Course Related Policies
Know Your Rights
Know the University of Maryland Policies for Undergraduate Students

This guide was developed to provide you with resources and information relevant to your participation in a UMD course. In the course syllabus you will learn about expectations and resources that are specific to that course. Here you will learn about policies and resources that apply to your experience in all UMD courses.

The University expects each student to take full responsibility for their academic work and academic progress. As a student you have the responsibility to be familiar with and uphold the Code of Academic Integrity and the Code of Student Conduct, as well as for notifying your course instructors in a timely fashion regarding academic accommodations related to absences and accessibility as indicated below.

You have the right to know the expectations set by University Policy. The University of Maryland values the diversity of its student body and is committed to providing a classroom atmosphere that encourages the equitable participation of all students. University Policies outlined below are particularly relevant to your experience in academic courses.

The University of Maryland provides many resources to support your success and wellbeing. Listed below are those that may be of most relevance to supporting you as you engage in your academic mission. For a complete listing of UMD Policies refer to the Office of the President. For a complete guide to the Undergraduate student experience refer to the Undergraduate Catalog. For a summary of policies and resources related to Academic Regulations refer to the Student Success Office.

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Academic Integrity What is cheating? What is plagiarism? What is the Honor Pledge?

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity. The Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students.

There are many ways that academic dishonesty can manifest in a University setting. The Code of Academic Integrity defines four major types of Academic Dishonesty, as described below.

CHEATING: fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in any academic course or exercise in an attempt to gain an unfair advantage and/or intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic course or exercise.

FABRICATION: intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic course or exercise.

FACILITATING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of this Code.

PLAGIARISM: intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic course or exercise.

As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards in your courses. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. The UMD Student Honor Council has detailed information. For any course specific standards for academic integrity, please see your course syllabus or speak to your course instructor.

On every examination, paper, or other academic exercise not specifically exempted by the instructor, you are expected to write by hand and sign the following pledge:

*I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.*

Failure to sign the pledge is not a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity, but neither is it a defense in case of violation of this Code. Students who do not sign the pledge will be given the opportunity to do so. Refusal to sign must be explained to the instructor. Signing or non-signing of the pledge will not be considered in grading or judicial procedures. Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge, submission implies signing the pledge.

University Policy

III-1.00(A) The University of Maryland Code of Academic Integrity

Resources

The Student Honor Council
For information on academic integrity, and what to do if you are referred to the Honor Council by a faculty member.

Office of Student Conduct
For information about Academic Integrity, Honor Pledge, XF petitions.

Writing Center
Assists if you are unsure if you have cited sources appropriately.

Student Legal Aid Office
For answers to questions about legal proceedings and assistance with the disciplinary process.
**Code of Student Conduct** What behavior is prohibited?

The purpose of this policy is to set standards of conduct for all undergraduate and graduate students.

As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards. A complete list of conduct considered prohibited as well as procedures for resolving allegations of misconduct may be found in the [Student Conduct Policy](#). It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of violating the Code of Student Conduct.

**University Policy**

V-1.00(B) University of Maryland Code of Student Conduct

**Resources**

[Office of Student Conduct](#)

[Legal Aid Office](#)
Sexual Misconduct What to do in case of sexual harassment or sexual assault.

The University of Maryland is committed to providing a working and learning environment free from sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct, including relationship abuse, is prohibited by UMD’s Sexual Misconduct Policy & Procedures. The Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct receives all complaints of sexual misconduct.

To report an incident, contact the Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct by phone at 301-405-1142 or by email at titlexcoordinator@umd.edu.

University Policy

VI-1.60(A) University of Maryland Sexual Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Resources

Office of Student Conduct
Use Anonymous Ask for a safe, anonymous space to ask about the Code of Academic Integrity, the Code of Student Conduct, or any conduct-related questions through the Office's.

Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct
For information about the University's compliance with Title IX as well as other federal and state civil rights laws and regulations.
**Discrimination** Procedures to prohibit discrimination, complaints about discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

The University of Maryland is committed to creating and maintaining an educational, working and living environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. UMD's Non-Discrimination Policy & Procedures prohibit discrimination against individuals based on certain characteristics, including but not limited to, disability, sexual orientation, and race. The Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct receives all complaints of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

To report an incident, contact the Office for Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct by phone at 301-405-1142, or email civilrights@umd.edu. For more information go to Office for Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct.

**University Policy**

VI-1.00(B) University of Maryland Nondiscrimination Policy and Procedures

Statement of Classroom Climate

**Resources**

Office of Diversity & Inclusion

Office of Civil Rights and Misconduct

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Equity Center

Nyumburu Cultural Center

Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education (OMSE)
**Accessibility** Information about disability support accommodations.

The University of Maryland is committed to creating and maintaining a welcoming and inclusive educational, working, and living environment for people of all abilities. The University of Maryland is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the University, or be subjected to discrimination. The University of Maryland provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals. Reasonable accommodations shall be made in a timely manner and on an individualized and flexible basis.

Discrimination against individuals on the grounds of disability is prohibited. The University also strictly prohibits retaliation against persons arising in connection with the assertion of rights under this Policy.

Disability Support Services (DSS) facilitates reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals. For assistance in obtaining an accommodation, contact Disability Support Service at 301.314.7682, or dissup@umd.edu. More information is available from the Counseling Center.

After receiving an Accommodations Letter from DSS, as a student you are expected to meet with each course instructor, in person, to provide them with a copy of the Accommodations Letter and to obtain their signature on the Acknowledgement of Student Request form. You and your instructors will discuss a plan for how the accommodations will be implemented throughout the semester for the course. Specific details regarding the implementation of the DSS approved accommodations agreed upon between you as the student and the individual course instructor must be documented and added to the Acknowledgment of Student Request form, and signed by the instructor. You as the student are responsible for submitting the signed original form to DSS and retaining a copy of the signed Acknowledgment of Student Request for your records.

**University Policy**

VI-1.00(D) University of Maryland Disability & Accessibility Policy and Procedures

**Resources**

Disability Support Services
Call 301-314-7682 or email at dissup@umd.edu.

Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct
Where to file a complaint for students who believe that they have been denied reasonable accommodations.
Attendance, Absences, or Missed Assignments Read this prior to Schedule Adjustment date.

The Excused Absence Policy is listed in full below.

Do's and Don'ts related to this policy:

- At the start of each semester: review the course schedules for all of your classes, including the Final Exam Schedule. If you know of an instance (for example religious observance) that will cause you to miss class or an exam, make an appointment to discuss the absence with your instructor BEFORE the end of the schedule adjustment period. Meet with your instructor in an office appointment; do not have this discussion in the classroom.

- Make every effort to come to class: course attendance is linked to learning and academic success.

- If you miss class, inform your instructor as soon as possible.

- If you miss class, collect documentation to support your absence – see details in the policy.

- If you miss class due to an excused absence, meet with your instructor to discuss the appropriate academic accommodation.

- Do not provide false information to your course instructor; providing false information to University officials is prohibited under Part 9(h) of the Code of Student Conduct (V-1.00(B) University of Maryland Code of Student Conduct) and may result in disciplinary action.

I. Policy

An excused absence is an absence for which the student has the right to receive, and the instructor has the responsibility to provide, academic accommodation.

Students are expected to take full responsibility for their own academic work and progress. Students, to progress satisfactorily, must meet all of the requirements of each course for which they are registered. Students are expected to attend classes regularly. Consistent attendance offers students the most effective opportunity to gain command of course concepts and materials. Excused absences must be requested promptly and must be supported by appropriate documentation.

Excused absences do not alter the academic requirements for the course. Students are responsible for information and material missed on the day of absence. Students are within reason entitled to receive any materials provided to the class during the absence. Students are responsible for making provision to determine what course material they have missed and for completing required exercises in a timely manner.

