FIRST-YEAR IMMERSION AND NARRATIVES OF DISCOVERY (FIND)
Welcome to your first year and the Honors College’s FIND experience! FIND is a unique in- and out-of-classroom journey. FIND can help you FIND... yourself within UMass Boston. FIND helps you explore the world in an unfamiliar way, realize interests you didn’t suspect you had, develop an openness toward others, build intellectual curiosity, and come to appreciate an ethic to serve the greater good. Plus, FIND helps you cultivate and refine the skills and behaviors necessary for Honors College success.

FIND is about activity involvement, which you will tailor to your own personal interests. You are required to attend two one-time activities and participate in one ongoing activity each semester. Three 300-word reflections on these activities allow you to process your experiences and make meaning of them. If you’d like to propose an activity that is not listed here, you are encouraged to contact your first-year Honors English instructor in the fall and your first-year seminar instructor in the spring for permission. The Honors College Ambassadors are also good resources for helping you discover appropriate FIND activities. They are students like yourself and have a good perspective on events on campus. This is how you can reach them: honors.ambassadors@umb.edu

Here’s what a few FIND participants said about their experience:

“Because of FIND I made the decision to join Strong Women Strong Girls and found that I was passionate about the work they did. If not for FIND I may not have found a great group of strong women and built a supportive community for myself with them in my first year.”

“FIND was one of the best experiences I had in my first year here.”

“FIND helped me meet all my fitness goals, and I’m having a great time.”
Activity Documentation
We require you to collect an “artifact” from each of these ongoing or one-time activities (e.g., the agendas from the club meetings that you attended, handouts from supplemental instructions sessions, or the program from a cultural event). We depend on your integrity as an Honors College student to participate with commitment in these activities, so as to have details to include in your reflections.

Participation Reflection and Assessment
Submit your artifacts along with three reflections (300 words apiece), one for each of your activities, to your first-year Honors English instructor in the fall, and in the spring semester to your First-Year Seminar instructor. The three reflections will count as one assignment in your first-year Honors English class and as one assignment for your First-Year Seminar—meaning a portion of your semester grade in each class will depend on completing FIND. Turn in your reflections to your instructors on the dates they indicate.

In general, your reflections should answer the following questions:
1. Why did you choose this activity?
2. How would you describe the activity you attended?
3. What did you learn from your participation?
4. How did you contribute to the activity?
5. If given the option, would you participate in this activity again? Why or why not?
6. How does this activity shape your identity as an emerging Honors College Scholar?

Ongoing Activities
Complete one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester.

Join an Honors College–affiliated student group: Honors Event Council, or Honors Helping Hands (H3). The Honors Event Council (umb.hec@gmail.com) plans many social Honors College student events. H3 (h3atumb@gmail.com) is the Honors College’s community service organization. Honors College Book Club (umbbookclub@gmail.com) meets regularly every semester to discuss readings focused around a theme. The readings may include novels, short stories, poems, essays, and other literary works.

Writ Large (editor@writlargemag.org) is a student-run non-fiction magazine which publishes intellectually stimulating articles.

Join an interest-based student club: UMass Boston has more than 100 student clubs, many of which revolve around “interests” such as developing computer science skills, enjoying French culture, or being an outdoors enthusiast.

Join an identity-based student group: Did you know that 52% of UMass Boston first-year students reported speaking a language other than English at home or with their families? At such a diverse institution, you can further explore your own identity or learn about the identities of other students by joining one of dozens of several identity-based student groups, such as the Black Student Center, Casa Latina, or the Queer Student Center.

Club commitments can be flexible, and they look great on a resume. For more information regarding clubs on campus, including a full directory of groups, please visit: umb.collegiatelink.net and click on “Organizations.”

