



UMBC 21/22 Undergraduate Eco-Ambassador

Job Description:

UMBC's Office of Sustainability (OoS) seeks to employ responsible and dependable undergraduate students in the UMBC Eco-Ambassador (EA) program. The program cultivates environmental responsibility by training student leaders to promote sustainable practices at the University and encouraging environmentally responsible behaviors among peers.

Eco-Ambassadors are responsible for building strong relationships with campus stakeholders (i.e. Residence Life, Student Groups, UMBC Dining, etc.) to build community and partner to produce productive programming. Eco-Ambassadors are not advocates for policy change; rather they are resources and educators for daily lifestyle choices that are within the control of individual students, such as waste reduction, energy efficiency, transportation and food choices.

Eco-Ambassadors will report to the Office of Sustainability, and other campus partners depending on the EA Role they are assigned. They will coordinate with on-campus partners and OoS to develop a work plan and project goals for their campaign. Eco-Ambassadors serve in introductory student leadership roles and are vital members of the UMBC Sustainability Matters effort. Eco-Ambassadors are expected to commit to 3-5 hrs per week and attend bi-weekly meetings, during the semester. Hours of commitment typically occur between 8 AM and 4.30 PM M-F.

Eco-Ambassador Roles:

Each Eco-Ambassador will be assigned a specific role that will determine their area of focus for their campaigns. Below are the available roles for the Fall 21/Spring 22 academic year:

- **Eco-Organization Liaison:**
The Eco-Organization Liaison will work with the various environmentally-focused student organizations on campus and the Office of Sustainability. This position will be responsible for organizing and facilitating a minimum of 3 Eco-Coalition meetings during the school year (i.e. 1 in the early fall, 1 in the late fall, and 1 in the early spring). Additionally, this position will assist the Office of Sustainability with planning and organizing Harvestfest (October) and Eco-Fest (April). The liaison will communicate with the different organizations to help focus efforts from the different organizations on similar points of interest. An example might be, working with organizations to increase education around composting and working to expand compost collection on campus.
- **Green Residential Hall Champion:**
The Green Residential Hall champion will work with the Sustainability Office and Residential Life to coordinate a sustainability project or program within the residence halls. This position is responsible for proposing a project/program to either educate or

help students become more sustainable. Once the project has been approved by the Office of Sustainability, the champion will be in charge of organizing a meeting with staff in Residential Life for their approval of the project as well. An example of a project might be, working with RA's to organize an event to teach students how to properly recycle and create new signage for the trash rooms.

- **Zero-Waste Champion:**

The Zero-Waste champion will work with the Office of Sustainability to identify & coordinate a project or program on-campus focused on sustainable waste management. This position is responsible for proposing a project that will help/influence students to be more zero-waste or an education campaign to inform students of the importance of more sustainable consumption habits. This student will also assist the OoS in running the Campus Race to Zero-Waste campaign during the spring semester. Additionally, this Eco-Ambassador will work with UMBC Athletics to establish an athletics focused sustainability initiative. An example of a project might be, organizing events for students to learn how to repair and mend their clothes.

- **Sustainable Food Champion:**

The Sustainable Food champion will work directly with the Office of Sustainability and Chartwells. They will collaborate with these stakeholders to identify and coordinate a project on campus to engage students in sustainable eating habits or provide more sustainable options. This position will be required to join the UMBC Dining Committee and attend at least two committee meetings per semester. An example of a project might be, coordinating a Meatless March competition and working with Chartwells on offering more vegan/vegetarian options.

- **Climate Change Champion:**

The Climate Change champion will work directly with the Office of Sustainability to identify a project/program that assists the university in achieving the goals set forth in our Climate Action Plan. This program must engage students either in dialogues about climate action, hold space for coping with climate distress, or incentivise carbon reduction behaviors. This position will be required to join the Academic & Engagement Climate Action Steering Committee working group and attend meetings. An example of a project might be, coordinating with climate activist groups on campus to organize a climate distress support group.

- **Food Insecurity Champion:**

The Food Insecurity champion will work directly with the Office of Sustainability and Retriever Essentials to identify a project/campaign that helps educate and tackle food insecurity on-campus. This position will be required to be the sustainability representative for the Retriever Essentials' Student Leadership Board, and attend weekly meetings. This student will also help in direct services for the pantry as needed such as, picking up food donations, organizing the pantry, and assembling food bags. An example

of a project might, assisting and organizing an on-campus food drive for thanksgiving meals.

Job Requirements:

1. **Campaign Execution:** Work with campus partners to tailor programming for each campaign. This includes creating, advertising, executing and measuring each program with the guidance of your manager and help from your teammates.
2. **General Sustainability Support:** Eco-Ambassadors are often called on to help support campus-wide or department-specific sustainability initiatives. Eco-Ambassadors are expected to sign up for shifts to help as needed. This includes, but is not limited to, attending student club meetings, organizing UMBC's Eco-Coalition, attending Climate Action Steering Committees and work-group meetings.
3. **Peer-to-Peer Education:** Eco-Ambassadors are expected to lead with examples of sustainable lifestyle choices in order to encourage environmentally responsible behaviors among peers.
4. **Relationship Building:** Serve as the point of contact for students and clubs interested in sustainability and act as a resource for peers. Form partnerships with on-campus stakeholders to implement successful programming.
5. **Communications:** Work with the Office of Sustainability to clearly communicate sustainability-related activities on campus. Solicit feedback from our campus community and identify opportunities for improved sustainability efforts.
6. **Active-Participant:** Attend all scheduled meetings and training sessions.
7. Perform other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

- A sophomore, junior, or senior who will be enrolled at UMBC for the duration of the academic year. Graduate student applications will NOT be considered.
- Commitment to sustainability and desire to improve sustainability/eco-friendly behaviors on campus. Commitment to representing the University in a positive and productive manner.
- Basic understanding of Climate Change.
- Interest in the relationship between sustainability and one, or more, of the following areas: Energy, Transportation, Research/Education, and/or Waste Reduction/Recycling.
- Ability to easily engage with others.
- Independent worker who can demonstrate success without supervisor oversight.
- Demonstrates that they are reliable and responsible.
- Ability to maintain academic performance (minimum GPA of 2.8 required) and succeed at work.

Desired Skills:

- Understanding of environmental issues and existing campus sustainability priorities and programs.
- Full academic year commitment is strongly preferred but not always required.

Skills/Experience Acquired:

- Career Readiness Competencies: Teamwork/Collaboration, Professionalism/Work Ethic, Career Management
- Increased understanding of event planning, marketing and campus sustainability objectives.
- Improved time management, presentation/public speaking, teamwork and facilitation skills.
- Stronger connections to staff, students, faculty and departments engaged in sustainability work on campus.

Compensation:

Stipend: \$500.00 per semester