Events that justify an excused absence include:

- Religious observances
- Mandatory military obligation
- Illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member
- Participation in university activities at the request of university authorities
- Compelling circumstances beyond the student's control (e.g., death in the family, required court appearance)

Absences stemming from work duties other than military obligation (e.g., unexpected changes in shift assignments) and traffic/transit problems do not typically qualify for excused absence.

II. Notification and Documentation

To receive academic accommodation for an excused absence:

1. The student must notify the instructor in a timely manner. The notification should be provided either prior to the absence or as soon afterwards as possible. In the case of religious observances, athletic events, and planned absences known at the beginning of the semester, the student must inform the instructor during the schedule adjustment period. All other absences must be reported as soon as is practical.

2. The student must provide appropriate documentation of the absence. The documentation must be provided in writing to the instructor by the means specified in the syllabus.
   a. For medically necessitated absences: Students may, one time per course per semester, provide a self-signed excuse as documentation of an absence from a single class (e.g., lecture, recitation, or laboratory session) that does not coincide with a major assessment or assignment due date. For all other medically necessitated absences, students must provide documentation from a physician or the University Health Center, upon request of the course instructor.
   b. For all other absences students must provide verifiable documentation upon request (e.g., religious calendar, court summons, death announcement, etc.).

3. Providing false information to University officials is prohibited under Part 9(h) of the Code of Student Conduct (V-1.00(B) University of Maryland Code of Student Conduct) and may result in disciplinary action.

III. Academic Accommodations

In keeping with the USM III-5.10 Policy Concerning the Scheduling of Academic Assignments on Dates of Religious Observance, "Students shall not be penalized because of observances of their religious holidays and shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances." For all other excused absences, the student must be provided reasonable accommodation. The accommodation provided should, within reason, neither advantage nor disadvantage either the student or the rest of the class.

If the accommodation is a makeup assessment, it must be timely, at a time and place agreed upon by the instructor and student, cover the same material, and be at the same level of difficulty as the original assessment. In the event that a group of students requires the same makeup assessment, one time and place may be scheduled. The makeup assessment must not interfere with the student's regularly scheduled classes, and must be consistent with the V-1.00(A) University of Maryland Policy on the Conduct of Undergraduate Classes and Student Grievance Procedure. If makeup work is not feasible, an alternate accommodation for excused absences will be provided. Alternate accommodations will be according to the principles established by the unit offering the course.
Students who miss a substantial number of class sessions or course assignments should seek guidance from an academic advisor with respect to academic options. Extended absences stemming from active military duty are addressed in the [USM V-7.00 Policy on Students who are called to Active Military Duty during a National or International Crisis or Conflict](#). Absences related to a student's disability are addressed in the [VI-1.00(D) University of Maryland Disability & Accessibility Policy and Procedures](#).

**IV. Appeals**

Students who feel that they have unfairly been denied either excused absence or appropriate accommodation for an excused absence should first seek to resolve the disagreement with the course instructor. If the student and instructor are unable to find a mutually agreeable resolution, the student may file an appeal with the head of the administrative unit offering the class. In most cases this will be the Chair of the Department. In the case of non-departmentalized units and interdepartmental programs, this role will be taken by the Dean (or the Dean's designee). The unit head should use procedures similar to those specified in the [III-1.20(B) University of Maryland Procedures for Review of Alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading – Undergraduate Students](#) – but with clear indication that the appeal is with regard to excused absence, not arbitrary and capricious grading.

**University Policy**

[V-100(G) University of Maryland Policy on Excused Absence](#)

**Resources**

[Dean's Office of Your Academic Major](#)

A student who wishes to contest a decision by the instructor should consult with the course instructor's department chair and, if necessary, the Dean's Office of your academic major.

[Medical Excused Absence](#)

Template for a self-signed note for medical excused absence.