Join an NCAA team or intramural sport: Were you an athlete in high school? Have you always wanted to be part of a team? UMass Boston offers 16 NCAA Division III teams, and scores of intramural (open to all) teams, including basketball, soccer, and flag football. While some NCAA teams require recruitment, others do not. For more information about recruitment or how to join an intramural sport, please visit: www.umb.edu/athletics

Join the Men’s Group: This group seeks to support college students who identify as male in their journey through the college experience. For more information contact the group’s advisor: Lliana.Mickle@umb.edu

Get an on-campus job that averages at least 5 hours of work per week: Working on campus is a great way to build skills, develop a network of resources, and be in the know about what’s happening on campus, including where to get free food! Have Work-Study financial aid? Then make sure to get a job on campus to access these funds! For more information regarding jobs on campus, please visit: www.umb.edu/academics/vpass/career_services/students/job_search

Form a study group that meets at least once a month: For places to study in our Healey Library, please visit: www.umb.edu/library/about/floor_directory/study_spaces and visit: www.wikihow.com/Form-a-Study-Group for 8 helpful study group tips.
Attend at least five Reading, Writing, and Study Strategies Center (RWSSC) workshops or tutoring sessions: The center supports students' language development, with special attention to reading, writing, and thinking to succeed in entry-level university courses. Attend tutoring for one-on-one support or attend workshop sessions on such topics as the writing process, study strategies, or time management. For more information, please visit: www.umb.edu/academics/vpass/academic_support/tutoring/ rwssc

Attend at least five supplemental instruction sessions: Some College of Science and Math classes offer group study sessions led by supplemental instruction leaders. This is a great way to study with your peers. See your professor’s course syllabus for more information regarding supplemental instruction sessions.

Attend at least five office-hour sessions that the faculty instructors of your courses offer: Office hours are a great way to get to know your faculty members better and explore your major or academic interest further. Not all five sessions have to be with the same faculty member, but please ensure that you spend at least twenty minutes at each visit. Topics could include an upcoming assignment or an academic or extracurricular interest about which you want more information. Your course syllabi will list professors’ office hours and locations.

Attend at least three Asian American Career Development Workshops—This workshop series is designed to inform, encourage, and empower Asian American students as they work toward their career goals. For more information, please visit: www.umb.edu/academics/vpass/aassp/workshop_series

Participate in a Service Learning Experience—Service learning is an opportunity to complete meaningful community service and reflect and enrich one’s perspective through active civic engagement and community building. For more information, please contact: oslce@umb.edu

**One-Time Activities**

Complete two in the fall semester and two in the spring semester.

Attend the Freshman Investiture Ceremony: The official introduction of the incoming class to the university. New students will receive class pins, an official welcome from the chancellor and the campus community! Reception to follow.

Attend a Study Abroad Fair.

Freshman Service Day: Learn more about Boston, meet other UMass Boston students, and give back to our community. Service will range from beautification projects with local community centers to outdoor cleanup and gardening projects. Breakfast and lunch are provided. For more information, email: community.engagement@umb.edu

Attend an on-campus social event hosted by the Student Activities and Event Council (SAEC). For more information, please visit: www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/student_involvement/activities/saec

Get a group of friends together and attend an off-campus cultural event (the Honors College has worked with the Strand Theatre and Hibernian Hall previously, so you may want to check their websites for schedules).

Renew your FAFSA. For more information and help on how to do so, please visit: www.umb.edu/admissions/financial_aid_scholarships/deadlines_critical_dates

Apply for scholarships. For more information on scholarships, please visit: www.umb.edu/admissions/scholarships

Meet with the fellowships advisor. For more information on fellowships, please visit: www.umb.edu/academics/fellowships

Special UMass Boston events, such as guest speakers and important lectures. For more information, please visit: www.umb.edu/events

Visit the Beacon Fitness Center. For a monthly calendar, please visit: www.umb.edu/athletics/fitness_recreation

Attend a service or a mediation visit at the Interfaith Campus Ministry. For a monthly calendar, please visit: www.umb.edu/life_on_campus/student_involvement/campus_ministry

Check out a Campus Health and Wellness event. For a monthly calendar, please visit: www.umb.edu/wellness/calendar