Mixed graduate/undergraduate classes mainly focus on the needs and knowledge of the graduate students, leaving undergraduate students to "learn on their own". I did not attend this university do get involved in research. Yet, most classes require you to do an enormous amount of searching for information to the point where you begin to ask what was you money spent for? Certainly not on hiring professors who actually care and want to teach.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I am an international student and coming to UMBC has been the best experience of my life. My family can barely afford it. I have a \$120,000 loan but it's going to be okay because of the knowledge I have gained and have grown sooooo much and become so independent and involved. It will take me the longest time to pay up these loans in order to eventually pursue graduate school but I know something will work out because of the education I have received. I am so thankful for everyone at UMBC who has helped me become who I am. Leaders like Dr. Hrabowski and Dr. Young have inspired me to do big things.
Senior	Full-time	Female	This survey is too long!
Senior	Full-time	Female	Thank you for providing and environment where the students, teachers, faculty, and staff believe in helping one another succeed.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I believe when I graduate from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, I will have the skills, abilities, and strategies necessary to make an impact in the community, workforce, industry, and the world around me.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Studying at UMBC was one of the best choices I have ever made. I wish to complete my Master degree there and keep my enthusiasm to improve my self and contribute in a positive way in any community I may live, thank you UMBC for open your doors
Senior	Full-time	Female	Professors should provide solutions to computational assignment after giving back the homework to students. Students can study the solution and figure out what they did wrong. Many professors do not give detailed feedback on the assignments.

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Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	academic advising has been a pretty horrible experience for me. I dont think I'm the only student to think this. I have had very ill-informed advisors who have instructed me to sign up for courses I did not need. Figuring out if I was eligible to graduate at a certain time felt like a mind game because of the different titles of requirements I needed to fulfill my degree. I feel that it is important to streamline the course selection for majors as it is unclear which class counted as a "professional development class" and was does not. please make it easier to plan.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Music department is FABULOUS. Helps develop students into amazing musicians! There NEEDS to be a department devoted to MUSIC EDUCATION. Right now, the music department and education departments are separate. This is not ideal and leaves HUGE gaps in effective preparation. There should be classes devoted to elementary music education methods as well as secondary music education methods. This is a HUGE weakness in your program.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The diversity here in more than just statistics (activities, courses, everything) is fantastic!
Senior	Full-time	Female	umbc IS THE BEST UNIVERSITY. If i could start over again, I still choose UMBC to attend. I LOVE UMBC so much. Thank you very much for giving me such a great place to learn my academe knowledge. Thank you very much to all professor who taught me in these years. Thank you very much to principle who manage a good school.
Thank you very much for all these. I love UMBC !!!!! UMBC is the best!!! =)			
Senior	Full-time	Female	Feels somewhat lowbrow at times, not many things which does not seem to help at times and some programs I just learned about or misinformed about.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I really enjoyed UMBC. The staff was great and very supportive. The students were diverse and respectful of one another. Overall, I feel that I have received a quality education.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I started out as a biochem major at UMBC. I changed to psychology mainly because of the science classes at UMBC. I disagree with the teaching method of "we are going to inundate and overwhelm you with information, use the exams to see what information stuck, and curve the final grade by 23% points". Furthermore, aspects of our grade were dependent on skills that we were not taught, and could not be found in our textbook. I paid for a service which I was not getting through UMBC's biology or chemistry department (except for Dr. Eisenmann who rocks), so I switched to my second love, psychology, and actually found professors who care about students understanding all the concepts and applications. I would never recommend this institution to a prospective science major.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Many of the staff (advisers or office workers) do not seem friendly and like they do not want to help in any way. In many classes I feel like I am expected to just regurgitate information instead of actually learn and understand it. Some classes it is not clear what is expected to know for tests. Some (only 1 or 2) classes seem disorganized or unclear as to what is required for the course. Came in as a transfer student and still have not felt welcome to learn about campus resources like a freshman would be. Do not feel connected to or involved in the college community as a commuter student.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Many of the cultural, political, societal and etc. questions concerning the content in my courses during the current year didn't apply because I have taken strictly science and math courses. The other questions concerning those topics (but not about the course content) I found hard to answer. My school stresses the importance of all of those issues, but it hasn't really contributed greatly to my knowledge of them because I was already very knowledgeable. I live in a very diverse part of Montgomery County and have attended a very diverse public elementary, middle school and high school. Personal experience just from talking to and meeting different people and friends, seeing different things and experiences in the real world taught me the importance of these issues and topics, not my college institution. Questions about perspectives on topics such as these seemed to dominate this survey and I felt that they were very vague and the answer choices couldn't reflect what I really wanted to answer. Like the one about personal wants over others and giving back to society.. right now I am putting my personal needs over others because I need to sort out my life and eventually be independent and live on my own.. not because my institution hasn't taught me the importance of these societal needs or because I'm an selfish or ignorant person. And does "others" refer to my family or the society as a whole, because my answer would be different for each. I personally don't think the results of this survey could even come close to showing some sort of representation of UMBC's or any institution's efficacy in what your survey is trying to measure.
