

UMBC

Valedictorian Selection Process, as amended for May 2020

While in-person commencement ceremonies have been cancelled, selection of the valedictorians is more important than ever, and their remarks will be included in the alternative, online celebration currently being planned. A valedictorian is selected for each of these two groups of undergraduate students: graduates in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, the School of Social Work, and the Erickson School; and graduates in the College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, the College of Engineering and Information Technology, and the Individualized Study Program.

The selection process includes several phases.

Phase one

Among students who have applied to graduate in the spring semester and those who have graduated in the prior summer and fall, eligible students are identified by the Provost's Office as those who:

- Have earned at least 60 credits at UMBC
- Have a GPA of at least 3.9
- Are in good standing at UMBC

Department chairs, undergraduate program directors, and directors of honors and scholars programs are invited by the Provost's Office to submit letters of support for eligible students by the due date. Each department may support no more than three students. Students not supported do not progress to phase two.

Phase two

Students who received at least one letter of support, and whose graduation review is on track to successful completion by commencement (or who have graduated), are invited by the Provost's Office to submit additional supporting materials by the due date, including a video and a written statement on topics assigned by the selection committee. Students who submit the materials by the due date progress to phase three.

Phase three

The selection committee reviews the following material for each candidate:

- Transcript
- Letter(s) of support
- Video
- Written statement
- If pending, graduation review status

The selection committee identifies the six to eight candidates who will be interviewed.

Phase four

Following the interviews, the committee selects the two students who will be the valedictorians.