2011 Alumni Survey

What UMD Could Do

This Campus Assessment Working Group (CAWG) document contains reflections from recent alumni on their undergraduate experiences as reported in the 2011 University of Maryland Alumni Survey of 2010 graduates. Eight hundred thirty-seven recent alumni completed the survey, with an overall sample generally comparable to the UMD student population (female and white students were slightly over-represented, and male and Asian American students were slightly under-represented). Seventy-three percent of respondents began as freshmen at UMD, while 27% transferred from another institution.

Recent alumni were asked to reflect upon their experiences as undergraduates at the University of Maryland regarding the value of and the need for more experience in the following areas: Providing preparation for their current educational or professional position; increasing academic knowledge outside their major; speaking effectively; writing effectively; presenting a persuasive argument; revising their thinking based on new information; applying what they have learned to other situations; developing a sense of professional ethics; developing their leadership skills; understanding diverse perspectives; working with others who are different from them; gaining an understanding of global issues; and, establishing a mentoring relationship with a UMD faculty/staff member. They were then asked to provide written responses regarding what THE UNIVERSITY could have done differently to improve their experience in the areas above where they indicated wanting more opportunity.

Given that the total sample represents 14% of the graduating class of 2010, and half of the respondents took time to type comments, use caution when generalizing beyond this group. Responses were included if they contained the keywords (below), and are presented in order of frequency of appearance in the comments themselves. Names and other identifiers mentioned in the comments were removed to maintain respondent confidentiality.

Category keywords
___

1. Academic, knowledge, course, class, teach
2. Mentor, relationship, advise, advisor, advising, professor, faculty, coach, counsel, staff
3. Major
4. Interns, internship, prepare, preparation, practiced, position, hands on, hands-on, real life, real world, outside
5. Speak, speaking, writing, write, argument, persuasive, thinking, revise, skill, ability
6. Job, career, profession, employ
7. Require, assign, mandatory
8. Big, large, size, small, number
9. Global, world, international
10. Opportunity
11. Participate, club, involve
12. Leadership
13. Resource, information
14. Diversity, diverse perspective, different perspective
15. Ethic

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
1	Smaller classes would have increased the possibility of developing closer relationships with professors. […]	1 2 8
7	I had three majors, two of which were quite large and one of which was medium sized. I get a lot out of one-on-one conferences, especially in bigger classes. Requiring or encouraging professors at least one individual conference per semester might help. Office hours are somewhat helpful, but when you don't particularly need specific help, a conference is nice to just to have some personal face time with the professor. I also think oral presentations should be a bigger part of all majors, you can get through your whole college experience and barely speak. Having at least one oral presentation requirement per class might help.	1 2 3 5 7 8
9	Teacher Student Mentor Programs would have been helpful. I do not feel that I had one single teacher over my 4 years at University of Maryland who was dedicated enough to devote time to forming a bond with me. Specifically, my [...] advisor the last few semesters was very unhelpful and unpleasent.	1 2
14	Because UMD is such a big school, I understand that it's difficult to develop mentoring relationships with professors. I was lucky to be in [...] smaller classes, so I was able to get to know my professors more. I would suggest maybe requiring [...] students to have to go to office hours of a professor at least once in their first semester. Once you get over that anxiety, it becomes a lot easier and more valuable to students.	1 2 8
15	I would have liked more opportunity to develop my career path up-front in my freshman and softmore years. I would like to have been able to better understand what potential jobs would be like in my field before pursuing major-specific classes that may limit opportunities to change majors down the line.	1 3 6 10
16	[…] I did not find any real opportunities to bond and create mentoring relationships with professors in large part because of the size of classes and the time limits my professors […] faced because of those class sizes.	1 2 8
18	The University could use a better vetting process for faculty academic advisers. Mine did not know what classes I needed and was unable to help in picking out courses. It also did not help that he struggled to speak and understand English.	1 2 5
19	Mentoring program with faculty, classes with more small-group discussions	1 2 8
30	The University could include more field placement opportunities […]. The University can assign mentors within your major field of study so that there is always someone for students to go to and make academic advising mandatory for more semesters.	1 2 3 7
32	I think the University did and still does give each student opportunities to learn and expand themselves both academically and personally both within and outside their major if they take advantage of it.	1 3 4
34	The one thing that I don't believe that I improved very much on was my speaking skill. I wish that there was a class for people like me who are afraid of speaking in public. If there was such a class, I think that it should have been announced somehow so that students would know about it. I, along with many other students, suffered through presentations and there was even a time when I had points taken off due to my nervousness, which isn't fair. Developing relationships with faculty was sometimes difficult only because a student would only have a certain professor's class once or twice. Also, trying to establish a relationship when there are 20 other students could be difficult.	1 2 5
39	given more individualized attention, especially to my department and to commuter students the academic advisors are horrible. They gave me bad advice and nobody followed up with me. the UM experience was detached from reality	1 2
46	It's hard at a huge university, I would imagine, to create a culture of awareness on global issues outside of the obvious political science, history, etc. courses. But that certainly doesn't exist. I always liked going to see the speakers that came to UMD, but a lot of students didn't take advantage...maybe you could encourage people to take advantage of those opportunities more when they're freshmen and sophomores. [...] Also, international students add a lot. Creating (more) scholarships for them would be awesome.	1 4 5 9