Senior	Full-time	Female	This university while being convenient to my residence, is also very culturally and academically diverse. I don't have to look far on campus to find someone with a different viewpoint from my own. I love that I am able to get the opportunity to interact with so many different folks from so many different ages and backgrounds. My attendance at this University has fostered my thirst to pursue graduate and post graduate education.

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Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	If I have learned anything from this school, it is how to teach myself. I've attended several different higher educational institution because I've moved my times during my college career, and at this school I have experienced a higher concentration of ineffective teachers than anywhere else. I've been extremely disappointed in the quality of the education I've received. I do not feel well prepared to enter the work force and I regret choosing UMBC. I feel my time there has generally made me a more frustrated and less optimistic person, and in the time I've spent there, I've become less inclined to participate in extracurricular activities that occur on campus or involve the school. I find myself to have become very disillusioned with the 'college experience'.
Senior	Full-time	Male	<p>MORE PARKING FOR COMMUTERS. If you are not on campus before 10:00 AM, then you might as well go back home (unless you want to spend 30 minutes looking for a parking spot and then 15 minutes walking across campus from the stadium lot to the Engineering Building). At any given moment during the day, the gated faculty lot by the Physics building is at 20% capacity. Hmm...maybe we could take some of those spots away from the faculty members WHO AREN'T EVEN USING THEM and give them to commuters.</p> <p>Also, having to be a "well-rounded student" and being required to take arts & humanities, culture, language, and physical education classes is ridiculous. It especially bothers me (and not just me, but pretty much everyone in my classes) as an Engineering student. Why is it that I get stuck having to take history classes, philosophy classes, archaeology classes, music classes, psychology classes, etc., and then psychology majors, music majors, philosophy majors, history majors, and archaeology majors don't have to take engineering classes? If I have to take those classes, then psychology majors should have to take Thermodynamics. Or Space Flight Design. Or maybe Automatic Controls and Vibrations? I could have graduated three semesters ago if it wasn't for the general education classes. The reason I'm in college is because I know what I want to do with my life, so I shouldn't have to make room in my schedule to satisfy arts & humanities credits. If you come in to UMBC with an "undecided" major, then that's one thing. But if you've already declared a major before your freshman year, it doesn't make sense to have to take those classes.</p> <p>Another thing...the Student Events Board for the past four years has been absolutely terrible. Maybe the school would bring in more money if their events staff actually booked bands that the students cared about. I know people in the Student Events Board, and I've seen how it works. They don't even consider bands that the students ask for. It's a group of 10 or so people who decide amongst themselves who they want to get for Quadmania, and they don't poll the student body or anything. How many times have they had to move the performing act from the RAC to the UC Ballroom because ticket sales were so low?</p> <p>All that being said, UMBC is the best school in the nation for Engineering, and I would apply here all over again if I was back in high school. And another thing, President Hrabowski is by far one of the most powerful men in the country, and if he ever decides to run for president of the United States (which he should), I would vote for him in a heartbeat (he'd be better than the president we have now, that's for sure).</p>
Senior	Full-time	Male	There should be a greater emphasis on the arts, we feel very ignored.
