



Want to be Career Fair Ready?

G.R.I.T. Will Make You Great!

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Why Career Fairs?

- Meet multiple employers at the same event
- Less formal setting to network
 - Practice your 30 second commercial
- Build self-confidence
- Explore new options & opportunities
- Get inspired!



Steps to Build G.R.I.T.

- Get your Facts
- Resume Ready
- In It to Win It!
- Take it from Here!



G: Get Your Facts

- Who will be there?
 - UMBC employer partners & other employers
 - Undergraduate students, graduate students, alumni & community members
 - Career Center staff members
- What is the purpose of a career fair?
 - To practice networking skills, connect with specific employers, and explore available opportunities
- When does it start/end?
 - Doors open at 11:30 AM and close at 3:30 PM
 - Some employers leave early – early bird gets the worm!
- Where is it located?
 - RAC gym → enter through RAC main entrance (bring student ID card!)

G: Get Your Facts

BUSINESS FORMAL



COLLEGE CASUAL



G: Get Your Facts

- How can I prepare?
 - Review employer directory & identify employers of interest
 - Highlight/mark their table number in your book
 - Print a copy of the program ahead of time to reference
 - Explore employers by recruiting major (listed in directory)
 - Some employers are recruiting for all majors!
 - Get your resume approved in UMBCworks
 - Bring copies to the Career Fair

G: Get Your Facts

- How can I prepare?
 - Dress to impress! This is a first impression!
 - Business casual → professional dress
 - No jeans, shorts, t-shirts, sneakers or athleisure clothing
 - Avoid flashy jewelry, revealing clothes, items with tears/holes or highly visible tattoos
 - Safe bets: dress pants, suits, skirts, dresses, blazers, jackets, closed-toe dress shoes
 - If in doubt: Google business casual! Would you wear it to an interview?
 - Know your industry trends & skills that employers are seeking
 - Anything newsworthy? Any up-and-coming trends?

G: Get Your Facts

- How can I prepare?
 - Research companies ahead of time
 - Use resources provided by the Career Center like Vault, which can be found under the tools tab of the Career Center website. Vault lets you explore companies and learn about their work from an objective source
 - Brainstorm questions to ask potential employers
 - Ask about company culture, how training is handled within the organization, or projects the representative has worked on to name a few

R: Resume Ready!

- What does a “ready” resume look like?
 - Contact information
 - Professional email address
 - Education
 - Degree type, major and grad date
 - Skills
 - What can I do?
 - Experience
 - Work
 - Internships
 - Projects



R: Resume Ready?

- Check out the Resume Criteria page (Career Guide, p. 16):
 - What can you check off?
 - What do you need to work on?
 - SPELLCHECK!
 - Industry lingo?



R: Resume Ready!

- Print multiple copies of your resume
- Bring pens, paper and something to collect business cards
 - Padfolios are great for this
- Don't bring: heavy bags, backpacks, coffee cups – leave one hand free to shake hands

R: Resume Ready? All things Ready!

- LinkedIn profile
 - Update information
 - Links to projects
 - Join organizations & follow companies
 - Post that you're attending the Career Fair!



I: In It to Win It!



Join us at the UMBC Fall Career Fair!
Wednesday, September 25, 11:30-3:30 at the RAC

I: In It to Win It!

- You're IN it! Now what?
 - First Impressions
 - Eye contact
 - Firm handshake
 - Confidence!



I: In It to Win It!

- 30 Second Commercial
 - Identify yourself
 - Highlight a few strengths and accomplishments
 - Show how you can bring added value to an organization → think about your WHY!
 - Be concise! (30 seconds)
- End your intro with a question about the organization

I: In It to Win It!

- Remember your plan
- Get your network started
 - Engage with employers – ask questions, jot down notes, collect information
 - Be patient!
- Collect contact information
 - Business cards & company resources
- Always thank the representatives for their time!

T: Take It From Here

- Post-Career Fair Priorities:
 - Follow up with your new connections!
 - LinkedIn networking message requests
 - Submit resumes formally if requested
 - Follow organizations on LinkedIn & UMBCworks
- Next Steps:
 - Schedule an Interview Preparation appointment (30 or 60 min.) at the Career Center
 - Use [Big Interview](#)

T: Take It From Here

- Career Center Fall Events Calendar
 - Diversity Recruitment Event Oct. 24th
 - Intern Success conference Nov 6th
 - Throughout the Semester:
 - Inside Scoop (industry-specific panels)
 - UMBC Connects
 - Networking and Info Sessions
 - On The Road: Explore Outside the Loop!

Questions?



The UMBC Career Center aims to empower all students and graduates to create their own success stories.