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
51	I have thought of this for a while, and the only thing I can think of to increase many of the factors your suvery is examining is to develop a MANDATORY EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT. This would make it mandatory to have an internship/summer inernship/fellowship/research assistantship/clinic/etc. before you graduate. The problem with college is the lack of hands on experience to apply what you learned in the field. I learned a multitude of more information in two weeks in my internship then I would have in 2 months in a course. With our proximity to DC, it is a shame the number of students who refuse to take advantage of that. A mandatory graduation requirement would change that.	1 4 7 8 13
52	Better upper-level writing classes [...]! Overall, the majority of my papers were at the same academic level as my high school papers. Push us to a higher level of writing and discourse!	1 3 5
58	Provided more opportunities for outside of the classroom events with faculty/staff.	1 2 4
60	For increasing academic knowledge outside your major, the University could try to make it easier or more obtainable to achieve a minor. Another idea is to require all students to join an academic club or organization outside of the classroom.	1 3 4 7 11
62	I was most disappointed with the academic advising. I felt that I did not have a mentor on campus who was always there to answer questions or provide guidance, whether it be about classes, summer internships, etc. […]	1 2 4
64	I was a transfer student, and I never had an advisor or teacher who really helped me during college. In my program [...], it would have been helpful to have been assigned one specific advisor, in order to help me with my experience, to give me advice, and to establish a relationship with. In addition, I think that advisors should encourage student to get internships to gain experience outside of college. I completed two internships while at UMD, but secured both of them on my own, without the help of advisors.	1 2 4 7
65	Possibly a required public speaking or communications class for all majors	1 3 5 7
67	Improve academic advising services; they are very focused on graduation date and requirements to get there.	1 2 7
70	More quality writing classes. […]	1 5
71	I would have liked the opportunity to focus more on one concentrated area in my degree. [...] had a lot of required courses and without knowing what electives would be offered semester to semester it made it very difficult to plan out a course load that focused more in one area.	1 7 10
72	Offering more CORE classes.	1
78	I don't know there is anything UMD could have done. We have short period of time to learn as much information as possible. I'm not displeased in the least with my experience at UMD, I just wish I could have taken more classes for fun and learned more outside of my major. But that's the point of majoring - it allows you to specialize.	1 3 4 13
79	Have required public speaking courses.	1 5 7
83	Could have given more practical avenues to practice concepts and lessons learned in class.	1
86	Increased the number of smaller classes and increased the number of full-time faculty members (vs. adjunct or graduate student teachers who tend to be less accessible through office hours or other out of class interaction).	1 2 8
87	Personal financial planning course	1
92	expanded […] course offerings.	1

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
94	I was afraid to take classes outside of my major because I was worried about my gpa. I wish I had considered taking some pass/fail. I wish it had been offered as a suggestion by advisors or discussed more.	1 2 3 4
95	allowed a bit more flexibility in what courses you can take for electives... example: I wanted to take a […] class because that is something that interests me, but i would have had to go through a lot of hassle to get into a class.	1
97	Developing professional ethics […] standards in the classroom were not very high. People thought just showing up to class was enough to get by and professors did little to counter that culture. That culture presented itself differently in group projects, where I think undeveloped professionalism was more present. People were not driven by the assignment and lacked a sense of what their contribution should be. Obviously, this behavior did not apply to everyone, although I think it did apply to the majority.	1 2 3 6 7 15
113	More targeted course material	1
115	Made classes available for credit that didn't require much work (so maybe not fulfill a requirement) therefore giving more opportunity/desirability for learning outside of major	1 3 4 5 7 10
116	[…] classes were giant and it was hard to get to know professors very well, even when working in a lab. I wish that the upper level classes offered were a bit smaller.	1 2 8
123	Courses that more directly tied what we learned to the real-world. More opportunities to work with children in the community to develop leadership skills. Courses that required more group work [...]. Checking in with advisors/mentors more often than once a semester.	1 2 5 7 9 12
131	I would have like more opportunity to prepare for my current job position. Due to limited enrollment into certain majors I was not able to get into the major I desired all 4 years, so I had to settle for an open major that was similiar to the one that I wanted. If I were able to get into the major I wanted I would have been better prepared for my job, and would not be taking specific classes in order to be certified.	1 3 4 6 10
137	More minors. A required debate or public speaking class.	1 5 7
143	Make courses more challenging and have higher expectations of students and faculty	1 2
145	It's possible that the university already has in place opportunities to learn better leadership skills and speaking skills through various programs and seminars and the like. But with the push to fit in classes and work, there often was just not enough time in a day to take advantage. And with large class sizes, it's difficult to work those things into a curriculum. But that's where I would have liked to see them. At the very least, more critical feedback from professors as to speaking and leadership skills. I did find this in a couple grad-level classes I took during undergrad -- direct critiques of speaking presentations, which I found to be very helpful.	1 2 5 8 12
146	develop classes/curriculum that focus more on these topics instead of putting all focus on learning and testing the material.	1
150	Smaller class sizes for more individual attention	1 8
153	Classes and/or seminars that count toward graduation requirements	1 7
157	I only met with an advisor to get my classes approved once. I heard a lot of other students complain that faculty advisors gave them the wrong information, which would place them further behind in their schooling. Having advisors available that were knowledgable in the different academic plans and more flexible in meeting would be more helpful. It was difficult finding professors to write recommendation letters so I could attend graduate school because I did not have that relationship with faculty members.	1 2 5 13