Senior	Full-time	Male	It would be nice to have a central information site that contains teachers and their research going on, and if they are currently looking for students to assist with research during the summer or other time.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Some of these questions solicit answers that are by nature unclear. For example, they ask if the university promotes engagement in a particular event sponsored by the university, but it seems taken for granted that the promotion and sponsorship of such events is a positive thing. There was no option for poll-takers to register dissatisfaction with what the university promotes on campus. The way a university addresses cultural or religious differences may be very negative, for example, but it would be incorrect to answer the question by saying that they do not emphasize such events.
Senior	Full-time	Male	UMBC is socially boring. However, it is a very good academic institution.

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Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	I love UMBC and always will. It is a school unlike any other and I am proud to graduate from this university. This school emphasizes working hard and understanding other people, two things that I think are vital to learn if one wants to make a difference in the world. The coursework was always rigorous and I had to work my hardest to compete. The social environment I think is what makes this university so unique. Because of the demographics of the area surrounding UMBC and the academic and social appeal the university has, UMBC draws to it so many different and unique people. I don't think it is possible to be socially involved in this university and graduate from it with a closed minded perspective of other cultures, just because of the amount of exposure students have to people who think differently from them. That being said, UMBC could work a little on appealing to students to become more socially involved in the university. It is relatively easy for a student to spend their entire UMBC experience without expanding their social circle because many clubs and events aren't publicized as strongly the way they are in other universities. To get involved in the school, students need physically to put themselves out there. The lack of an appealing college town nearby and places for students to go on weekends doesn't help either because there is no place for students to meet, randomly or otherwise, other than their dorm room, the library or the commons. It makes it a lot easier for someone to spend all year away from other students. I also wish the university advocated entrepreneurship more. I am currently looking to start a business and although I learned so much from UMBC about leadership and how to interact with other people, I learned nothing about money or starting a business. I am positive however that UMBC will only become better and improve itself and that when my younger brother graduates, he will love the university as much as I do.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Was full time student up until current semester.
Senior	Full-time	Male	UMBC has been a great experience and really grown me as a person. I have been involved in the Office of Residential Life for three of the four years I have been here and developed many skills that will help me both as a working professional and a leader. The History Department was very supportive and well run, and I have nothing but compliments for them. I learned not just what to study, but how to study while working through my history courses. On the other hand, while working the Education Department for my Education Certification I encountered unclear expectations on a frequent basis. The Education Department does not do a good job of communicating expectations to students, interns, or even professors. Going back to positives, UMBC's Office of Residential life is well run and provides top of the line services to on-campus students at all levels, from educational programs to professional development.
Senior	Full-time	Male	UMBC does not encourage physical activity for its student population. Campus life would be much healthier (on average) if the gym equipment were repaired and if the gym itself was expanded to accommodate for the growing campus population. Safety is not a priority on this campus. Theft is all too common and the loop is not at all a safe place to be after sunset.
Senior	Full-time	Male	A disservice is done to students when the convenience of administration and faculty is given higher priority than the welfare and education of the student body. If new curricula are demonstrated to aid in students' intellectual development, then that is a good reason to institute them. When they are foisted upon students because instructors find the new curriculum easier to work with, the quality of education is not considered. What is the supreme consideration of an institution of higher learning? UMBC has the right answer, leading to success for its students. UMBC is also open to the wrong answer, with a shift in that direction visible in introductory classes that are more and more closely coming to resemble flunk-out operations than introductions to STEM fields. The university has the formula for success. It is not one worth changing when it is nationally recognized as the standard of how to efficiently outperform major universities with fewer resources and less funding.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I feel as I paid tons of money for a sheet of paper with no meaning. The learning I did I did on my own with the assistance of one or two professors. This institution's liberal bias is disgustingly obvious conservatives are not welcomed here period. For a school that prides itself on diversity and tolerance, it is pathetic that the only thing tolerated is liberal ideology. Having your views ridiculed in class or in public events constantly really undermines your faith in the education people are receiving at the institution, since they only are introduced to one way of thinking. At least present both types of ideology.
Senior	Full-time	Male	In regards to diversity, other measures should be included (most importantly sexuality, gender identification and sex). I believe we have other big issues at hand that are not just divided by religion or racial/ethnic background and not acknowledging these factors in this survey was disappointing.

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Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	UMBC has given me some of my worst memories as a human being. I regret every moment spent here.
