

Graduate Education at a Community Engaged University

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Making an Impact: Rethinking PhD Training through Community Engagement

CGS Annual Meeting

December 9, 2022

Carnegie Community Engagement Classification

- The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has honored UMBC with its distinguished Carnegie Community Engagement Classification.
- This classification acknowledges UMBC faculty, staff, students, and community partners for their deep commitment to strengthening the bonds between campus and community.



“Carnegie’s definition of community engagement emphasizes the importance of reciprocity and mutual benefits in the partnerships that are created”

Community Engagement is Embedded in our Research Culture

From UMBC [Vision Statement](#):

Our UMBC community redefines excellence in higher education through an inclusive culture that connects innovative teaching and learning, research across disciplines, and civic engagement.

Research Administration tagline: [Public Research for Public Good](#)

We perform cutting-edge research that is deeply interdisciplinary at its core and informed by the principle of social responsibility to understand our world and develop new technologies to improve the lives of people in Maryland and of people more broadly.

Recognized in [Promotion and Tenure Guidelines](#):

*“... a national reputation for research productivity, measured by peers in their field(s) of specialization by scholarship (for example, articles in refereed journals, chapters in edited volumes, books or monographs published by major university presses, art exhibitions, public installations, creative performances, and/or **community engaged scholarship project outcomes**); proven ability to offer graduate instruction and to direct graduate research; ...”*

Faculty have embraced community engaged scholarship

“UMBC has a uniquely forward-thinking research culture which values community-engaged scholarship, inclusive excellence, and interdisciplinary research. To put it simply, UMBC fosters research which has a real and direct impact on people and on our society.”

Information Systems Faculty Member

“UMBC has created an infrastructure for conducting socially engaged, actionable, and interdisciplinary research. This is a place in which research that seeks to advance social justice, democracy, and inclusion is incentivized, celebrated, recognized, valued, and supported. It is an exciting place.”

Public Policy Faculty Member

Example Research Topics

A Ph.D. student in the Human-Centered Computing (HCC) program examines the need, availability, and quality of accessibility services and technologies available to underserved and marginalized communities. His dissertation research leverages an intersectional framework to investigate accessible services and technology in LGBTQIA+ community centers and safe spaces.



Marine, estuarine, and environmental science student, is studying a new method of oyster aquaculture with partners at the company [Solar Oysters](#). “I used to think research was very isolated,” he says, “but in ICARE, you’re putting that research into practice. You can create benefit in the community by doing the research, and giving people access to that data.”

Example Research Topics

Applied Developmental Psychology PhD students are doing research to understand the healthy development of Chinese and Korean children in the U.S. and their parents. The goal of this project is to examine how parents' physical health, sleep quality, emotion regulation and early experiences may be related to their parenting and young children's physical health (BMI and stress). These projects are a collaborative effort with community partners providing services to these families.



Support Structures for Student Success in Community Engaged Research



Shriver Center [Service-Learning & Community Engagement](#)

Shriver [Peaceworker Fellows Program](#)

Language, Literacy and Culture PhD program: [Publicly Engaged Research and Storywork Fellowship](#)

Geography and Environmental Systems formal classwork: [GES 704 - Engaged Research in the Environmental Sector](#)

Engineering and Computing Education Program [Community Initiatives](#)