[UMD Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Detailed information about UMD attendance and absences policies.
Student Rights Regarding Undergraduate Courses What should I find in the course syllabus? Am I allowed to see my exams after they are graded?

The University of Maryland Policy on the Conduct of Undergraduate Courses and Student Grievance Procedure sets the basic expectations for faculty and academic units in providing courses and academic programs that contribute to undergraduate education.

The policy outlines the expectations for an undergraduate course and provides a grievance procedure.

The following are considered to be reasonable expectations of faculty in conducting academic courses:

a. **There shall be a complete course syllabus for the current term made available to students no later than the first day of class at the beginning of each undergraduate course.** Any changes to the syllabus made after the first day of class must be announced and must be clearly represented with the date of the revision. The course syllabus will specify in general terms:

   - Course description including course objectives
   - Content and nature of assignments
   - Schedule of major graded assessments (e.g., examinations and due dates for projects and papers)
   - Examination and/or assessment procedures
   - Mode of communication for excused absences
   - Basis for determining final grades, including if the plus/minus grading system will be used and the relationship between in-class participation and the final course grade
   - Reference to the Course Related Policies web page maintained by the Office of Undergraduate Studies.

In cases where all or some of this information cannot be provided at the beginning of the course, an explanation of the delay and the basis of course development shall be provided.

b. **There shall be a reasonable number of graded assessments or progress reports to permit evaluation of student performance throughout the course.** These assessments shall be returned to the students in a timely manner. Faculty shall issue mid-term grades for undergraduate students when required, in accordance with III-6.00(B), University of Maryland Policy and Procedures Concerning Mid-Term Grades for Undergraduate Students.

c. **There shall be a final examination and/or assessment in every undergraduate course, unless written permission is granted by the unit head.** Changes to exam scheduling and location must be approved by the chair of the department, or the dean of the College, or the appropriate designee. Final examinations or assessments may not be rescheduled to the final week of classes or to the Reading Day. Each faculty member shall retain, for one full semester (either fall or spring) after a course is ended, the students' final assessments in the appropriate medium. If a faculty member goes on leave for a semester or longer, or leaves the university, the faculty member shall leave the final assessments and grade records for the course with the department chair, the program director, or the dean of the College or School, as appropriate.
d. There shall be academic accommodations for students in accordance with University policies, including policies on disability and accessibility, excused absences, and sexual misconduct.

e. There shall be a reasonable opportunity for students to review papers and examinations, including the final examination or assessment, after evaluation by the instructor, while materials are reasonably current.

f. There shall be reasonable access to the instructor during announced regular office hours or by appointment.

g. There shall be regular attendance by assigned faculty unless such attendance is prevented by circumstances beyond the control of the faculty member.

h. There shall be reasonable adherence to the course syllabus.

i. There shall be reasonable adherence to the published academic calendar, campus schedules, and location of classes and examinations.

- Classes not specified in the schedules are to be arranged at a mutually agreeable time on campus, unless an off-campus location is clearly justified.

- Changes to final examination schedules and locations must be approved by the chair of the department, or the dean of the College, or the appropriate designee. However, final examinations or assessments may not be rescheduled to the final week of classes or to the Reading Day.

- No class meetings or required activities may be held on Reading Day. However, individual meetings and makeup exams may be scheduled at the explicit request of the student.

j. Faculty shall endeavor to maintain student privacy with respect to information shared in the course of the student-faculty relationship, subject to legal obligations to report certain information to state authorities and University officials, including child abuse and neglect and sexual misconduct.

k. There shall be public acknowledgement of significant student assistance in the preparation of materials, articles, books, devices and the like. Students retain their intellectual property rights as set forth in the University of Maryland Policy on Intellectual Property.

l. Assigned course materials should be readily available. Faculty must ensure that eligible students receive reasonable accommodations relative to their coursework in accordance with federal and state disability laws, subject to the University's disability and accessibility policies and procedures.

m. The instructor of record is responsible for the overall management of the course, including management of the aspects of the course and coursework delegated to teaching assistants and laboratory assistants.