Senior	Full-time	Male	NOPE... make the survey shorter and more engaging please for future students.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Currently attending University of Maryland, Baltimore County - campus needs better parking & more resources for commuting students.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Great school, learned a lot here and happy that I'll be getting a degree from here.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I suppose that as a senior, the biggest disappointment in my education was the lack of work-related experience. As I attempt to find a job, I am noting that many positions that are open are requiring not only advanced degrees, but a significant number of years of experience in a particular field. While my institution cannot provide all the education or experience for advanced positions to an undergraduate, I am still left feeling slightly unprepared for the labor force. I would have appreciated more opportunities for variety in the school's approach to offering classes with internships or work-experience, and the opportunity to begin internships after the freshman year.
Senior	Full-time	Male	For better or worse, UMBC has helped me become a better and stronger person; I just hope it was worth it.
Senior	Full-time	Male	400 level is where the real learning is at.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I'm in a top notch university and have top notch professors, but I would say that there is an over-emphasis on working in groups in the classroom. I appreciate that working collaboratively is an important skill, but the quality of the collaboration is only as good as the students with whom one is assigned to work. Where a professor is trained and knows his or her material inside and out, students can come to a group with a wide range of skills, knowledge, and levels of motivation; for better (and sometimes) for worse.
Senior	Full-time	Male	The institution I am attending has done next to nothing to help me with my education. Moreover, the institution touts its diversity but does little, if anything, to foster debate or encourage these diverse groups to mingle.
Senior	Full-time	Male	My experience at UMBC has been one of the most greatest learning processes for me. All the ups and downs, good and bad but I persevered and never gave up on my one true goal here. Life is a learning process and UMBC was a great part of it.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I am probably not a model student.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I feel like the education here is great. I have been fortunate enough to have had good professors in almost all of my classes; not to say that it was easy, but they were very much interested in educating and constructed the class so that we grow under the stress. It's not perfect but I feel like I've learned a lot. However, that is all within my major, chemistry. I feel like I have not learned a great deal about the applications of what I'm learning to the real world and how chemistry affects everyday life as well as regular ethics and cultural things so sometimes I feel like I am behind humanities major students in terms of "social education"
Senior	Full-time	Male	I love UMBC
Senior	Full-time	Male	What is the point of this survey? There are a myriad of ethnic groups at UMBC but they only interact between each other unless it is study related.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Sometimes I feel that some instructors are not organized or well-equipped with themselves to effectively teach a class. Objectives should be clearly stated and instructors need to rely less on powerpoint and integrate some substance into what they feel is important about a topic.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I really do not want to fail at UMBC, I hope that everything goes well for me and that one day I can give back to this school and country.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I would encourage the continued support and development of a Young Scholars Program and Community.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Student Support Services at this campus is extremely underfunded and under-staffed
Senior	Full-time	Male	I feel like some teachers are more interested in their research than teaching and I feel that it causes courses to lack in engaging material. I also feel that there is a lack of emphasis on obtaining internships on campus or there is a lack of helpful information about it.
Senior	Full-time	Male	void null
Senior	Full-time	Male	When I talk to people at school, or anywhere for that matter, I do not usually ask them about their economic background until I get to know them very well. Therefore I often don't know this information. I interact with people I like. This has happened to be a very diverse group of people for my whole life. I do not seek out friends of different races, cultures or socio-economic backgrounds. I find this behavior to be extremely obnoxious. I don't like it when people do it to me. I interact with people I like and they are often from different backgrounds than my own.
Senior	Full-time	Male	TRY TO MAKE THE SURVEY SHORTER

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Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	I'm a 35 y.o. multiple-tour veteran of the Iraq war who initially started college right out of H.S., but decided to pursue military service before graduating. I've also gained private industry work experience prior to returning to school to complete my degree. So, as a non-traditional student, with a multi-cultural ethnic background, I haven't relied on my university experience to provide me with or introduce me to the concept of a personal "world-view," or to initiate the development of an ethical code of conduct. While UMBC certainly provides multiple opportunities for this sort of learning and growth, I'd characterize my experience here more as a continued-learning opportunity to continue to explore existing interests in other cultures/traditions.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Language should not be a requirement for graduation. If UMBC did not require language, I would have 3.84 GPA.
