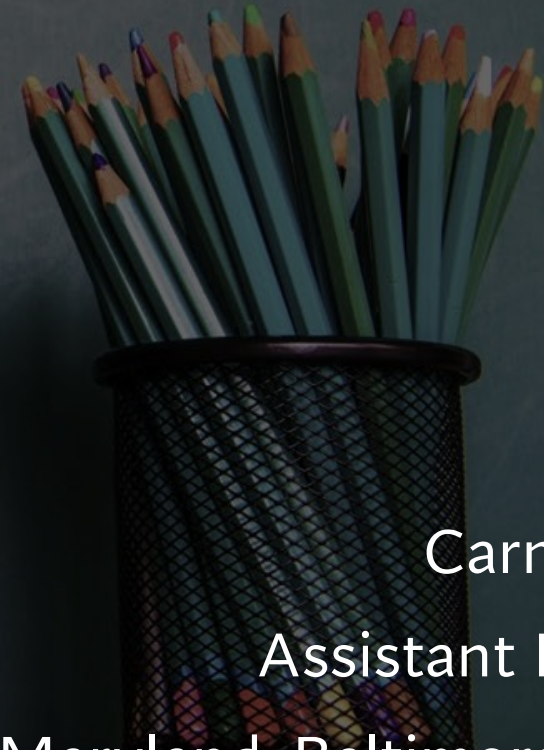

University Catalogs Page to Screen



Carmen Cain
Assistant Registrar
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Session Goals

We will discuss:

- How to adapt a university catalog to the online environment
 - How to use the catalog software to improve catalog production
 - How to consider the reader experience when creating a catalog
-

About Me

- Eight years of catalog and curriculum experience
 - Joined UMBC in March 2020
 - The first full-time catalog person in the UMBC Registrar's Office
 - Writing studies background
-

Why Can't We Just Copy and Paste Our WordPerfect File Into a Webpage?

- Well, you could.

But Consider:

- Strategies for text to be read in hard copy or on the whole screen don't apply
 - You don't get all the benefits of catalog software
 - The way students expect to encounter information is different than it was in the past
-

Reading on Paper Vs. Reading Online

- How much of the page can you see?
 - Where is the important information?
 - How do we refer to information elsewhere in the document?
 - How do you navigate?
 - Who is reading?
-

The Kids These Days

- Seem to have low reading compliance and comprehension (Baier et al, 2011; Hoeft, 2012)
 - There is some evidence that reading expository text on a screen decreases reading comprehension (Delgado and Salmerón, 2021)
 - Nothing like we were when we were young
-

What an Electronic Catalog Can Do

- Concatenate course descriptions from different fields
 - Generate a course export
 - Expand courses where they're used in program listings
 - Filter to display programs organized in different ways
 - Link within the catalog
 - Link to external websites and resources
-

I Have the Software, Now What?

- You'll have the same kind of “stuff”
 - The electronic catalog probably has a navigation bar and functionality for courses and programs
 - It's up to you to decide how to connect pages and programs
-

Where to Start

- Adaptation is a series of decisions to solve the problems created by the change from one medium to another
 - Make the important information prominent and the subsidiary information easy to find
 - Links, headers, and the search will be your friends and the students' friends
 - Prioritize one to three aspects of your catalog every year and move incrementally
-

Questions of Structure

- What do you need and where does it go?
 - Applies to pages, programs, courses, and any filters you might have
 - What can you standardize?
 - What is duplicative of your website?
-

Examples

What could UMBC have done differently in past Undergraduate Catalogs?

[ARCHIVED CATALOG]

Academic Programs



Jump to:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A

- [Accounting Certificate](#)
- [Acting, B.F.A.](#)
- [Africana Studies Minor](#)
- [Africana Studies, B.A.](#)
- [American Studies Minor](#)
- [American Studies, B.A.](#)
- [Ancient Studies Minor](#)
- [Ancient Studies, B.A.](#)
- [Anthropology Minor](#)
- [Art History Minor](#)
- [Asian History Minor](#)
- [Asian Studies Certificate](#)

[Top](#)

Page Content:

[This information will be displayed on the Gateway.]

