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Your chat conversations are **NOT** being recorded, so if you want to remain anonymous please use the chat!

Graduate Assistants Orientation

Spring 2024















GRADUATE STUDENT & POSTDOCTORAL DEVELOPMENT



Agenda

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10:00 - 10:05 AM Welcome

10:05 - 10:15 AM What is GAAC

10:15 - 11:15 AM GA Handbook

11:15 - 11:30 AM ISSS FAQs

11:30 - 12:00 PM CIRTL and SEA CIRTL certification

12:00 - 12:30 PM Valuable campus resources GAs must know about

12:30 - 1:50 PM Panel of GAs (not recorded)

1:50 - 2:00 PM Closing statement and adjourn
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gsa.umbc.edu/contact-gaac/



gaac@umbc.edu





Nirandi Jayasinghe (she/her/hers)

GAAC Chairperson

Atmospheric Physics, PhD Graduate Research Assistant Department of Physics, UMBC.



Vamshi Krishna Ginna (he/him)

GAAC Committee

Computer Science, Ms Graduate Teaching Assistant Dept of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, UMBC.



Rachel Smith (she/her/hers)

GAAC Committee

Atmospheric Physics, PhD Graduate Research Assistant Department of Physics, UMBC.



RB Berry (they/them)
GAAC Committee

Applied Sociology, MA Graduate Research Assistant Dept of Sociology, Anthropology, and Public Health









WHAT DOES GAAC DO?

Facilitate

Facilitate formal discussions between Graduate Assistants (GAs) and university administration

Represent

Represent positions and opinions of UMBC GAs to the Graduate School, Graduate Senate, and other bodies, where necessary

Coordinate

Legislative work relating to GA's Review of GA Handbook Review of GA Health Insurance

Work

Work as the standing committee to resolve issues facing graduate assistants

Ensure

Ensure collaboration and collegial relationships with administrative partners



ISSUES CONCERNING GAS

\$\$ GA Benefits

• We are rigorously conducting research and are in running dialogue with the Graduate School to provide GAs competitive allowances and benefits, including health insurance, stipends, PTOs, payroll management, etc.



• We are improving communication mechanisms between the GAAC and all GAs at UMBC. At the same time, we engage in Meet & Confer sessions with the administration to convey and discuss issues brought up by GAs.



On Campus Resources

• We have created a running list to useful resources for GAs to meet GA's administrative, academic, financial, mental, professional and health-based needs.



GA Handbook

• We collaborate with the administration to make timely updates to the Graduate Assistants handbook.



Subscribe Us on ...



August 24, 2023



Instagram

TRENDING RI Payments & E Class Search

Student Sche

Account Inqu Transcript (U

Campus Card

We invite you to join the GSA's new Discord as a way for all of us to connected as fellow UMBC Graduate Students.

Click here to join:

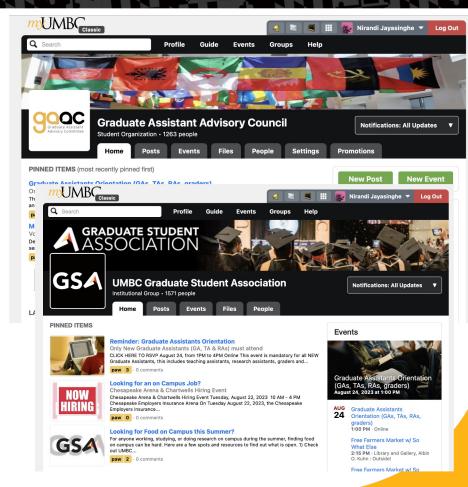
GSA Discord Channel

https://discord.gg/MYR7FDPsdM

- · Receive updates from GSA representatives
- Communicate with your senators
- · Join Town Hall Meetings
- · Participate in Virtual Community Events



UMBCGAAC





The Graduate School at UMBC

Graduate Assistant Handbook "Top 10" Important Facts
For GAs



KEY PEOPLE

Jeffrey Halverson

Associate Dean, Graduate School

Jennifer Artis

Assistant Dean, Graduate School, Office of Graduate Student Life (OGSL)

Shannon Mize

Business Service Specialist, Graduate School

Nirandi Jayasinghe

Co-Chair, Graduate Assistant Advisory Committee (GAAC)

Victoria Sung

International Student Advisor, International Student and Scholar Services Center for Global Engagement



GRADUATE ASSISTANT HANDBOOK



ITE GRADUATE ASSISTANT

HANDBOOK

Read it! Refer to it! Keep it handy!