Senior	Full-time	Male	This whole nation's emphasis on STEM is misplaced. Learning the theory behind science and technology is well and good, but before 4 years of it pass, we're all sick. Sick, with all the inspiration beaten out of us. Give us real problems to work on, real job skills, teach us to make a difference. UMBC's STEM program may look good on paper, and sound nice when Dr. Habrowski speaks about it, but higher achievement means absolutely nothing when there's no real education at college.
Senior	Full-time	Male	UMBC is a great institution only issue is the divide between commuters and on campus students, the different priorities of the two groups makes for a somewhat awkward social setting for interactions.
Senior	Part-time	Female	Full time employee, taking classes parttime
Senior	Part-time	Female	While the music department was the perfect fit for me, I have encountered numerous issues with the education department. Most of the faculty members did not provide relevant or challenging material in the majority of my education courses and are difficult to communicate with by e-mail. There was very unclear communication about what was required from fine arts education interns in our secondary observations (music, art, dance, drama). Additionally, I have been in several negative encounters with my Professional Development School supervisor over pursuing something that I believe will benefit my education, and after they were ignorant about multiple pieces of information that one would think would be vital for someone in a supervising position. The education department needs to be seriously revamped. I have and will continue to discourage prospective students from going to UMBC to major in education. If they are majoring in anything else, I would encourage them, because I believe this is an excellent institution.
Senior	Part-time	Female	As a 40 year old woman that has returned to school to finish her degree it is amazing the changes the school has made to stay in touch with the technology. I love that even on a snow day some of my classes can still use blackboard to list or go over an assignment so the class can stay on goal. However, I do feel that many instructors are taking advantage of posting homework assignments at last notice. A class I have on Thursdays I would expect to get my homework assignment at that time. Not Sunday evening by email notice to have finished by midnight Monday night. This has happened often and is a bit annoying since I am a commuter student that works and tries to get all homework finished before the weekend. By the time I am able to check my emails or go onto blackboard after working my weekend shifts, I am exhausted and still have to stay up to finish homework. I am up til 2 a.m. most nights because of last minute add-ons. This is completely unfair and unprofessional in my opinion. I have to work to pay my mortgage and other bills so I can only take part-time classes, but those three classes each semester is allot of work and leaves no time to sleep. I really don't know how some of these kids are able to take five or more classes and do well. However, making sure instructors have to give homework at the appropriate time would be helpful.

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Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Part-time	Female	The biggest issue I have come up against at UMBC has been a general lack of respect for my time. Teachers frequently verbally acknowledge the fact that many, if not most, of the students in their classes have responsibilities outside of school, but it is rarely reflected in their treatment of students. I have frequently had teachers cancel classes last minute, even when they knew they would have to cancel well beforehand. I have teachers change their minds about how a paper should be written when I've already written half of it. Teachers frequently arrive late, return papers late, and fall far behind on their own responsibilities, yet they are not penalized or held responsible. I have frequently had to come in person to deal with clerical issues that should be resolvable through use of the internet, requiring me to find child-care or actually bring my children with me. Through my career at UMBC I have been a wife, a mother, an employee, and so many other roles outside of student. I think the school needs to display greater respect for the time that I've set aside for this.
Senior	Part-time	Female	On this survey, there was a question regarding gender which only had options for male and female. I expected better from UMBC - not everybody fits within the gender binary. Please add an "other" option if this survey is repeated next year.
Senior	Part-time	Female	I think that UMBC does not embrace "older" returning to school students. There are very limited on-line classes and trying to fit my courses into my work schedule is difficult at UMBC. I work full-time and the classes for my degree program are difficult to fit in. I think more emphasis needs to be placed on non-traditional students.
Senior	Part-time	Female	I would like to see this university become more helping for the working individual within the Baltimore and Washington area. Class times and so few online courses make it extremely difficult for the working individual in the Washington and southern Maryland area.
Senior	Part-time	Female	There is absolutely no reason why UMBC should demand that all students take two physical education courses.
Senior	Part-time	Female	Just a survey comment -- gender is not a dichotomous variable. This personal information question needs to be stated as either sex (male, female, intersex, choose to not respond) or as gender (masculine, feminine, transgendered, transitioning, choose not to respond). It is inaccurate and insensitive to have the statement as gender: male/female. Please see that this is corrected for future surveys. Thank you.