Grievance Procedure:

If as a student in a course you have a concern or complaint relative to one of the expectations provided in the policy, the policy also describes the process for you to follow. The first step is to meet with your course instructor to share your concern and work with them to find a resolution. If the instructor is not reasonably available to discuss the matter, you as a student may present a grievance directly to the instructor's
supervisor, department chair, or program director. In order to be considered timely under the procedures for Formal Resolution, a grievance must be submitted within twenty (20) working business days after the first day of instruction of the next regular semester.

University Policy

V-1.00(A) University of Maryland Policy on the Conduct of Undergraduate Courses and Student Grievance Procedure

Resources

Undergraduate Program Director in the Department offering the course (see the Department web page) or the Assistant Dean in the College offering the course (see the College web page).

List of Academic Departments and Programs

Undergraduate Student Ombudsperson

For additional information on university policies and procedures.
Official UMD Communication Use of email, communication with faculty, communication about cancelled class meetings, and weather-related or other urgent notifications.

The University has adopted email as the primary means for sending official communications to students. Academic advisors, faculty, and campus administrative offices use email to convey important information and time-sensitive notices. All enrolled students are provided a University email address. Students are responsible for keeping their email address up to date or for forwarding email to another address. Failure to check email, errors in forwarding email, and returned email due to mailbox full or user unknown will not excuse a student from missing announcements or deadlines.

Suggestions for communication with faculty:

- Use an informative subject line, for example: "UNIV555 student request for meeting." Naming the course in the subject line helps the faculty member scan/search their email for notes from students.
- Address the email note, for example: "Dear Dr. Smith." Naming the faculty member will indicate to whom you are addressing the message.
- Sign your message with a complete name and other important information. For example: "Your Name, UNIV555 student, youremail@umd.edu." Signing a message will help the faculty member identify you as a student in the class and provide the method to return a message to you.

UMD Official closures and delays are announced on the campus website at umd.edu and are sent to the campus community via alert emails.

Resources

Help Desk
For email account information and help with email.

UMD Alerts
Learn about UMD Alerts and how to edit your alert settings.
Mid-Term Grades

Course grades are determined by faculty in accordance with information found in the course syllabus. Mid-term grades are submitted for undergraduate students enrolled in their first year, enrolled in 100 and 200 level courses, and all student athletes. Mid-term grades are used to inform students of their performance in a course during roughly the first half of the semester; they are used for advising purposes and are not recorded on a student's academic transcript.

University Policy

III-6.00(B) University of Maryland Policy and Procedures Concerning Mid-Term Grades for Undergraduate Students

Resources

Talk to your course instructor about any questions that you may have about course grades. It is very important that you keep track of your performance in your courses. If you have any questions about how work is graded, or how the final grade will be calculated, read the course syllabus and then ask your instructor. Do not wait until the last day of classes.

If you have a concern after you receive your final course grade, contact your course instructor.

If after meeting with your course instructor you continue to have a concern about your final grade, see the Policy on Arbitrary and Capricious Grading.
Complaints About Course Final Grades

Any questions about course grades should first be addressed to the course instructor.

In the case of Final Course grades the University of Maryland has a procedure for you to follow if you believe that your final course grade was assigned on some basis other than performance, or that the grade was assigned according to unreasonable standards different from those which were applied to other students in the course, or that the grade was assigned in a manner that was a substantial, unreasonable, or unannounced departure from the instructor's previously articulated standards.

According to the policy the grade appeal must be filed within 20 working days after the first day of instruction of the next regular semester.

The grade appeal procedure is outlined in the policy. Note that the policy encourages you to begin by attempting an informal resolution with your course instructor and/or the administrator of the academic unit offering the course.

If you have questions about this policy, you may want to speak to your academic advisor or the Undergraduate Student Ombudsperson.