GET TO KNOW









Join GSA's Discord:

https://discord.gg/MYR7FDPsdM



#2 GA REQUIREMENTS

Basic
Requirements
for Full-time
and Part-time
GAs

- GAs must be <u>registered full-time</u> (9 credits or more) in Spring and Fall
- GAs must be in a degree-granting program
- GAs must be registered in courses that lead toward the degree and/or GPD approved (a GPD may not allow a certain course to be covered under GA tuition funding)



#3 GA CLASSIFICATIONS





#4 GAS APPOINTMENTS

- Annual GAs 12 Months
- Academic GAs 9.5 months
- Single Semester GAs
- Full-time GAs commitment
- Part-time GAs commitment

August - May

very exceptional

August - August

20 hours, **on average**, per week

10 hours, **on average**, per week

Although appointment renewal is not quaranteed, more often than not, appointments are renewed.

International students are not permitted to work more than 20 hrs./week. Contact ISSS with any questions. *** Allowed to work up to 40 hours in the Summer and Winter Break ***



#5 REQUIRED FORMS

ALL GA FORMS ARE LOCATED: https://gradschool.umbc.edu/funding/assistantships/forms/

Appointment Letter – Stipend, tuition remission, fees, insurance

Addendum - Duties, expectations, position description, department specific information.

Tuition Remission form - UMBC Tuition Remission Form

GA Health Insurance application - department will initiate if funded



#6 BENEFITS

Stipend	All GAs (varies across departments)
In- State Tuition	All GAs (Summer Residency)
Sick Leave	All GAs
Parental Leave Fellowship	All GAs (must apply)
Tuition Remission	Department Discretion
Health Insurance	Department Discretion
Mandatory Fees	Department Discretion
Vacation Leave	ONLY 12 Month GAs



#7 GA REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Fall/Spring Semesters

- <u>All GAs</u> (Full-Time and Part-Time) must register as a full-time student **9 credits**
- Full-Time GAs whose total commitment is 20 hours a week have the *option* to register for GRAD 601 (5 credits)
- Part-Time GAs whose total commitment is 10 hours a week have an *option* to register for GRAD 600 (3 credits)

<u>GRAD 601</u> is fixed at **5 credits**. Students who register for this course must register for a minimum of four (4) credits in addition to this course.

GRAD 600 is fixed at **3 credits**. Students who register for this course must register for a minimum of six (6) credits in addition to this course.

GRAD 603 is fixed at **2 credits.** Students who register for this course needs to register for a minimum of one (1) credit in addition to this course. **(Summer Only)**

GAs are not billed for GRAD 600, 601, or 603 <u>AND</u> they do not appear on transcripts

If you receive a message while trying to enroll in GRAD 600/601 which states 'term limit exceeded' please reach out to Associate Dean Jeffrey Halverson (jeffhalv@umbc.edu).



FICA is a federal payroll tax and stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act. It includes contributions to Social Security and Medicare.

Summer Residency
If you are not a GA in the summer but plan on taking classes - please note you will be billed for your original residency rate.

Summer Sessions I/II

- GAs must register for at least 3 credits for both sessions to be exempt from FICA.
- If GAs are not enrolled in regular coursework providing an enrollment of at least 3 credits for Summer I and Summer II students should choose a combination of **GRAD 603** and research credits to satisfy the minimum enrollment requirement.
- Ph.D students who have reached candidacy are allowed to register for either **898 or 899** for summer FICA exemption.



