

What is the mission of the program?

The program is for students majoring in an approved science, technology, mathematics, or engineering area who plan to get their PhDs or combined MD/PhDs to become research scientists; therefore, undergraduate research is strongly encouraged and will prepare them for graduate studies.

Is Meyerhoff a minority program?

The Meyerhoff Program is not race-based and includes students from all ethnic backgrounds.

How many apply? How many are invited? How many are selected?

On average, 500-600 applications are received for a class of 50-60 students. Around 200 are invited for Selection Weekends.

If a student is not selected to the program upon first application, can he or she apply again?

Students interested in the program can apply to become a "Friend of the Program." Though these students do not receive a financial award or attend Summer Bridge, they receive advising and other forms of program support.

What are the significant accomplishments of previous Meyerhoff students?

Students have published in major scientific journals, presented their research at conferences nationwide, have had impressive research-based internships at laboratories throughout the U.S. and abroad (NASA, NIH, NSA, Cornell, UCSF, UMichigan, Cal-Tech, IBM, Stanford, University of Toronto ...), and are in graduate schools across the country (Harvard, Yale, Stanford, Duke, NYU, MIT, UC Berkeley ...). Our students also receive local and national recognition.

What is MPA? How can we become involved?

MPA is the 'Meyerhoff Parents Association.' Its mission is to support and perpetuate the Meyerhoff Scholars Program by fostering unification among scholarship recipients (past and present), as well as among their families. The elected Board develops plans to provide support to Meyerhoff program activities and students. We also work in conjunction with the Meyerhoff Student Council and Alumni Advisory Board. The requested annual donation of \$50 per member family helps to fund student activities sponsored by the MPA and scholar/program needs. Parents of Meyerhoff scholars are automatically members of the MPA. In addition to providing financial support, parents are encouraged to serve as board members/cohort representatives and participate in activities. Regular communication takes place via email and the online *UMBC Parent Connection*.

What is our (parent) involvement with the Program?

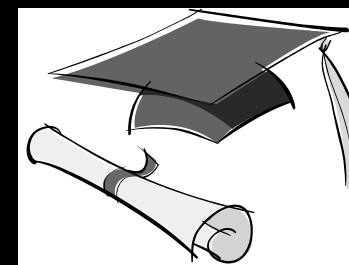
Parent support of and trust in the Meyerhoff Staff are important. The MPA exists to coordinate parent involvement with the staff; your participation is highly encouraged.

Who should I contact for more information?

Feel free to contact the Meyerhoff Office at 410-455-3139 or you may contact the Meyerhoff Parents Association at umbcmpa@gmail.com.

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Meyerhoff Parents Association FAQ



UMBC's Meyerhoff Scholars Program, started 25 years ago, has become a national model for diversifying America's scientific and engineering workforce. The program began with the idea of increasing not only the number of underrepresented minority students completing graduate degrees and working in the sciences and engineering, but also the number who are leaders in their fields. The approach used in the Meyerhoff Scholars Program – setting high expectations, building community among students and involving students deeply in faculty research – has proven so successful that these practices are now applied in classrooms and labs across disciplines.

What is the support system for academic help?

Students discuss academics with Program advisors and receive assistance from other students, tutorial centers, professors, and Teacher's Assistants (TAs).

What is the staff support for the students?

There are five Meyerhoff staff members who provide full support for the students in everything from academics, mentor matching, internships and graduate school placement to personal growth and development.

Will I be notified if my child is in academic or other difficulty?

By law, the Program Staff cannot discuss grades with parents unless the student has given their consent (written or verbal). Parents are strongly encouraged to develop and maintain strong lines of communication with their students regarding their academic progress and success.

Can I get my child's grades?

Students receive their grades electronically through my.umbc.edu. By law, the Program Staff cannot share grades with parents. Students must consent, in writing, to the release of educational records (grades, GPA, class schedule).