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
158	There was one mentor for thousands of students so I would have liked to have more mentor relationships. I would have also liked to learn more about global issues and to have more opportunity to take classes outside of my major.	1 2 3 4 9 10
159	Increase academic knowledge outside your major- although UMD does require core classes in different areas of study, I feel like I didn't learn about other area until my junior year [...]	1 3 4 7
168	Students do have the opportunity to take additional communication classes but are not aware of how important speaking and writing skills are in the professional world. [..]	1 5 6 9 10
169	Certain classes were difficult to get into based on popularity or other factors. If students really wanted to learn those specific subjects but were unable to, that's a missed opportunity. Maybe UM can open more classes so more students can have access to these classes in high demand.	1 10
176	I believe having a better program towards internships and opportunities that we, as students, don't think to do as underclass-men. For instance, there are so many opportunities that DC has for Sophomores / Juniors [..] with so many different companies that I was not aware of until now. Many students such as myself only started to think about Internships our SENIOR year, where we could have started Sophomore/Junior thus gaining valuable experience in the field.	1 4
179	I would have liked greater opportunity to learn and then apply that knowledge to practical skills used in the workplace. Looking back, the most value came from my internships, not the classes.	1 4 5 10
187	I think they should offer more specialized majors. Since it is such a diverse college shouldn't the academics offered also be very diverse and encourage students to look into a something that they may have never tried before but because it is offered they want to try it.	1 3
189	Most of my classes had very high attendance, so it was difficult developing a mentoring relationship with my professors. The University could establish a mentoring program, where professors from within each college volunteer their time to provide guidance to students on an as needed basis. I understand that professors are very busy with class and research; however, I think it would be a great resource for students. The mentoring program would be more valuable than the advising offices within each college.	1 2 13
190	Encourage professors to be more available and show more interest in students' university experiences. Most professors seemed to be only available for issues pertaining to their specific class.	1 2
195	Prepared me for something other than graduate work. Every one of my classes was about theory and writing a long paper, not about real work experiences. Encourage your teachers to reach out to students. And encourage your students to do something OTHER than drink and waste all their parents money. [...]	1 4 5
198	Making it easier to take the higher level "interesting" classes in other majors for people who are interested in seeing what a major is like but not ready (or have enough time) to commit to taking all of the prerequisites that you have to take now in order to get in to those classes. [...] Perhaps require a speech-writing or public speaking 1 credit class or at least have one available either major-specific or at least general area specific. Even a class in "small talk" would be interesting to practice having those conversations that need to be semi-formal (i.e. with a boss) but not an actual presentation. I don't think in any of my classes was there a point where new information was provided and we were expected to then incorporate that information into our already existing paper/presentation/project. I think that kind of flexibility would be a great thing to have or try to include in classwork - I'm writing journal articles now and new studies are constantly being done that are requiring me to re-write and re-think the article that I am writing up now. In terms of diversity I think Maryland has a lot of it, but people still separate themselves off into groups of their comfort level. I don't know if there is anything the university can do about that, but it's certainly worth striving for.	1 3 5 7 8 13 14
201	More options for elective/CORE classes.	1
203	Too much inconsistency between writing classes. Some extremely easy, some extremely hard. I would have liked a better writing education.	1 5

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
212	Greater focus on academic rigor. I felt unprepared in my graduate level courses because I hardly wrote at all in my undergraduate career. [...]	1 4 6
220	Classes on how life actually works - learning how to read health benefits, learning about 401k's, investing, mortgages, etc.	1
238	In my opinion maryland is a culture of mediocrity. For how great we are regionally, the recruiters that come to our campus are at best B or C class. I would really appreciate more case based classes and less scantron based classes	1
260	Perhaps have a more defined "pre-med" path, including anatomy/physiology, neurology, some pathophysiology classes in addition to the pre-reqs.	1
262	Do more to encourage university faculty of undergraduate students to actively develop relationships with undergraduate students. I had excellent grades as an undergraduate but I never developed any significant or lasting relationships with any of the faculty. On the one hand I know it is the responsibility of students to approach faculty, but sometimes that can be intimidating. If faculty [...] actively reach out to students it can help. They can schedule one on one meetings which every student must attend. or invite students to meet to discuss issues besides the specific class they were teaching. [...] also they were very reluctant to write letters of recommendation despite my excellent performance in their class. this has significantly impeded my ability to advance professionally. while some were better than others, in general there was a culture that lacked concern for undergraduate students and did not reach out to them or support them in ways beyond giving immediate answers to test questions. Also, [...] there should have been more requirements for presentations as public speaking skills are critical in this field.	1 2 5 6 7
279	Incorporated global issues into classes.	1 9
286	More opportunity to take upper level electives in other fields without so many pre-requisite classes.	1 10
291	More opportunities to speak in front of the class would be nice. Lots of short presentations are better than a few long presentations. Often in classes you get to give one really long presentation. This is nice but often audience is bored and feedback is less meaningful because you cannot immediately apply it to another project (because it is usually the end of the semester.	1 5
293	[…] allow more time [...] to take language courses/study abroad	1
297	The teacher needed to be held more accountable for her lack of teaching and lack of response to issues with her class. I think if there was a system to critique her by her peers instead of her students (including by a supervisor or department chair) the class would have been much more rewarding for myself and the other students.	1
305	Talked/taught more about Teaching Assistant / Research Assistant opportunities	1
306	The University of Maryland needs to be more open to the opinions of students concerning how the majors could be improved and what classes could be substituted. […]	1 3
312	The degree is very demanding and didn't allow me too many opportunities to take courses outside of my major.	1 3 4
314	More required meetings with counselors. Assigning a counselor to each student who will work with the student for the entire duration of their stay at University of Maryland. [...] I wish internships had been required for graduation in order to gain more knowledge, more contacts, more job opportunities/possibilities in my prospective field.	1 2 4 6 7
318	Implement curriculum that helps bridge relationships among faculty, staff, and students as well as depart from the general curriculum that distanced me from learning about every aspect of my field; in effect, a diverse knowledge of my field, rather than a smattering of courses.	1 2
319	Have more opportunities to get a chance to establish and meet professors outside of the normal classroom setting.	1 2 4

