APPLICATION FOR FIRST YEAR AND TRANSFER STUDENTS
NEWLY ACCEPTED TO UMASS BOSTON

Thank you for your interest in the UMass Boston Honors College. The Honors College proudly develops leaders who will address pressing intellectual and social challenges by utilizing critical thinking, creativity, practically, and wisdom. Additionally, Honors students enjoy interdisciplinary courses; the opportunity to develop research skills; intensive, one-on-one priority advising; participation in special events; and access to the Honors-only study area. A competitive application process is used to select students who demonstrate outstanding academic performance, leadership potential, are prepared and motivated for the rigors of an honors curriculum, and can contribute to the Honors College community. Offers of admission are based on a comprehensive review of a candidate’s credentials (e.g., academic record, writing sample and application short answer responses, and co-curricular involvement). Please read the below information carefully before completing the application form on pages 3-5. Only complete applications can be reviewed, so please ensure your application is complete before submitting it. Questions? Email honors.ambassadors@umb.edu.

Timeline

Applications are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis based on the qualifications of the candidate and the current availability of Honors College seats. Honors College space is limited, so candidates are encouraged to submit their application as soon as their acceptance letter from the university has been received. Applications should be mailed to:

Mike Metzger
100 Morrissey Blvd
Honors College – Campus Center Room 2004
Boston, MA 02125

Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement

A candidate must possess at least a 3.400 at their most recent school (college or high school) at the time of completing this application.

Curricular Requirements for Honors College Students

Honors study requires a specific curricular commitment from students. Candidates must review these commitments, as defined below, and are encouraged to ask questions about the commitments to gain a complete understanding of the experience.

Honors Coursework

Honors students complete a minimum of 18 credits in Honors courses. Course descriptions of our offerings each term are available on WISER.

Freshman Year: In the fall, students take an Honors-level course in English composition. In the spring, students take an Honors First Year Seminar, which entails an exploration of how knowledge is constructed and communicated with emphases on the uses of language and technology. (These requirements are waived for students admitted to the Honors College after the freshman year.)

Four Honors courses at the 200-level: These are interdisciplinary courses that span the sciences, arts, humanities and social sciences – designed by faculty just for honors students. The small course sizes foster deep discussions and individual attention from faculty. Completion of two 200-level honors courses is a pre-requisite for the Junior Colloquium. (Note that typically one 200-level course is offered each summer, for students interested in completing Honors coursework during summer term.)

Junior Colloquium (Honors 380): This course should be taken prior to beginning the senior thesis, and is thus ideally taken during junior year. Through a multidisciplinary engagement with a specific topic and through the presentations of guest speakers, the colloquium builds the skills necessary to the research process. This course is designed to prepare students for the tasks they will encounter in their senior year.

Senior Thesis or Project

The Senior Thesis requirement is ordinarily met under the jurisdiction of the student’s major department (and follows all regulations set by the department), which earns the student Honors in the major, while also satisfying Honors College requirements. Senior theses commonly entail research projects in the discipline of one’s major, but can also include off-campus research experiences. Course credit can be obtained (e.g. via registering for Independent Study) during the one or two semesters when the thesis work is ongoing.

All senior theses or projects must be presented publicly in some forum, in some manner, and all projects must also be passed by a committee of faculty readers (not just by the student’s thesis director). If a department does not require such a public presentation, the Honors College will make appropriate arrangements. The College also encourages the presentation of such projects at state-wide and national conferences on undergraduate research. Thesis policies and requirements are detailed in a handout available from the staff of the Honors College.
Alternative senior projects are also available, including service learning, teaching opportunities (e.g. a two-semester structured experience serving as a student teacher), campus-sponsored research programs (e.g. semester on Nantucket), and enrollment in a Cross-Cultural Symposium.

Fulfilling University-wide Requirements while in the Honors College

**General Education Requirements:** Honors students do not have to complete two sets of requirements. The Honors College provides an alternative means of completing the University’s General Education requirements, because the Honors First Year Seminar and all 200-level Honors courses can be applied to these requirements. It is possible to complete all the General Education requirements and almost all of the Honors College requirements simultaneously, with the same set of courses. Progress towards fulfilling the General Education requirements should be discussed during pre-registration advising each semester.