The screenshot shows a rich text editor interface. At the top is a toolbar with icons for print, save, undo, redo, search, and other editing functions. Below the toolbar are two dropdown menus labeled 'Styles' and 'Format', followed by text formatting options like bold (B), italic (I), underline (U), strikethrough (ABC), subscript (x₂), and superscript (x²). There are also alignment and list-making icons. The main content area contains a 'Jump to:' section with a grid of letters A through Z. Below this, under the letter 'A', is a list of academic programs: Accounting Certificate, Acting, B.F.A., Africana Studies Minor, Africana Studies, B.A., and American Studies Minor. A 'Top' link is visible in the right margin of the editor.

Academic Programs A-Z



Major

- Acting, B.F.A.
- Africana Studies, B.A.
- American Studies, B.A.
- Ancient Studies, B.A.
- Asian Studies, B.A.
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, B.S.
- Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, B.S.
- Biological Sciences, B.A.
- Biological Sciences, B.S.
- Biology Education, B.A.
- Business Technology Administration, B.A.
- Chemical Engineering, B.S.
- Chemistry Education, B.A.
- Chemistry, B.A.
- Chemistry, B.S.

Choose Filter: *

[Please choose one of the filters below.]

Basic Filters:

- All Levels > Departments
- School/Colleges
- Departments
- Programs
- Courses
- Archived Catalogs
- Catalog Search

Complex Filters:

- All Levels > Programs
- Institution > Programs
- School/Colleges > Programs
- Departments > Programs
- All Levels > Courses
- Institution > Courses
- School/Colleges > Courses
- Departments > Courses

Direct Filters:

- Select a School/College ... ▼ *
- Select a Department ... ▼ *
- Select a Program... ▼

[ARCHIVED CATALOG]



Mechanical Engineering, B.S.

Offered by [Mechanical Engineering](#).

Students admitted to UMBC who by virtue of their math placement exams are eligible for MATH 150 Pre-Calculus or higher, who intend to pursue Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Information Technology are initially admitted to the Pre-Mechanical Engineering program. Full admission to Mechanical Engineering is granted upon completion of the gateway courses and upon previous transcript review (if applicable). Students should review the academic requirements and policies of the university and the college, including gateway requirements and repeat policies.

For additional information incoming freshmen should visit: <http://advising.coeit.umbc.edu/prospective-freshmen/>.

Transfer students should visit <http://advising.coeit.umbc.edu/transfer-information/>

Outlined below are the program requirements leading to the B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a recommended four year program of study for mechanical engineering majors.

Freshman Year:

Fall

Mechanical Engineering, B.S.



← Return to: [Academic Programs A-Z](#)

Offered by [Mechanical Engineering](#).

Mechanical engineering focuses on the design and production of energy-producing systems and on mechanical devices or mechanisms. These systems and mechanisms are applied to fields ranging from biology, such as artificial hearts, to transport systems, such as cars and airplanes, and in manufacturing tools and plants. The mechanical engineering curriculum at UMBC, accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, provides students thorough training in mathematics, physical sciences, engineering sciences and engineering design.

University Requirements

Completion of [Minimum University Requirements for an Undergraduate Baccalaureate Degree](#).

- Minimum 120 credits and minimum GPA of 2.0

[ARCHIVED CATALOG]



Economics Minor

The economics department offers two minors for students majoring in other disciplines. These minors are not available to **Economics** or **Financial Economics** majors.

A minor in economics will consist of 21 credits in economics as follows:

- [ECON 101 - Principles of Microeconomics](#) (3.00)
- [ECON 102 - Principles of Macroeconomics](#) (3.00)
- [ECON 311 - Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis](#) (3.00) *
- [ECON 312 - Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis](#) (3.00) *

Note:

Nine credits in economics courses numbered 314 or higher. A grade of "C" or better is required in courses that fulfill minor requirements.

All students should have a knowledge of introductory statistics, including regression analysis.

* Note that calculus ([MATH 155](#) or [MATH 151](#) with a grade of C or better) is a prerequisite for [ECON 311](#) and [ECON 312](#).