Category=1 Keywords=academic | knowledge | course | class | teach

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
321	Provide a class that dealt with global issues [...]. Maybe touched on the topic in required courses.	1 7 9
322	Better bridge academic learning with real-life situations, [...] by providing authentic learning opportunities rather than simply lecture-exam style courses.	1
323	Professors who care about teaching--I found in my [...] major that the coursework was an afterthought for professors with other obligations/goals	1 2 3
324	Speak effectively - Encourage more spontaneous speeches/oral presentations in class Write effectively - [...] more writiting opportunities would be helpful	1 5
328	Decreased class sizes.	1 8
338	I would like to see more small, seminar format classes. I understand this can be a strain on resources since it requires special effort by faculty and teaching assistants, but courses like these were what really tested my skills as a writer and researcher.	1 2 5 7 8 13
342	First, hire professors who speak english effectively. Many of my professors were probably great teachers, but I couldn't understand most of what they said. Next, hire professors who actually care about teaching, and not just about research. Finally, I would recommend taking the surveys at the end of the semester EXTREMELY seriously. I have had professors who have ridiculous policies and exams, and I know for a fact that they got almost unanimously terrible reviews, and yet they continue to teach. Don't be afraid of students poorly rating difficult teachers. I know [...] gets great reviews, even though he is one of the hardest professors I have had, because he is indisputably the best professor in the [...] department. Also, core classes are a waste of time to some extent. [...]	1 2 5
344	Require courses that have lots of wiring/speeches. [...] As for the ethics, require an ethics class. The main reason I put establish a mentoring relationship is because I did have to search out the main one I had [...]. Part of the problem of have a large school with lots of people and large class sizes. It is harder to make a connection,	1 2 7 8 15
347	Prepare students for the tough job market, offered an internship class during the school year so I wouldn't have to pay out of state tuition for the summer class.	1 4 6
351	Teach classes from different perspectives to get students to think differently to come up with new ideas.	1 14
366	Revise the mentoring program [...] assign a professor the student already has taken a class with, rather than assign any professor. Enforce more mandatory meetings (one per semester is not enough). Mandate that every student must do at least a summer internship or semester long research on campus.	1 2 4 5 7
373	Make more general curricululm requirments within each major field (ie: mandoratory for every student to take a Language course), so I would have more diverse classes, not solely classes within the field of my major. Set up more opportunities and programs (possibly required for incoming freshman or incoming students to a particular college program) to be paired with a UM Factulty/staff member for a mentoring/advising program.	1 2 3 7
381	[...] I would have liked more of an emphasis on global issues in my classes overall.	1 9
387	Add a required core class about leadership & speaking... two things that are essential for every human to learn. Also, maybe require students to write 1 paper each year on 1 of their professors... which might push students to interact more with professors and encourage the attendance of office hours.	1 2 5 7 12
390	offer more diverse classes	1
393	I concentrated specifically on completing my CORE and my major and two minors at UMD in two years so that I could graduate on time (I was a transfer student). Instead of having to take disparate CORE courses that were of no interest and a drag on my time and GPA, I would have preferred to have the opportunity to pursue another mine.	1 3 10