One (1) Honors 200-level course can be used to fulfill the Intermediate Seminar requirement in most colleges. Each remaining Honors 200-level course can be used to fulfill a single distribution area (i.e. AR, HU, SB, NS, WC). Currently, assignment of Honors courses to these requirements is done on an individual basis, and Honors courses do not immediately appear on a student’s audit as having fulfilled general education or distribution requirements. Currently, the Honors College must certify completion in writing to the registrar, and this should be done no later than the last semester of Junior year. This will be changing during the 2014-2015 school year, at which point, these courses will automatically fulfill the corresponding distribution areas in your degree audit.

Note that, if general educ. requirements are completed prior to Honors College admission, Honors courses will count as elective credit only.

**Freshman Writing Requirement:** This university-wide requirement is fulfilled by freshmen in the Honors College taking Honors English

**Writing Proficiency:** This requirement is fulfilled either by exam or by portfolio for students in CLA, CSM, and CNHS, and should be completed by the time each student has completed 60 credits. Students in CM fulfill this requirement through special coursework.

**Diversity Requirement:** The Honors College does not currently offer any courses that fulfill the diversity requirement. Since this requirement, unlike other General Education requirements, can be met through courses at any level (100, 200, 300), it is straightforward to fulfill for most students. Note that most colleges have two diversity requirements, i.e. US Diversity and International Diversity.

**Additional Honors College Requirements in Math and Foreign Language**

Honors students are required to complete either:

- Math through the pre-calculus or statistics (Math 130) level and foreign language study through the intermediate (201/202) level, OR
- Math through the Calculus (Math 140) level and foreign language study through the elementary (101/102) level

Substitutes for Math 130 include Math 125 and Math 129, as well as some Computer Science courses. Majors in Psychology, Sociology, Political Science and Economics may substitute the statistics course offered by their major. (Students are advised, however, that these courses usually do not count for the Math Distribution requirement.) Science and Math Majors are reminded to make sure that the math courses they select are also acceptable to their major departments.

All or part of the Honors requirement in language may be met through testing, or through high school study. (Three consecutive years of one language is equivalent to elementary proficiency.) Bilingual students who have been given General Education credit for a first language do not need to meet an additional language requirement. The College also accepts American Sign Language in fulfillment of this requirement, but students should be aware that access to intermediate level courses in ASL is often difficult.

**Grade Point Average**
A grade point average of 3.3 is required to maintain good standing in the Honors College. Students whose GPA falls below this level will be contacted by the college, and will ordinarily not be allowed to take Honors courses until the GPA reaches 3.3. Such students are expected to achieve the minimum GPA in the following semester’s work. In any case, the required GPA of 3.3 must be attained in order to graduate as an Honors College Scholar. Students should also keep in mind that major departments typically require a higher average in the major for admission to the department’s specific Senior Honors options.

**Honors Grades and the Pass/Fail Option**
Only those Honors courses in which the student earns a grade of B or better can count toward the Honors requirements (although an Honors course for which a grade lower than a B is obtained may still be used to fulfill a Gen Ed requirement). Honors students may elect the Pass/Fail option for an Honors course, but then that course will not count toward Honors requirements; the student will eventually have to complete an additional Honors course with a grade of B or better. The use of the Pass/Fail option is also discouraged (but not forbidden) in non-Honors courses required by the program – i.e. courses taken to fulfill the Math and Foreign Language requirements.

**Progress in the College**
Students who are not making satisfactory progress towards completing Honors requirements may be asked to leave the College, regardless of their academic standing.

PLEASE KEEP THESE FIRST TWO PAGES FOR YOUR RECORDS
APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEWLY ACCEPTED UMASS BOSTON STUDENTS

Please complete this application to the best of your ability. Please attach to this application the following documents:

1) **Responses to the two short answer questions** on page 5.

2) **A sample of your writing.** Your writing sample should be a college or high school course paper that will provide us with insight into who you are as a writer and how you construct an argument. The paper should be at least 1,500 words.

3) **A résumé.** A résumé helps us understand qualifications that are not transparent on a transcript (e.g., scholarships, awards, achievements, employment, volunteer work, athletics, or co-curricular activities).