Senior	Part-time	Female	I have many issues with University of Maryland Baltimore County. First and foremost is the insistence on oral presentations. I don't think that you consider the toll that it can take on people with extreme anxiety. It is enough to make me quit. I don't feel it is necessary for me to learn and actually find that it is an impediment. For those that can do it and it helps them, that is fine, but for those who are paralyzed by it should have another option so that it is not a constant stressor. Stress impedes progress, motivation, and recall. I also find it ridiculous that some students are paying for classes with no funding, scholarship, or grant.
Senior	Part-time	Female	It is possible to be committed to quality education, invest time and effort to accomplish goals and still have it be a fun experience - what is missing at UMBC is any sense of fun.
Senior	Part-time	Male	As a 71 year old senior citizen striving to acquire a Bachelor's Degree as a personal achievement in my life, the challenges have been great but rewarding. The faculty and staff are to be commended, and the level of diversity should be a model for other colleges and universities. I am encouraging my grandchildren to consider attending UMBC. I think it is an excellent institution for higher learning.
Senior	Part-time	Male	I seriously question whether you are really interested in a response from a 76 year old man, and when I receive surveys and invitations to honor societies I assume that the persons sending them to me are not really paying attention to what they are doing.
Senior	Part-time	Male	Major Complaints: Parking at UMBC is horrendous. Financial Aid, Registrar, and Student Billing Services (formerly Bursar) together have provided one of the worst, almost unforgivable experiences for me as a student, who until very recently, was interacting between the three organizations often.
			Major Compliments: Education as an overall concept is stressed a tremendous amount. While the workload is equally stressful, ultimately, the rewards are much appreciated. Ethnic diversity has lead to (from my standpoint) a relatively dynamic experience.
Senior	Part-time	Male	I have had some racial incidents at the college that have made me a bitter person. The administration seems to support the faculty member(s) that practice this type of behavior. At this point the survey to me is biased and I feel it does not address this issue.
Senior	Part-time	Male	I think my institution is a very good one. I had already been taught a great deal about culture and critical thinking from my parents who are both college professors. That is why I scored my institution lower on how it impacted my development. I was already thoroughly developed.

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University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Part-time	Male	<p>Ever since I have attended this school I've had problems. This has snowballed into one of the most depressing and disgusting experiences of my life. This can be seen as the very first year I came to UMBC I had counselors trying to destroy my academic career. I enrolled in a Chem, Phys, and Math class. I was never told that I would be in a class with about 300 students and thus I would have absolutely no help provided by the school. Naturally I withdrew from the CHEM class and passed the scuba but failed the Math. From there instead of having help provided I had mail with a notice for expulsion if I couldn't bring my grades up. The next semester I retook the math course with a Spanish course (I was told I would never have to take another foreign language course except UMBC is the only school in the country that requires it) and a nice level 300 ENEE course which I had no prerequisites (Calc 1/2, Phys 1/2). I was allowed to register and told it would be a good challenge if I wanted with no information about the prerequisites. So when I took The ENEE class the professor said I was getting the material fine and I should stay with the class because I would just need to know the Calc part besides ENEE part so I stayed and understood it up until the last part of the course in which it became so complex that I did not even attend the final, also I had my other classes which required lots of work. So I got 2 C's and an F and I received a call from a nice faculty member who my Dad and I talked to. He explained exactly what had happened to me and provided no help to me but said he was kicking me from the school until I got my grades back up. I told him at the time my parents were very sick and just having a baby so I had to drive them to the doctors a lot and take care of my brother. To this he just replied you can't do that you need to do school instead and do better work because he actually was kicking me from the school so I could get my grades up then I could return. If I didn't do well after returning from another school with better grades then he would decide to kick me from the school for good. This hurt me because I choose to come to UMBC over college park because I could still live at home even though UMBC is an hour away on a good day sometimes 2 hours one way. As stated before I had to take care of my parents and brother because they are very important and they needed me at home and this is why I choose to go to UMBC. I would have chosen college park over UMBC any day especially with what I now about how UMBC operates. So after getting my grades up and coming back to UMBC I did average and was forced to change my major. There was also the financial