Economics Minor



← Return to: [Academic Programs A-Z](#)

Offered by [Economics](#).

Minor Requirements

- Minimum 21 credits
- Minimum grade of 'C' in courses applied to the minor
- Students may complete a maximum of one major or minor from [Economics](#)

Course Requirements

Required (12 credits)

Complete the following:

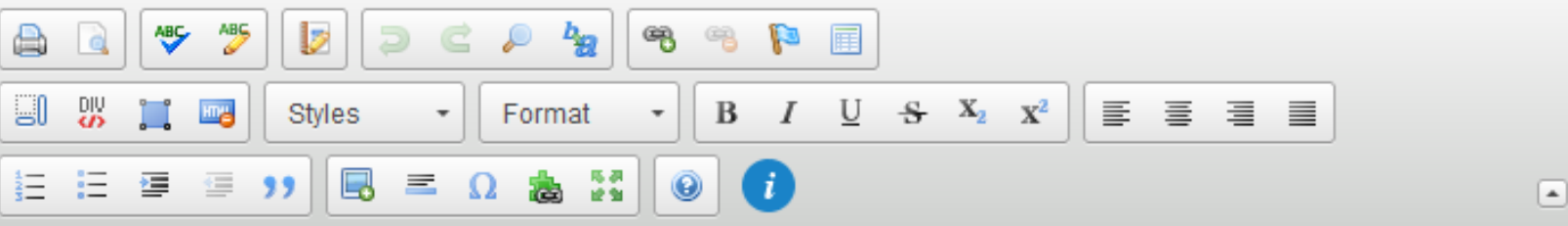
- [ECON 101 - Principles of Microeconomics \(3\)](#)
- [ECON 102 - Principles of Macroeconomics \(3\)](#)
- [ECON 311 - Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis \(3\)](#)
- [ECON 312 - Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis \(3\)](#)

Electives (9 credits)

Additional courses in economics numbered ECON 314 or higher.

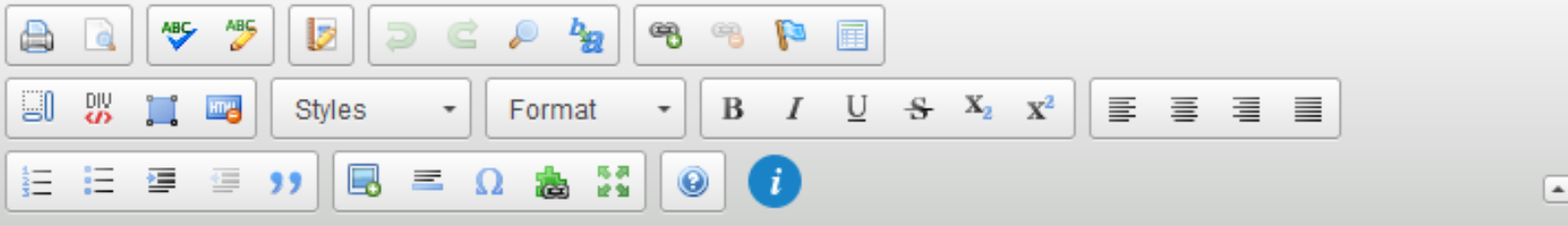
← Return to: [Academic Programs A-Z](#)

Description:



Topics to be announced each semester offered. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 6 credits or 2 attempts.

Description:



A history that covers the globe thematically from voyages of discovery, to colonization, cultural contact, empire, slavery, race, nation, migration, technology and the environment. Specific themes to be announced each semester. Recommended to students seeking an international historical perspective on world issues.

Advanced Topics in the Philosophy of Science

PHIL 472 - Advanced Topics in the Philosophy of Science (3)

An advanced examination of a topic in the philosophy of science, biology, physics, or probability. Topics will be published in the Schedule of Classes. This course is repeatable for credit with different topic. Students may complete a maximum of 6 credits. **Recommended Preparation:** One 300 level course in philosophy with a grade of 'C' or better, especially [PHIL 372](#), [PHIL 394](#), [PHIL 395](#), or a background in some particular science.