### GENERAL INFORMATION

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>UMass Boston Student ID Number</th>
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<td>Please see your admissions letter</td>
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**I am applying as a newly accepted:**

- First-year student (most recently attended high school)
- Transfer student (most recently attended a college/university)

If you are currently enrolled at UMass Boston, do not use this application. Instead, please contact Honors.Ambassadors@umb.edu.

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<th>Mailing Address</th>
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<td>This is the email address we will use during the admissions process, so be sure to check it frequently.</td>
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<th>Telephone Number</th>
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<th>Highest Level of Math Completed (e.g., Statistics)</th>
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<td>Previous College/University</td>
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| Language Proficiency
Please list the name of any non-English language proficiency that you hold and check your degree of proficiency. |
|-----------------|

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<th>Language</th>
<th>Native Speaker</th>
<th>Studied at college/university (if so, to which level)</th>
<th>Studied 3 or more years in secondary school</th>
<th>Studied 2 or fewer years in secondary school</th>
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<th>How did you hear about the Honors College?</th>
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<td>If you heard of the Honors College from someone specific, please share their name.</td>
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<th>Are you interested in conducting research during your Honors College experience?</th>
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<td>Yes</td>
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If you are interested in conducting research during your Honors College experience, do you have a sense of a general field or topic you are interested in researching?
# UMASS BOSTON INFORMATION

**Anticipated UMass Boston Semester and Year of Graduation (e.g., Spring 2018)**

**UMass Boston College or School that you are enrolling in:**

- [ ] College of Education & Human Development
- [ ] College of Management
- [ ] College of Nursing & Health Sciences
- [ ] School for the Environment
- [ ] College of Liberal Arts
- [ ] College of Science & Mathematics
- [ ] College of Public & Community Service

**Type of Degree You Are Seeking:**

- [ ] Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- [ ] Bachelor of Science (BS)

**Major(s) / Program(s) of Study**

**Minor(s)**

**Number of Credits that You Will Have Earned at the End of the Current Semester**

**Cumulative UMass Boston GPA**

**UMass Boston English and Math Placement Test Scores (if available)**

**Do you plan to enroll in a first-year success community at UMass Boston?**

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

# SECONDARY (HIGH SCHOOL) HISTORY

**Secondary School From Which You Graduated**

- [ ] Public
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Charter/Independent
- [ ] Home School

**GPA**

**Was this GPA weighted?**

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
- [ ] Unsure

To ensure an equitable evaluation, Honors will use the candidate’s recalculated GPA.

**Class Rank**

**Year of Graduation**

**AP/IB Course Name(s)**

**Related Test Score(s)**

APPLICATION CONTINUES
STANDARDIZED TESTING

SAT Scores:
Scores do not have to be from the same sitting of the exam.

| Best Critical Reading Score (not the “Writing” section) | Best Math Score |

ACT Composite Score

SAT Subject Exam and Score

| SAT Subject Exam and Score | SAT Subject Exam and Score | SAT Subject Exam and Score |

PREVIOUS COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY HISTORY
Leave blank if you have not attended another College or University

Are you a member of an Honors College/Program at your current institution?

☐ Yes at a Massachusetts State University or other UMass campus
☐ Yes at a Massachusetts Community College
☐ Yes at a private college/university or community college/state college/state university outside of Massachusetts
☐ No

If you completed any college/university course(s) at other institutions, please complete this section.

| College/University Name(s) | Dates Attended | GPA | Number of Courses Completed |

TEACHER/GUIDANCE COUNCILOR REFERENCE

Name

How do you know this person?

Email

Phone Number

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Please respond to both of the short answer questions below with carefully crafted responses. Your response to each question should be no more than 300 words, clear, well-developed, and contain examples. Be sure to proof your response thoroughly looking for structural, spelling, and/or grammatical errors.

QUESTION 1: Consider your academic background and passions. How could being an Honors College student build on your academic background and contribute to your passions? And how will your academic background and passion contribute to the Honors College?

QUESTION 2: What has been a significant moment in your life and why?

CERTIFICATION

I certify that all information submitted in this application process is my own work, factually true and honestly presented. I recognize that all documents submitted become property of the Honors College. I understand that an offer of admissions may be revoked should the information I certify be false. I acknowledge that I have reviewed and understand the application instructions, timeline, as well as curricular requirements.

Signature

Date