

UMD Freshmen Connection

“Transfer” Guide

AN OPEN-ACCESS RESOURCE



Introduction

In this guide, the University of Maryland- College Park's Student Government Assignment aims to create a comprehensive guide to help Freshmen Connection students navigate the enrollment, advising, and scheduling processes. We believe that although there is a surplus of information on UMD resources online about Freshmen Connection, it can be confusing and misleading. Therefore, this guide is designed to have all of the information about Freshmen Connection in a readily accessible guide.

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What is Freshmen Connection?

The University of Maryland, College Park, has a program called Freshmen Connection that is open to all fall-admitted students. It is important to recognize that enrolling in Freshmen Connection does not mean that you are being deferred or even rejected from UMD; it just means that you will take classes in this program for the fall semester.

- According to [UMD's Extended Studies](#) website, Freshmen Connection is a fall semester academic program open to students who confirm spring admission to the University of Maryland. Students may take up to 17 credits of UMD courses and get on track to graduate in four years. Courses are taught by University of Maryland faculty.

[Freshmen Connection](#) is only open to freshmen who are offered and who have confirmed spring admission to the University of Maryland.

Deferral

If a student chooses to defer their admission to the University of Maryland- College Park to the next year, they are still able to do so under the Freshmen Connection program. The deferral process is the same for a student who was admitted in the fall to a student who plans to start at UMD in the fall in Freshmen Connection.

For more information on deferral at UMD, visit <https://admissions.umd.edu/persona/deferral-requests>.

Freshmen Connection Checklist

In order to join the Freshmen Connection program in the fall, a student must complete the FC checklist

- This information is detailed at <https://orientation.umd.edu/freshmen-connection/freshmen-connection-do-list>.

Step 1:

- **Confirming admission**

- This includes submitting the UMD enrollment fee as well as formally accepting the admissions offer
- A student must respond to their offer of admission on https://terpengage.umd.edu/tap/Tap_CustomLoginPortalPage?ec=302&startURL=%2Ftap%2Fs%2F
- "If your answer is YES, and we hope it is, you will need to submit your enrollment deposit. This nonrefundable, \$400 deposit will reserve your place in the incoming class and will be applied to your tuition. It may take up to two business days for your confirmation to be processed."

Step 2:

- **Setting up UMD accounts**

- This includes creating your Directory ID, UMD Terpmail password, and multi-factor authentication
- You can set up your Directory ID and password here: <https://identity.umd.edu/>
- For more information on setting your UMD accounts, visit <https://orientation.umd.edu/freshmen-connection/freshmen-connection-do-list>

Step 3:

- **Requesting housing and dining**

- Similar to any other student who was admitted to UMD and plans to request a housing and/or dining plan, a student who was admitted to plans to enter UMD as a Freshmen Connection student must follow the same guidelines
- Students will be able to live with students who are not in Freshmen Connection, and enjoy the same dining experience as well

- A student must submit the request by May 15th
- The housing portal, and information can be found here:
<https://reslife.umd.edu/>

Step 4:

- **Submitting Freshmen Connection Enrollment**
 - Enrollment for Freshmen Connection ends March 26th
 - International students must enroll by May 15th
 - Students must pay a \$75 fee for the Freshmen Connection Enrollment
 - The enrollment form is under the “Forms” section on the
<https://exst.umd.edu/current-incoming-former-umd-students/freshmen-connection/forms> website page.

Step 5:

- **Completing Registration Modules**
 - Students must complete the registration modules before they register for classes, and upon completion, students gain access to register for fall classes
 - [The FC](#) Registration Modules are online tutorials that provide step-by-step instructions on how to register for classes. These tutorials are accessed via ELMS (Electronic Learning Management System) which is the online environment that supports online learning at UMD.
 - Students receive access to the modules 48 business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) after submitting the FC Enrollment Form and the \$75 enrollment fee. Students are notified via TERPmail.
 - Students must complete the FC Registration Module and one Major-Specific Module

Step 6:

- **Registering for Fall Classes**
 - Freshmen Connection students register for classes before other students, so it's important to have a plan for which classes they wish to take early in the process.
 - [Students](#) who successfully complete the FC Registration Module and one Major-Specific Module receive an email to their TERPmail account 48 business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) after such completion. The email contains details on registration via Testudo - Registration (Drop/Add). As a reminder, registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Certain courses, particularly math and science, fill and close early.