Are there specific classes that Meyerhoffs must take?

During the academic year, they are UMBC students who must take the classes required for their major and general UMBC requirements. There are specific Summer Bridge course requirements.

Do Meyerhoffs have to be in the UMBC Honors College?

No, although quite a few Meyerhoffs are in the Honors College.

How are AP/IB courses addressed?

Meyerhoff students are required to take all math, science, and engineering courses for their major, even if they received AP/IB credit for the course. Establishing a foundation for UMBC math/science courses is critical. Students may opt out of non-science courses and use their AP/IB credits for classes outside of math and science.

Can students change their major once in the program?

Yes, as long as they remain in an approved math, science, engineering, or computer science major. If they change to a major outside of those areas, the Meyerhoff Program will no longer fund them.

Can a Meyerhoff student be involved in other studies such as music and the humanities?

Yes, as long as their primary focus is math, science, engineering, or computer science.

Is taking classes elsewhere (another college) for a semester permitted?

Students are allowed to take classes elsewhere during the summer or winter sessions. We have had students study at Brown University, Brandeis University, and abroad for a semester or year.

Why are students discouraged from going home every weekend?

The students' academic support system is on-campus and studying needs to occur seven days a week. More often than not, when students are at home, they either do not study or are not as focused as when they are on campus. Also, study groups are highly encouraged and these cannot occur when a student is at home.

Is travel/study abroad available in this program?

Yes, students have traveled to England, Japan, Hungary, France, and Brazil, among other locations. Advance approval must be obtained from the UMBC Study Abroad Office and from the Meyerhoff Director.

How are summer and winter breaks addressed?

During the summer, students are required to do an internship or take classes. During winter break, students can do as they please.

Is the Meyerhoff Scholarship a Contract or a pure Scholarship?

The Meyerhoff Scholarship Program is not solely a financial arrangement. Meyerhoff Scholars are a part of a program which provides academic advising, assistance with internship and graduate school applications, and any other assistance needed to ensure success at UMBC.

There is a contractual agreement that is signed. Scholars are required to attend mandatory program meetings, maintain a 3.0 GPA, remain in an approved major, apply for graduate programs, internships, and meet other program requirements.

What is the financial obligation of the parents?

Students/parents are responsible for payment of application, enrollment, orientation, and matriculation fees, housing deposits, books, supplies, transportation, other educational expenses, and billed charges or fees beyond their scholarship/financial aid awards.

What happens if my child loses the scholarship? Is he or she still considered a Meyerhoff?

Once a Meyerhoff, always a Meyerhoff. If a student loses their funding, full academic support is still provided by Meyerhoff staff. They may also petition to be financially reinstated after their status returns to 'good standing' and their cumulative GPA is 3.0 or better for more than one semester.

Is pursuit of a PhD mandatory?

Students must pursue a PhD or combined MD/PhD in mathematics, physics, natural science, engineering, or computer science.

Is this a PhD or MD/PhD program?

This is an undergraduate program that prepares students to enter PhD or combined MD/PhD programs. The Meyerhoff Program is not for students whose sole interest is to attend medical school and earn an MD degree.

What is the significance of Summer Bridge? Why is it mandatory?

To allow students to become acclimated to UMBC and the rigors of university level courses and testing before the semester begins. Summer Bridge includes math, science, and humanities coursework, training in analytical problem-solving, group study, site visits, and social and cultural events.

Is Community Service mandatory?

Yes. All students participate in required community service activities with their cohort.

Is a fifth year, if needed, supported?

Students can request a fifth year of funding, however, it is not guaranteed.

Are Meyerhoff students housed together? Are there specific restrictions or curfews for Meyerhoff students?

All students are required to live in campus housing during matriculation at UMBC. Freshman year, all Meyerhoff students live in Susquehanna Hall. After that, they are free to live anywhere on campus they choose. Only during Summer Bridge are there restrictions or curfews for Meyerhoffs.