University Policy

III-1.20 (B) University of Maryland Procedures for Review of Alleged Arbitrary and Capricious Grading (Undergraduate Students)

Resources

Undergraduate Program Director in the department offering the course

List of Academic Departments and Programs

Undergraduate Student Ombudsperson

Information on university policies and procedures.
Copyright and Intellectual Property  Who owns the work that I produce in class.

Class lectures and other course materials are copyrighted and may not be reproduced for anything other than your personal use without the permission of the course instructor. Course materials are the property of the course instructor – do not sell them, do not post them on a website. Be aware that copyright infringements may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

As a student, you own the work that you create as part of your University academic and research activities. Full details and a few limitations are found within the IV-3.20(A) University of Maryland Policy on Intellectual Property.

University Policy

IV-3.20(A) University of Maryland Policy on Intellectual Property

Resources

Office of Student Conduct
Final Exams and Course Evaluations

There will be a final exam or assessment in all undergraduate courses. Final exams are scheduled by the University, and the exam schedule is available for you to review.

Students may seek to reschedule final examinations so that they have no more than three examinations on any given day. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate the rescheduling or be responsible for taking the examination as originally scheduled. When rescheduling is desired, students should first contact their instructors (see Academic Deadlines). Students who encounter difficulty rescheduling examinations with their instructors are advised to contact the dean's office of their academic program for help. Faculty members are expected to accommodate students with legitimate rescheduling requests. Students are strongly encouraged to check the final exam schedule before registering for courses. Exam schedules are based on, but not the same as, the start time of the lecture period for the individual class.

As a student you have the opportunity to complete course evaluations for your courses. Your feedback is used by faculty and departments to improve courses and by other students to make course selections. Please take the time to complete course evaluations for all of your courses.

Students who have completed all of their course evaluations the previous semester (i.e., left none "Pending" in their Evaluations Dashboard) will retain access to the results from the university-wide student set the following semester to help guide their course selection. Students waiving or failing to complete one or all of their course evaluations will not fulfill the necessary requirements for access to any of the results. All questions (excluding open-ended items) on all active course evaluations must be completed during the previous semester's evaluation period in order for the student to gain access to the student-item results the following semester. This requirement is waived for new students (i.e., entering freshmen and new transfers). Student access to course evaluation results is via Testudo.

University Policy

V-1.00(A) University of Maryland Policy on the Conduct of Undergraduate Courses and Student Grievance Procedure

Resources

Final Exam Schedule

Course Evaluation Site
**Campus Resources**  ELMS, counseling, learning workshops, tutoring, writing help, questions about graduation, adding or dropping classes, withdrawing from the semester.

**Resources for Academic Success**

**Use of ELMS**
Resources that will help you navigate ELMS.

**Learning Assistance Services**
Academic counseling, workshops for time management and how to study, and helpful hints.

**Tutoring**
For tutoring services on campus.

**Writing Center**
For help in writing papers.

**Grammar Hotline**
For help with grammar and/or citations call [301-405-3785](tel:301-405-3785).

**University Libraries**
For citation tools.

**Resources for Mental and Physical Health**

**UMD Health Center**

**Mental Health Services in Health Center**
Call [301-314-8106](tel:301-314-8106)

**Campus Advocates Respond and Educate (C.A.R.E.)**
Stop Violence Hotline [301-741-3442](tel:301-741-3442) (24 hours)

**Counseling Center**
Call [301-314-7651](tel:301-314-7651)

**Campus Chaplains**
Call [301-314-9866](tel:301-314-9866)

**HELP Center**
For peer to peer support or call the HELP Center hotline [301-314-4357](tel:301-314-4357) where you can confidentially speak to a trained UMD student (peer-counselor) about any matter that concerns you.

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
Call [800-273-8255](tel:800-273-8255) or the Maryland Crisis Hotline at [800-422-0009](tel:800-422-0009). These resources are both available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Resources about Academic Regulations: Where do I go if I want to drop a class?**

**Student Success Office**
For information about dropping or withdrawing from a course, repeating courses, dismissal, and withdrawal from all courses.