- To register for classes, visit <https://app.testudo.umd.edu/#/main/dropAdd>, and for your course catalog, visit <https://app.testudo.umd.edu/soc/>

Step 7:

- **Math Placement**

- The Math Placement test for Freshmen Connection students is the same test for every student.
- [The Math](#) Placement Test is a requirement for all incoming first-year students, regardless of any AP or college-level credit they may be bringing in. Academic Advisors use the test as a tool to determine what level of math course a student should take based on their knowledge of the subject.
- For more information on taking the Math Placement Test, visit <https://www-math.umd.edu/placement-test-information.html>

Step 8:

- **Orientation Registration**

- Freshmen Connection students have a program-specific orientation program that they must register for.
- Students are encouraged to register for orientation as soon as possible because the program is first come, first served.
- [Students](#) can register for Orientation 48 business hours after confirming spring admission and submitting the FC Enrollment Form.
- Please note it takes up to 3 business days for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to process your enrollment fee payment and 48 hours for FC to process your enrollment form. Only after that process has occurred can you register for an NSO session.
- Students must complete the Pre-Orientation form at least one week prior to attending their orientation here: https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_8kba14b7rftqzyK

Step 9:

- **Checklist Completion**

- Students must submit transcripts and prior learning credit, submit a photo for their student ID, complete a Canvas login, and complete the TerapinSTRONG and onboarding modules.
- For more information on how to complete these steps, visit <https://orientation.umd.edu/freshmen-connection/freshmen-connection-do-list>.

Freshmen Connection Advising

Freshmen Connection students do not have mandatory advising at orientation to build their schedule as other students do, so here is more information on academic advising available for FC students.

- **Automatic Advising**

- [Advisors](#) review all full-time student schedules (i.e. registering for 12 or more credits) within 10 business days (Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) of registration.

Upon review, advisors notify students via the student email of record. Make sure to check the spam folder. In some cases, changes to the fall schedule may be necessary, requiring an action by the student.

- **Voluntary Advising**

- [The advising](#) home for all Freshmen Connection students for the fall semester is Letters and Sciences (LTSC). LTSC's advisors have expert knowledge of all majors' curricula and admission requirements. Regardless of the admitted major, LTSC provides guidance and academics throughout the fall semester.
- For additional advising or FC questions, email fc@umd.edu or call 301-314-8418.

Starting Fall Classes and FC On-Campus Resources

It can be tricky getting into the swing of things when students are only able to start classes at 3:00 pm Monday-Thursday. Here are some resources for you on campus that will help you transition into college life and navigate this new schedule.

- Even if you have a late class, you can visit a dining hall for a later dinner or a snack.
- South Campus Dining Hall closes at 9, Yahentamitsi closes at 9, 251 North closes at 10 on Monday-Thursday, and the Hillel Dining Hall closes at 7:30.
- Since 251 North is open the latest on weeknights, that's a great place for FC students to visit if they have a later night.

- Information on ADS and other disability services can be found here: <https://ads.umd.edu/>.

- Information on counseling services and how to reach out for help can be found here: <https://counseling.umd.edu/clinical-services>.

- If you are unsure about Health Center resources or information, visit <https://health.umd.edu/about-us>.

- For IT services and resources, visit <https://it.umd.edu/it-highlights-students>.

- For tutoring services, visit <https://tutoring.umd.edu/>.

- For FC-specific financial aid information, visit <https://financialaid.umd.edu/resources-policies/freshmen-connection>.

- If you are curious about even more resources that UMD has to offer, visit <https://exst.umd.edu/current-incoming-and-former-umd-students/freshmen-connection/campus-services-and-resources>.

Transferring out of FC

You may be unsure what steps you have to take to transition out of Freshmen Connection for the Spring Semester. Here are some resources to help you navigate the process:

- **Mandatory Advising**

- [To register](#) for the spring semester, students must satisfy mandatory advising requirements for their spring advising college. The college advisors inform students of these requirements via email. FC advisors do not provide academic advising for the upcoming spring semester. This occurs directly with the spring advising college.
- Students will be given specific directions regarding mandatory advising via email during the fall semester.

- **Spring Registration**

- For the spring semester, students will be able to take classes that they were not offered in the fall, such as classes in the mornings and afternoons, and a broader range of options.
- For more information on registering, visit <https://registrar.umd.edu/registration/register-classes>.

- **Major Declaration**

- Freshmen Connection students are automatically admitted to UMD under the Letters and Sciences major, i.e., being undeclared.
- If students wish to declare a major for the spring semester, they can visit TerpEngage and choose the advising department that correlates to the major they wish to declare.