Category=1 Keywords=academic | knowledge | course | class | teach

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
398	Offer additional public speaking classes	1 5
401	Provided more information about opportunities available earlier in my academic career at UMD. Ex: exploration of mentoring [...]. More leadership […] classes would have been appreciated.	1 2 6 12 13
407	In most of my time at Maryland the majority of professors didn't seem interested in forming any sort of mentoring relationship. They were available for office hours, but beyond providing help with class did not appear too interested in each student as an individual.	1 2 3
414	Smaller classes in Freshmen and Sophmore year onward.	1 8
430	[…]There should be fewer CORE classes.	1
434	[...] little to no writing was required in my upper level classes. While I took classes […] to improve my ctitical writing skills, I wish more classes had been offered that trained report writing and analytical use of [...] data.	1 5 7
445	One more year of required english/ effective writing courses	1 5 7
459	Provide more professional development courses, perhaps even specializing some for specific majors.	1 3 6
480	Instead of having exams for many of my classes, it would have been nice to have presentations or another form of an end of semester project.	1
489	Some professors could be more available to meet with students outside of class time. Make some sort of Speech class more available or a required course. Have better advisors [...] to better guide students, who are not sure what they want to do, into a field of interest and tell them about leadership and other opportunities that are available.	1 2 4 7 12
490	Put more effort into hiring better teachers (read: those who actually know the subject they are "teaching"); put more funding and emphasis into actual TEACHING instead of pure research. Remove the "general education" credit requirements and instead offer course loads more directly related to a chosen major from the start. Offer classes on a better schedule, instead of all on the same day. [...]	1 3 7
496	More small group classes or activities	1 8
497	Something that my graduate school does that UM did not was create a "big sibling" relationship which I think UM could benefit from. A student could be paired with either an older student in the major, a graduate student, or teacher and I think that would help prevent students who change majors many times.	1 2 3 8
499	It would be nice if there was a place on campus to learn real world technical skills and earn certifications-- kind of like how you can get CPR certified at the ERC and you can learn arts skills at the Arts and Learning center-- something like that but for tech skills. For example if there was a tech skills center where you could take Cisco certification classes, MS cert classes, A+, Net+, etc. Or just take like a class on python or something [...] *everyone* could benefit a little bit from learning how a computer works and getting to know a little bit about programming). Similar classes for simple life skills like taking care of your car or balancing your finances would be appreciated.	1 4 5 9
502	Train students to improve their critical reading, speaking, thinking, and writing skills through special courses. For instance, students should be expected to read non-fiction articles, scholarly articles, magazines, etc. critically assess them, respond to them, and discuss it openly in discussion. This would have helped students break free from formulized thinking and help them to improve academically.	1 5
516	I work as a graduate research assistant, and more classes that involved setting up experiments, taking and processing data would have been helpful.	1 11

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
518	make a requirement to attend several (say 10) workshops or seminars a week. This way students could learn about a variety of issues without much academic strain.	1 7
523	The university could have involved freshman students in more small classes.	1 8 11
526	Had classes directly related to that topic with in my major. [...]	1 3
529	Except for being misadvised and being forced to withdraw from a class my first semester, the university could not have done anything differently.	1 2
530	I would like to have interviewed with companies based in states other than the DC/Maryland/VA area. I would also liked to have had a lot more writing courses that I was required to take. [...] I think the school could have done a better job of teaching global current events. There should have been a required class each year that met once a month or so tailored to the student's course of study.	1 5 6 7 9
532	Taken more courses to expand learning techniques instead of staying in a few fields with limited abilities in the future	1
535	I believe they could provide a mandatory internship course, where students had to apply their educational experience in the real world. I also feel like there should have been more english requirements. Maybe a mandatory course for writing development. [...] I also strongly believe there should be a mandatory government & politics/current issues class should be required. I believe that kind of knowledge is so necessary and a lot of people don't pay attention unless they are forced. I rarely had the opportunity for leadership in any of my courses. A lot of this is through my own fault for not actively pursuing student organizations where I could develop this skill. I do not think the school can offer anything more than the student orgs. For the global issues, I repeat the thought of having a mandatory government & politics course. I did not have any relationships with any of my professors, but that was my own fault. The faculty was more than accomodating and willing to mentor students. I just did not take the opportunities.	1 2 4 5 7 9 10 12
538	Ultimately, I felt pegged into sticking with a specific direction when it came to selecting classes due to prerequisites or major specific classes. I came into Maryland in my 3rd year and I felt that it was too late to be able to explore different subjects more deeply and was just limited to find any class that was available. In the end, I wish I could have studied something else; I regretted my the major I selected. But in hindsight, I can't imagine how I could have changed the situation if I were to do it all over again due to the restrictions on classes.	1 3
557	Make a listing of the most useful cross disciplinary skills for us to consider e.g. a speech class, economics and other stuff I wish I had taken but didn't think of until I got out into the world and realized I would have liked those skills.	1 5 9
559	The university could have internships available in the lower level classes available so students could get the real world situations and form a connection with professionals in their major of interest very early in their college experience.	1 3 4 6 9
561	Encourage instructors to establish closer relationships with students. Create more interdisciplinary courses and or ask instructors to connect their course content to other fields when possible.	1 2
564	Seeking researching opportunities with the professors at UMD was rather difficult. I approached many teachers who had openings, but got turned down after they reviewed my transcript. I felt so demoralized that I was afraid to ask others. School should provide more researching opportunities for [...] students and judge those who are willing to participate equally.	1 2 11
568	Provide more leadership rolls for students, decrease class size, and require professors to do more teaching and less power point. I think that Power Point should be banned from the classroom. Professors cannot seem to figure out how to use it effectively.	1 2 7 8 12