Tuition and Mandatory fees per credit

MANDATORY FEES

READ YOUR APPOINTMENT LETTER BEFORE

- SIGNING TO SEE IF YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FEES!
 - Most Departments **DO NOT** pay mandatory fees
 - Mandatory fees are charged per credit

 - A balance owed for mandatory

fees will prevent registration

International student fee - \$125 Charged once

each semester

Matriculation fee - \$200 (charged only to new

Maryland Resident (per credit)

Non-Resident (per credit)

\$1,237.00

18.00

35.00

Tuition

Transportation Fee*

Auxiliary Facilities Fee

Graduate Program Fee

Campus Engagement Fee* (formerly

Total Tuition and Mandatory Fees

per credit

the University Commons Fee)

27.00

27.00

36.00

17.00

\$880.00

27.00

27.00

36.00 17.00 \$1,397.00

\$720.00 18.00 35.00

Technology Fee Athletic & Recreation Fee*





STATEMENT OF COMPLETION OF DUTIES BY A GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Academic term: C Fall C Winter C Spring C Summer 201
Graduate Assistant ¹ Name:
Graduate Assistant Student ID ² :
Select (and Complete where Prompted) One or More Statement(s):
☐ I performed all duties assigned to me.
☐ I did not <u>perform or</u> I performed some of the duties assigned to me and usedhours of Sick Leave,hours of Parental Leave,hours of Vacation Leave, andhours of Other Long-Term Leave instead. In using authorized paid time away from duties, I complied with the policies and procedures of my supporting department and those articulated in the Graduate Assistant Handbook.
☐ I performed some of the duties assigned to me and forfeit ☐ % (a prorated portion) of my total stipend.
☐ I had no duties assigned to me³.
Graduate Assistant Signature Date Supervisor Signature Date

#8 COMPLETION OF DUTIES

- GAs are required to submit a completion of duties statement at the *end of each semester*.
- Federal Work Study funded GAs are required to complete the form at the end of each pay period.



#9 RESOLVING ISSUES

To assist GAs or Graduate Students through issues such as workload, treatment, reasonable expectations, and coursework, the Associate Dean and or the Assistant Dean is available for consultation.



First attempt to resolve grievance within the program (Supervisor, GPD, Chairperson, GPC, ISSS liaison)



If still aggrieved, consult with Associate Dean of the Graduate School (Dr. Halverson)



GAAC is your advocacy group for matters that affect ALL Gas. GAAC provides a platform specifically for Gas to voice their concerns.



#10 WHO YOU GONNA CALL /EMAIL!!!

Jeffrey Halverson - jeffhalv@umbc.edu

Associate Dean, Graduate School

Jennifer Artis – jartis@umbc.edu

Assistant Dean, Graduate School, Office of Graduate Student Life (OGSL)

Shannon Mize – mize@umbc.edu

Business Service Specialist, Graduate School

Nirandi Jayasinghe - nirandj1@umbc.edu

Chair, Graduate Assistant Advisory Committee (GAAC)

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)

www.isss.umbc.edu/contact





REMINDERS

- Read the GA Handbook!
 https://gradschool.umbc.edu/funding/assistantships/handbook/
- ➤ Read your UMBC email regularly!
- ➤ Review your financial student account on myUMBC!

 myUMBC Billing and Personal Finances
- ➤ Open your e-bill!

 You will receive a notification via email when it is available
- ➤ Don't wait! Ask for help right away!



International Student & Scholar Services



About ISSS

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), a branch of UMBC's Center for Global Engagement, is dedicated to supporting UMBC's international student and scholar community and helping them achieve their academic, personal, and professional goals. ISSS offers a variety of programs and services to aide students in these endeavors:

Immigration Advising - ISSS helps international students and scholars navigate the U.S. visa process and maintain valid immigration status by providing the guidance, knowledge, and necessary resources.

