

Pre-College and Early College Experiences That Matter



DR. MARGUERITE WEBER, DIRECTOR

**STUDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND ACADEMIC
INITIATIVES**

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

College Readiness



- Readiness means being prepared to successfully complete credit-bearing college coursework or industry certification without remediation, having the **academic skills** and **self-motivation** necessary to persist and progress in postsecondary education, and having identified career **goals** and the necessary steps to achieve them.
- Readiness also requires the **developmental maturity** to thrive in the increasingly independent worlds of postsecondary education and careers, the **cultural knowledge** to understand the expectations of the college environment and labor market, and the **employer-based skills** to succeed in an innovation-based economy.

College Readiness



- **Academic skills**
- **Self-motivation**
- **Goal-setting behaviors**
- **Developmental maturity**
- **Cultural knowledge**
- **Employer-based skills**

Learning Experiences That Matter



College Success Skills	Pre-College	Early College (Pre-college +)
Academic Skills	Reading, writing, mathematics; grades; curriculum (esp. math and science); study skills, especially reading and time management.	Scientific and social sciences reasoning, arts appreciation, critical thinking, information literacy, ethical discernment
Self-Motivation	Emotional and information support from family, school professionals, and friends	Individualized advising, student engagement, leadership, grades
Goal-setting behaviors	Career and major exploration; exploring options for college; “value equation”; SAT; applying to college	Academic planning, confirming goals, time management, financial literacy

Learning Experiences That Matter

College Success Skills	Pre-College	Early College (Pre-college +)
Developmental maturity	Employment/school balance; wellness behaviors; student engagement; family responsibilities.	Full-time; no delay; employment/school balance; credits completed; family responsibilities.
Cultural knowledge	Understanding college admissions requirements; knowing the “language” of higher education; recognizing surmountable barriers; exploring choices.	2 yr/4 yr choice; admissions; financial aid; registration; getting support; living arrangements
Employer-based skills	Time management, critical thinking, following directions, working in diverse groups	General Education and applied liberal arts.

Early College Experiences that Matter



- **Positive**

- ✦ Applying early; attending orientation; professional advising
- ✦ Achieving higher GPA than in high school; completing all courses registered for
- ✦ Assessing “fit”: engagement and goal setting
- ✦ Confirming “value equation”: financial literacy and knowledge of college
- ✦ Working on campus or working off-campus at least 10 hours a week
- ✦ Friends, family and college professionals support “resilience”

- **Negative**

- ✦ Working full-time
- ✦ Family responsibilities, especially having a child
- ✦ Failing or withdrawing from courses
- ✦ Limiting contact with faculty and staff professionals
- ✦ Lack of support for college goals

The UB Experience



- **Learning Communities**
 - Cohorts within thematically linked classes
- **Applied Learning and Study Skills**
 - Your brain + your brain on learning + learning in college + lifelong learning
 - Mentor model of instruction
- **Individualized advising**
 - Advising syllabus
 - At-Risk interventions
- **Early Alert System**
- **Faculty development in pedagogies of engagement**
- **Holistic approach to developmental studies**
- **Intentional co-curriculum**
 - Leadership and followership
 - Service
 - Cultural appreciation
 - Understanding diversity
 - Wellness

Contact me!



Dr. Marguerite Weber, Director
Student Academic Affairs and Academic Initiatives
Office of the Provost
University of Baltimore
mweber@ubalt.edu
410-837-4087