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
574	The University should make better use of its location near Washington, especially in policy-related fields [...], and offer classes with a more practical bent. The University should also have more classes that teach students to use tools related to jobs in such fields - no student of the social sciences should graduate without learning how to use at least one statistical software package (e.g. Stata) very well.	1 6
577	Internships linked with academic programs, assigning a mentor/advisor and making sure he/she actually advises me.	1 2 4 7
579	Opening up lab positions for undergrads. Making sure professors aren't here solely for research, but actually WANT to teach! LISTENING to student complains (several teachers come to mind strongly here)	1 2 4
582	Provide opportunities for social interaction between students and faculty outside of class. The current system, which is dependent primarily on office hours, does not facilitate conversation about topics outside of schoolwork. These non-topical conversations are a necessity to build the types of personal relationships that "mentoring relationships" depend on. [...]	1 2 4
584	Provided a better core curriculum that focused on academic knowledge outside the major that could still be tied back to the major in some way to focus on how the area of study affects and is affected by other diverse and global issues.	1 3 4 9
595	I believe that the university should revise prerequisites for certain classes. [...] Of course priority in classes should go to students in those majors, but if there is high demand, the university should look into opening more sections so more non-majors can participate.	1 3 5 11
596	The University could have made it mandatory that students meet one on one with their professors, even if they didn't need to go to office hours, just so the student and teacher got to meet at least once by themselves.	1 2 7
603	Used class time more effectively. Many classes repeated information from prerequisite classes which wasted time that could have been spent teaching us ways to use our knowledge more effectively.	1 13
604	The University provides countless opportunities to the students in all of these areas, whether they be academic or extracurricular. I think it's up to the student to take advantage of what is available.	1
619	It was tough for me to take many more classes outside of [...], but reading, writing and speech classes are invaluable for any student. [...] I think it's better to have some mentors but I think proactive students can get to know one or more professors. The limiting factor is time. I think to have a few upper classmen mentors would be invaluable. I'm not sure if UMD has a class for project management but I think that would be a valuable class.	1 2 4 5
624	Classes to learn how to teach native speakers of Spanish and technology	1 5
631	Create a mentoring program for all students and faculty - require the faculty to get involved in mentoring. That would be my biggest complaint about my experience at UMD. I did not find the majority of the faculty approachable, and they did not seem interested in outside involvement with students besides the day to day class work.	1 2 3 4 7 8 11
632	[...] Develop a sense of professional ethics: make an effort to explain to students /why/ the honor code is important -- the current program seems to amount to copying a paragraph and signing your name before tests; it feels mindless, and I believe that the student body could benefit from a short program (possibly online, like alcohol edu) explaining the morality of academic and professional integrity. -Establish a mentoring relationship: I understand that UM is a large institution, and requiring professors to mentor all students is ridiculous, but perhaps the university could initiate a program where upperclassmen are compelled to attend small group meetings with professors from their programs?	1 2 6 8 15
634	I would have liked more preparation for graduate school. As in, which schools and programs would be better suited for my academic interests.	1 4

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
635	The University could have different guest speakers/professors/professionals come into the classroom environment to add to what the students read in their textbooks in order to offer different perspectives.	1 2 5 6 14
636	Assign a mentor for every entering class (whether that be a faculty or a reliable upper classman). It would be great to have such program institutionalized.	1 2 7
637	More opportunities to take classes outside of your major. There are too many strict requirements.	1 3 4 7
638	Encourage a self discovery course. A course that taught you what kind of jobs you may be fit for and how it can help you find the right career. Some sort of Myers-Briggs test will also be helpful to help develop leadership and ways to appreciate and work with others that are different from oneself.	1 6 12
641	Provide more opportunities for presenting in front of a large audience. Provide more opportunities for development of strong writing skills. [...] In the corporate environment, it is not only the content but also the presentation that matters. A single writing class is not enough [...] to develop very strong written communication although it is one of the most sought skills by employers.	1 5 6 8
642	Provide a diversity of class projects	1 14
646	Need to teach more tech across the board. It's where all industries are going. Create a school that pumps out technical minds that won't stare at a client's feet while talking to them -- and you've created a standout, elite education.	1
649	We had a single credit presentation class. It would have been useful to have a 3 credit class for that.	1
657	more challenging courses - tougher grading - research writing assignments & presentations - for some departments, more student/faculty mingling/contact (and not the awkward type where the faculty end up talking to other faculty and students end up talking to other students) - smaller classes - required senior theses?	1 2 5 7 8
664	The University should have offered seminar for my major to understand what opportunities existed for those that graduate with a degree in that field of study, including avenues to pursue, and requisites to obtain in order to be successful in pursuing those opportunities. [...] Essentially I could produce nothing but good essays. Additionally, I felt there was little presence when it came to academic advisor involvement when choosing my courses; no one was asking me what I hoped to do with my degree and advising from that stand point. There only concern was getting me to graduate within the confines of the major's requirements.	1 2 3 7 11
666	Once you are in your major, it is very hard to take any elective courses outside of your career field. Therefore, outside of CORE classes in your freshman and sophomore years, there is no real opportunity to master or take a large amount of courses in other academic knowledge. [...]	1 3 4 6 8 10
670	Made knowledge about different programs more available to commuter students.	1
682	Smaller class sizes, stronger advisor roll through professors	1 2 8
687	N/A; the classes were available	1
688	Focues more on more significant presentations during class time.	1
692	I think the senior year of college could be more focused with a professional preparation class across majors.	1 3 4 6
696	Created more cross-disciplinary courses that allow you more flexibility when choosing electives in junior and senior year. […]	1