part of school that also ended my college career. UMBC was again trying to kick me out and they explained the situation as thus, I had a loan that paid the semester in which I had gotten kicked out of UMBC. The catch was I qualified for the loan but I did not specifically sign on to some website and click a button to say "yes I really want this loan". Once again no help was given on how to resolve this issue except a note that said this school does not want you and if you don't solve this problem within a time frame then there will be a problem. Thus my account was on hold because for this financial reason and I was at risk of not only not going back to UMBC but any college for that matter because I would start having to pay off all my loans as if I already had my career from that point on. So my Dad being a lawyer and knowing more than me helped me by leaps and bounds and we found out how to help ourselves. This actually took a long time and we almost missed the time frame to do anything to help ourselves because it took 2-3 months to find out what to do. We ended up talking to the head of the financial office of UMBC who helped us out. I thought the whole situation was laughable (if I never had to explicitly state that I wanted a loan before or even to this day... why would I have to accept again?) but it was depressing and sickening knowing how real the situation was and how close I was to never being able to have the chance to complete college because of a technicality (for lack of a better word). <u>Thankfully this faculty was able to help me out and from there things did not get better. I would meet with a staff</u></p>
Senior	Part-time	Male	<p>Spring 2013 is my last semester. I'm taking ENG392 with Professor Deborah Rudacille and I have never enjoyed a class more. This class has less than 5 students, more or less working one-on-one with the instructor. The goal is to do real research and prepare two research papers through the semester. The topic choice is totally up to the student. For the first time ever, I don't *have* to worry about my grade. I usually would have to chose not to worry about my grade in order to enjoy the class and learn something meaningful every day, while studying for the class or while attending it. I feel the lack of this sort of pressure enables *real* learning to take place. Otherwise, the students that fret over their grades, within a few months, forget 90% of the very things they learned that got them an A+. I also truly enjoyed ANTH397 with Dr. Paul Donato for the same reasons. In fact I enjoyed all the courses I took with him because his teaching styling is geared more towards *learning* than frightening students about the potential of getting an undesirable grade.</p>
Senior	Part-time	Male	waste of time and nobody gives a shit about surveys. Again waste of time
Senior	Part-time	Male	My time at UMBC is extremely precious to me. I am very happy with my time here and I am proud at how much I have learned and grown as an intellectual humanoid being. I am honored to add Retriever to the many things that I am. When I meet success in the future, I will not ever forget UMBC and I look forward to come back and bring honor to this institution.
Senior	Part-time	Male	umbc is a great academic university, but does not accommodate non traditional students well.

NSSE 2013 Student Comments

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Class	Enrollment	Gender	Comments
Senior	Part-time	Male	University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) is like a black hole. Once it sucks you in, you can never get out. The staff, the faculty, sciences and mathematics' division chairs have a lot of enemies on this so called university. Nobody cares about students and their wants and needs!! UMBC wants to make money and for that, they do not care if they will sell your soul or suck your blood or whatever. I will pay double the cost and send my children elsewhere, they will not and nobody from my family and extended family will ever attend this God forsaken academic institution.
Senior	Part-time	Male	I know that the President may not have control over all of the disciplines or school that make UMBC an entity. There is discrimination and racism that are going inside of the Social Work school. The dean had forced me to drop from Social Work to Sociology because of my physical disability. This issue is now handled by the department of Education. The Social Work director asked me to violate the confidentiality rule by asking me to give him the contact of a client that I have interviewed. Too much are going on inside of that department. I would like the president to take a look at that department because a lot of students are suffering silently. If you want to have an idea about what is going on at the Social Work department, give a survey to current and former students at the sociology and ask them if they were forced to drop from a major to Sociology and ask for the reason. I am sure that you will be surprised.
Senior	Part-time	Male	Questions are vague at times and general to give a good informed answer. I know surveys are hard to create and create good questions, but just like many I've done in the past, this one is in the same ballpark. Though not all Yes or no answers, many of the picks are not consistent for a complete thought to truly answer correctly or state the right feelings about the pick. Sometimes I feel these surveys are leading people down a path that the truth is not really sought, but information that looks well for the survey controllers.