Community Building - ISSS offers programming designed to help students make important connections within the UMBC community. These opportunities for intercultural exchange and mutual understanding enhance the UMBC international student experience. Work and

Internships - ISSS works with current students and alumni to help them access the many employment and internship opportunities available to them by facilitating the use of benefits such as Curricular Practical Training (CPT), Optional Practical Training (OPT), and other employment authorizations.



How do I contact ISSS?



Help Ticket

The ISSS office does not respond to emails. Instead, we use a Help Ticket system to send and receive messages.



Walk-In

In person, no appointment needed. Students will be seen on a first come first serve basis for a max of 10 minutes. Please bring your campus ID with you.



Virtual Appointment

Schedule a 15-minute appointment to speak with an advisor.



How to Check In with ISSS

Please complete your check-in with ISSS.

This is required to become an ACTIVE student!!!

- 1 Login to the ISSS Portal. Click on "Search Forms"
 - Select New Student Arrival Documentation Check-in
- 2 Select your start term. **Upload** these documents:
 - Visa stamp page
 - I-94 record
- **3 Update** your personal information on myUMBC:
 - U.S. address

- Foreign phone number
- Foreign address
- Emergency contact
- U.S. phone number







Social Security Number (SSN)

Purpose

- Required to get paid
- Tracks income for tax purposes

Application Process

- Receive job offer
- Complete New Student Arrival Documentation Check-In in ISSS Portal
- Submit SSN Letter Request via ISSS Portal
- Allow 5-7 business days for processing
- See the ISSS website for instructions: <u>isss.umbc.edu/ssn/</u>



FAQs

Understanding your paycheck

UMBC's HR department: https://hr.umbc.edu/payroll/payroll-employees/

Health Insurance

- Covered in orientation on Thursday, January 25
- Retriever Integrated Health: https://health.umbc.edu

US Taxes

- ISSS team are not tax professionals and cannot provide tax advice.
- Tax resources page: https://isss.umbc.edu/international-students-f-1/current-students/understanding-your-tax-documents/



Stay connected with ISSS



ISSS email list:

Read your email!



International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)



Website:

isss.umbc.edu



ISSS Portal:

isss-portal.umbc.edu



Contact Us:

isss.umbc.edu/contact/



Instagram:

@umbc_isss





Questions?





RESOURCES

- GSPD has a great <u>RESOURCES</u> page!
 - CIRTL
 - Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) mandatory training & reporting
 - Self Care MATTERS! <u>Retriever Integrated Health</u> & Center for Well-Being, the RAC
 - Initiatives for Identify, Inclusion, and Belonging (i3B)
 - GSPD PROMISE



Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL)

Dr. Jamie Gurganus

https://gspd.umbc.edu/center-for-research-teaching-and-learning-



WUMBC The National Issue

- Increasing institutional fragmentation of STEM teaching and research
- Most faculty positions expect career-long success in research and teaching, with different balances depending on institution
- Undergraduate students perceive that STEM teaching is neither effective nor motivating



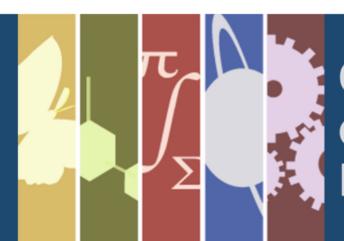




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Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL)



Mission

The CIRTL mission is to enhance excellence in undergraduate education through the development of a national STEM faculty committed to implementing and advancing effective teaching practices for diverse learners as part of successful and varied professional careers.

CIRTL was founded in 2003 as a National Science Foundation Center for Learning and Teaching in higher education.



CIRTL Core Ideas (Pillars)

Teaching-as-Research

- STEM professor as change agent
- •The deliberate and systematic use of research methods to advance teaching and learning practices
- Self-sustained improvement of STEM education

Learning Community

- •In learning communities, graduate students, post-doc, and faculty share learning and discovery
- Participants collaboratively construct knowledge and achieve learning goals
- Supports growth in teaching and learning



WINDS CIRTL Core Ideas (Pillars)

Learning-through-Diversity

- Excellence and diversity are necessarily intertwined
- Students and faculty bring an array of experiences and skills
- ·Learning of all students is enhanced if all engaged





Opportunities for you! Become Certified from a Nationally recognized organization



WINDE Outcomes, Get Certified in

CIRTL Associate: recognize the role of the CIRTL pillars in effective teaching and learning.