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
701	I wish my professors would have been more at my disposal. Many seemed very unwilling to help outside of classroom hours. Asking for a recommendation or even just for help was like pulling teeth for some (not all).	1 2 4
703	Teacher-student mentorship program within your major during junior and senior years	1 2 3
710	[...] The only thing that I wish there was more emphasis on was presentation and communication skills. My job within the DoD requires heavily on being able to present and communicate with an audience. Although this was expressed in a few of my classes I feel like it could have been more of an important part of my college career. I have since then learned these skills out of neccessity but it would have been nice to be comfortable with it before beginning my career.	1 5 6 7
711	Have more opportunities for the students to meet or be engaged with professors on a more intimate level other than being a face in the crowd of 200 students in a large lecture hall. I always found it a "Catch 22" that the students that succeeded in those large classes never had the need to visit office hours, and thus never got to know their professors (making it harder to obtain accurate and detailed letters of recommendation if needed). I often found it much easier to confront my professors who knew me from smaller classes (which were usually outside of my major [...]). I also would have liked to be able to study abroad without having to take summer courses, excess AP courses in high school, or feeling pressured that if I did go abroad it would be incredibly stressful on my schedules for the other semesters. This is often the case for [...] students who need to follow a more regimented 4-year plan that doesn't provide much room for anything else.	1 2 3 4 8
712	I would have loved for more elective credits to gain more knowledge outside my major. Or make the major more interdisciplinary. Everything and everyone is related!	1 3 4
722	More rigorous general education classes, higher expectations for performance	1
728	Focus more on, one on one education and employ instructors as well as TA's who can fluently speak the english language. Providing a learning support group to help students across all subjects could improve these skills as well. [...] a hard-ass attitude from professors did not help me one bit, but otherwise devalued my education. If these same professors would have better performed there requirements as instructors and less as researchers, while putting less pressure on students to learn the subjects that they did not teach well themselves would have resulted in a more enjoyable and beneficial learning experience (I was once told by one of my professors that their research was more important to them than the classes that they taught).	1 2 5 6 7
729	More focus in my major. It was way too broad with no option to get a "track" or more specific field of study. Teaching us more about realistic opportunities in my field.	1 3
730	Due to the fact that I was admitted into the university during the spring semester, it was difficult for me to get integrated into the campus community during my first few semesters. Transitioning to college is a tough process but the challenge can be greatly lessened when you share that burden with a community of your peers. I was not fortunate enough to have that. This made it difficult to participate to participate in many activities as I would have liked, but it was also difficult to "fit in" I would have liked to be part of an honor society, or one of the educational housing programs (e.g Scholars) or a living and learning program during my earlier years. I would have been a much better student as I would have had the support I needed to get a good foundation. I know I did not have this opportunity due to my special case. As I said I was admitted in the Spring semester, and I attended secondary school abroad. However I think the university could have made efforts to reach out to all new students, traditional and non traditional. In my ignorance I stumbled through the first few semesters, but I finally found my footing. Although I enjoyed my UM experience, it could have been much better. Also, most of what I accomplished, I did solely by my effort and my motivation and by being proactive. I had to put in more work to get what other students were offered so easily, which I did not think was just. However, now that I look back, it made me a stronger person. Of course, I appreciate the scholarships, and financial support I received later in my junior/ senior years. However, I was, and still am a bright student. I feel that if my abilities were cultivated earlier, I would have achieved more than I eventually did. All in all, I have no regrets, only great aspirations for the future.	1 10 11

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
734	Treated each and every student as an individual with personal and academic promise. I had a documented learning disability, and many professors made no attempt to hide how much of an annoyance or absurdity they considered my accommodations to be. I began to think less of my own academic potential. I am now beginning graduate school at a University which I feel really welcomes my contribution and expects great things from me. I feel an optimism and ambition that I never felt at Maryland. Revised curriculum/academic requirements. I realized after I graduated that I had not read many of the major texts in my own area. The University has made college less and less about books and libraries. Experience is important, but so is serious scholarship. There are certain books you are expected to have read, ideas you are expected to have been exposed to, when you say you have a degree in humanities or social sciences. Held professors to higher standards. Professors should be making relevant, ongoing contributions to their fields. Students should be getting the strongest arguments and the most current information. Communicate institutional goals. I don't know what the University stands for, or where it's going. The unstoppable starts here and similar slogans are embarrassing. They don't make sense.	1 2 3 5 7 13
736	Offered professional ethics classes.	1 6 15
741	Smaller class sizes […] would have made it easier to connect with faculty.	1 2 8
744	Having presentations in […] courses could have helped. A discussion of ethics […] was basically non-existant, and we could have learned more. There's more to […] ethics than the umd honor code!	1 15
747	in my coursework, the majority was focused on theoretical practices, which the professors were very focused on. With the push for UMD to be such a strong research institute, the practical studies fall to the wayside. I wish the curriculum was just more focused on the things that I have had to learn about in the field that I feel I should have been prepared for with my degree.	1 2 3 4
752	I benefited from my small program and small class size.	1 8
758	I think that my graduating class had it rough. We were graduating into a tumultuous economy and no one had any real clue as to how it would impact the job market and my graduating class. I think in times like that, it is a good idea to prepare for the worst. If the University of Maryland had been a bit more aggressive in advertising the reward that comes with a mentoring relationship with a faculty member, the increased time in the public spotlight could have been enough to spur myself and others into a more active role.	1 2 4 6
761	Hold more graduate school fairs, create smaller classrooms	1 8
765	Provide more learning opportunities outside of thr classroom and provide more diverse and interesting classes in the CORE curriculum.	1 4
766	UM could offer more more classes of a smaller size […], to increase the opportunities to speak for each student and their ability to get to know the professor.	1 2 5 8
781	Most of the opportunities I wish I had explored further were lacking due to my own decisions (see below). One possible way to address this from a institutional standpoint would be to require (though that would probably not be popular) greater engagement along a broad spectrum of extra-curricular activities or to stress in orientation classes [...] the importance of seeking out a wide range of activities, rather than focusing on only one area. [...]	1 7
787	Encourage or enforce more presentations in every class to create a regular rhythm of public speaking and presentation skills.	1 5
789	Introduce career opportunities and provide more background regarding the types of professions available to students with certain majors. Urge professors to relate class material to current global topics and interdisciplinary subjects to better relate to other situations and current events, instead of simply teaching out of the textbooks.	1 2 3 6 9