Grading: Graded/Satisfactory Unsatisfactory/Audit

Course ID: 56075

Special Topics Course:

[255 characters remaining]

Topics will be published in the Schedule of Classes.

Repeatable:

[255 characters remaining]


This course is repeatable for credit with different topic.

Maximum Credits:

[255 characters remaining]

Students may complete a maximum of 6 credits.

Recommended Preparation:

 One 300 level course in philosophy with a grade of 'C' or better, especially [PHIL 372](#), [PHIL 394](#), [PHIL 395](#), or a b

ENCH 414 - Environmental Biological Processes

ENCH 414 - Environmental Biological Processes



(3.00)

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the fundamental and design aspects of biological processes. The course focuses on engineered biological treatment for both municipal wastewater systems and contaminated soils and sediments. An understanding of biological treatment operations requires knowledge in the fundamental areas of biochemistry, mass transport, microbiology, reaction kinetics and reactor engineering. **Recommended Preparation** Recommended Course Preparation: [ENCH 410](#).

ENME 463 - Mechanical Engineering Analysis

ENME 463 - Mechanical Engineering Analysis



(3.00)

Mathematical modeling of physical situations. Solution of problems expressed by partial differential equations. Application of Fourier series and integrals. Laplace transformation; Bessel functions; Legendre polynomials; and complex problems in mechanical vibrations, heat transfer, fluid mechanics and automatic control theory. **Recommended Preparation** [MATH 225](#)

RLST 370 - African Religions in Africa and the Diaspora

RLST 370 - African Religions in Africa and the Diaspora



(3.00)

A comparative study of selected indigenous African religions and an examination of African religious survivals in the New World. Continuity and change in the principal forces of the religious systems: the Supreme Being, the cosmic gods, the ancestors and lesser spirits, as well as the relationship to other religions. **Recommended Preparation** Recommended Preparation: Junior/senior standing

Environmental Biological Processes

ENCH 414 - Environmental Biological Processes (3)

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Grading: Graded/Audit


Course ID: 100569

Scholarships

There are a number of merit-based scholarship awards available to theatre students entering the department and during matriculation. **The Linehan Artist Scholars Program** is for incoming freshmen who show high artistic and intellectual ability and who seek to develop their creative talents in the context of a strong liberal arts education. **The Fine Arts Scholarship** is offered to talented incoming freshmen intending to major in theatre. Additional **Theatre Department Scholarships** are available to all Theatre majors who have participated in the program for a minimum of two semesters. Students interested in scholarship opportunities can find out more information from the Department's website at www.umbc.edu/theatre.

Scholarships

There are a number of merit-based scholarship awards available to theatre students entering the department and during matriculation. [The Linehan Artist Scholars Program](#) is for incoming first year students who show high artistic and intellectual ability and who seek to develop their creative talents in the context of a strong liberal arts education. The Fine Arts Scholarship is offered to talented incoming first year students intending to major in theatre. Additional Theatre Department Scholarships are available to all Theatre majors who have participated in the program for a minimum of two semesters. Students interested in scholarship opportunities can find out more information from the [Theatre department website](#).



Final Thoughts

- Your catalog will be as good as your curriculum approval process is thoughtful
 - Using catalog software is a distinct skill additional to catalog editing
 - Your catalog will continue to evolve
 - You will also evolve
-

Questions!



Works Cited

Baier, K., Hendricks, C., Gorden, K. W., Hendricks, J. E., & Cochran, L. (2011, July). College students' textbook reading, or not. In *American reading forum annual yearbook* (Vol. 31, No. 31, pp. 385-402). Boone, NC, USA: Amer. Reading Forum Appalachian State Univ.

Delgado, P., & Salmerón, L. (2021). The inattentive on-screen reading: Reading medium affects attention and reading comprehension under time pressure. *Learning and instruction, 71*, 101396. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.learninstruc.2020.101396>

Hoefl, Mary E. (2012) Why University Students Don't Read: What Professors Can Do To Increase Compliance. In *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* (Vol. 6: No. 2, Article 12)

Thank you!

Carmen Cain

Assistant Registrar

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

ccain1@umbc.edu

University Catalogs Page to Screen

Please complete the session evaluation form in Whova.