CIRTL Practitioner: scholarly teaching that builds on the CIRTL pillars to demonstrably improve learning and make the results public.

CIRTL Scholar: scholarship that advances teaching and learning under peer review.





I'm interested.. Now What?

Visit https://gspd.umbc.edu/center-for-research-teaching-and-learningcirtl/

- 1. Join/Follow the GSPD myUMBC page.
- 2. If you think you are going to pursue a certificate, we would really love for you to fill out this very short Intent Form online.
- 3. Please go to CIRTL.net to register to attend events using your umbout email address.
- 4. Start participating in local and national cross-network events at
- CIRTL.net! These count toward certificates, so keep track of what you attend via Blackboard.



Summer Enrichment Academy (SEA) CIRTL Fellows





Summer Enrichment Academy

- The Summer Enrichment Academy at UMBC offers unique, fun, challenging and mind expanding academic summer workshops and camp programs for middle school and high school students that can't be found anywhere else.
- SEA brings our students exposure to the college experiences with opportunities in science, engineering, technology, the arts and humanities, all led by UMBC faculty, industry professionals and graduate students.
- Rigorous, engaging, 1 week summer workshops and camp programs are designed to spark our students deepest passions and interests.





SEA CIRTL Fellowship

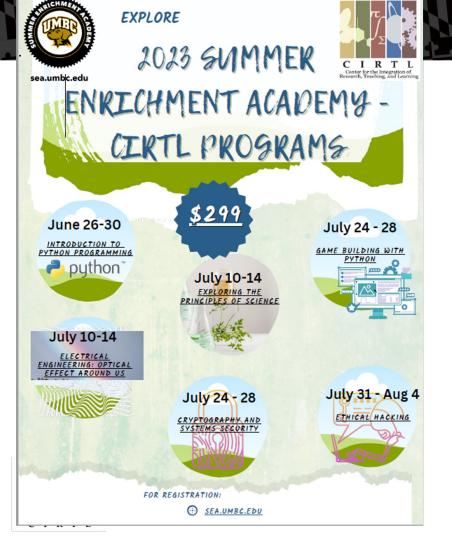
Students receive the following:

- 1 year-long experience
 - One on One with the Director and Program Coordinator
 - Intentional PD around teaching and curriculum development with experts
- CIRTL associate and practitioner levels certification after the year
- \$2000 stipend (\$1000/week for half day, 5 days)
- Cohort experience training
- Faculty mentors



sea.umbc.edu







sea.umbc.edu

https://gspd.umbc.edu/sea-cirtl-fellows/



Contact information

Dr. Jamie Gurganus: jgurganus@umbc.edu





PANEL DISCUSSIONS



GA Responsibilities

Please briefly describe your role as a Graduate Assistant (Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, Peace Worker, etc) and address your major responsibilities.



Time Management

How did you manage your time with your coursework or research and your Graduate Assistantship responsibilities?

How do you prioritize your deadlines to ensure all your projects are completed promptly?

Do you use a particular program or system you could share with the audience?



Tips & Helpful Resources

Is there anything regarding your GA role that you wish you had known before starting your position?

Please share any additional resources or support that incoming GAs must learn about.



Conflict Resolution

Were there any challenges during your tenure that you can share with us? Either with your supervisor, your contract, your responsibilities, or your relationship with collaborators or students. How did you handle that situation?

What is your advice for new GAs in the same situation? Who was the most appropriate contact person for that situation in your particular school?







- Do stipends get taxed?
 - Stipends are taxable income. Graduate Assistants (GA) will receive a 1099 form at the beginning of each calendar year to use when filing taxes. We cannot advise as to how the income must be reflected on taxes and ask that GAs consult with a tax professional on those types of questions.
- Does tuition remission get taxed if you are a Research Assistant? If not, how do you include it as non-taxable income in your taxes?
 - If you are an Research Assistant (RA) or Teaching Assistant (TA), tuition remission is not taxed. If you are an Administrative Assistant (AA), your tuition remission is capped to \$5,250 annually; anything over this is taxed at 25%.
- How much summer leave days do we get as a 12 months Graduate Assistant?
 40 hours if Full Time, 20 hours if Part Time.
- Do we get sick leave days and study days too?
 Sick leave 40 hours FT, 20 hours PT; no study days. if so, how many days?
- How early can we register to classes to avoid problems?

 Not sure what "problems" the student is referring to when they ask about how early they should register for classes to avoid problems. I would say it is always advisable to register early recommended to review their financial information on myUMBC and read their UMBC email regularly to avoid problems. This will ensure that they know if tuition remission is posted, if there is a balance, if any action is necessary, etc.
- Can international students be full time GAs while they are completing an off campus unpaid mandatory internship from their program?
 Overload restrictions only apply to on-campus employment.



- Are we (GAs at UMBC) a union/have collective bargaining?
 UMBC GAs are not unionized and do not participate in collective bargaining.
- Grad 600 or Grad 601 count towards full time, right?
 Yes, Grad 600 and Grad 601 count towards full-time status each semester.
- If you are NOT an international student, and wanted to work more than 20 hours through work that is not through the GA (like tutoring or part time coffee job) are you allowed to?
 Overload for additional on-campus employment may be approved by the Associate Dean of the Graduate School for domestic student GAs.
- GAs are not eligible for FMLA.
 Correct but a Parental Leave Fellowship is available.
- If we are already registered for 9 credits of courses in the fall or spring, do we still need to register for these "courses"?

 No you do not need to register for either GRAD 600 or 601.
- We have pre-candidacy CMSC 898 in cs department, is it equal to grad 601?
 No.
- So the purpose of the 600 level courses is to alleviate the academic burden while still qualifying as a full GA? Yes. They account for the time and effort put into the GA.
- Would it count towards our degree? The 898 course?
 Yes, as a Ph.D. in pre-candidacy status.



- I have 3 credits next semester remaining in my program, should I get 601 and 600 to get full time?
 Yes.
- When we get 5 credits cs 898, why do we need grad 601?

 If you have in addition to 898 4 other academic credits, for a total of 9, you don't need 601. But if you still need 4, then you may use 601.
- Would certificate program credits fulfill the requirements of full time and GA application?
 Certificate program credits cannot be used. They must be from courses.
- Could you register for an extra class?

 Yes but most classes are 3 credits. So that's 12 credits which is OK but anything beyond 9 credits is considered "term overload" and you need Associate Dean approval.
- Do the fees apply to the credits of GRAD 601 as well?

 No fees are assessed on GRAD 600 or 601.
- It's per ISSS an international student with less than 4 academic credits can work full time under CPT. Let's say a GA wants to do this could the GA register for less than 3 academic credits and 6 credits under 600 or 601 and also work full time in CPT?
 - No. 9 credits is full time enrollment (regardless of whether or not 601 is part of the enrollment) and students are not eligible for full-time CPT while enrolled full time.



- I have an academic GA appointment, and I was told that I can apply to be a summer GA. How do I go about that?

 Work with your Graduate Program Coordinator or Director to get this established.
- What classifies as work? If its unpaid or volunteer position, does it still count?

 Although unpaid volunteer positions are certainly considered work, all GAs must be paid for their service to the university.

 Every GA receives a stipend.
- Is health insurance provided for all GA's (including Grader)?

 For any GA contractor health insurance is at the department's discretion.
- For Peace Workers if there is a conflict and it can't be resolved through the program do we still go to you for assistance? Please reach out to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.