Category=1 Keywords=academic | knowledge | course | class | teach

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
798	Required public speaking class	1 5 7
800	Offer free seminars on how to write and deliver speeches. Also offer more courses that focus on global issues and diverse perspectives. There could also be a mentorship program that encourages a stronger relationship between the faculty/staff and students.	1 2 5 9 14

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
1	Smaller classes would have increased the possibility of developing closer relationships with professors. […]	1 2 8
6	Read my professor evaluations. I easily had the worst educators of my 17 years of school at UMD - and the worst part was I had to pay...and am still paying.	2
7	I had three majors, two of which were quite large and one of which was medium sized. I get a lot out of one-on-one conferences, especially in bigger classes. Requiring or encouraging professors at least one individual conference per semester might help. Office hours are somewhat helpful, but when you don't particularly need specific help, a conference is nice to just to have some personal face time with the professor. I also think oral presentations should be a bigger part of all majors, you can get through your whole college experience and barely speak. Having at least one oral presentation requirement per class might help.	1 2 3 5 7 8
9	Teacher Student Mentor Programs would have been helpful. I do not feel that I had one single teacher over my 4 years at University of Maryland who was dedicated enough to devote time to forming a bond with me. Specifically, my [...] advisor the last few semesters was very unhelpful and unpleasent.	1 2
12	1. mentoring partnerships between students and staff 2. have less adjunct faculty who do not remain at the university for more than one semester 3. speak more on global issues	2 5 9
13	[...] I wanted to develop stronger relationships with faculty, but the atmosphere between students and faculty was not adequate for fostering relationships. Faulty members often had to cater to too many students and advisers often did not invest enough into their students. I had a feeling that I was alone and that faculty did not want to guide my progress as an adult or student.	2
14	Because UMD is such a big school, I understand that it's difficult to develop mentoring relationships with professors. I was lucky to be in [...] smaller classes, so I was able to get to know my professors more. I would suggest maybe requiring [...] students to have to go to office hours of a professor at least once in their first semester. Once you get over that anxiety, it becomes a lot easier and more valuable to students.	1 2 8
16	[…] I did not find any real opportunities to bond and create mentoring relationships with professors in large part because of the size of classes and the time limits my professors […] faced because of those class sizes.	1 2 8
18	The University could use a better vetting process for faculty academic advisers. Mine did not know what classes I needed and was unable to help in picking out courses. It also did not help that he struggled to speak and understand English.	1 2 5
19	Mentoring program with faculty, classes with more small-group discussions	1 2 8
30	The University could include more field placement opportunities […]. The University can assign mentors within your major field of study so that there is always someone for students to go to and make academic advising mandatory for more semesters.	1 2 3 7
34	The one thing that I don't believe that I improved very much on was my speaking skill. I wish that there was a class for people like me who are afraid of speaking in public. If there was such a class, I think that it should have been announced somehow so that students would know about it. I, along with many other students, suffered through presentations and there was even a time when I had points taken off due to my nervousness, which isn't fair. Developing relationships with faculty was sometimes difficult only because a student would only have a certain professor's class once or twice. Also, trying to establish a relationship when there are 20 other students could be difficult.	1 2 5
39	given more individualized attention, especially to my department and to commuter students the academic advisors are horrible. They gave me bad advice and nobody followed up with me. the UM experience was detached from reality	1 2
45	The University could emphasize mentoring by creating a program where students can be matched up with professors who are willing to act as a mentor.	2 8

Category=2 Keywords=mentor | relationship | advise | advisor | advising | professor | faculty | coach | counsel | staff

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
50	- Increase importance of faculty/staff member advising and mentorship. Really encourage faculty to view mentoring as an important component of an undergrad experience, and perhaps designate more time to this in planning faculty workloads. - Strengthen	2
58	Provided more opportunities for outside of the classroom events with faculty/staff.	1 2 4
62	I was most disappointed with the academic advising. I felt that I did not have a mentor on campus who was always there to answer questions or provide guidance, whether it be about classes, summer internships, etc. […]	1 2 4
64	I was a transfer student, and I never had an advisor or teacher who really helped me during college. In my program [...], it would have been helpful to have been assigned one specific advisor, in order to help me with my experience, to give me advice, and to establish a relationship with. In addition, I think that advisors should encourage student to get internships to gain experience outside of college. I completed two internships while at UMD, but secured both of them on my own, without the help of advisors.	1 2 4 7
67	Improve academic advising services; they are very focused on graduation date and requirements to get there.	1 2 7
76	The University is so large, that it is difficult for staff members to mentor individuals beyond those who are exceptional. That leaves the remainder of students without a mentor. I graduated magna cum laude but still did not have any staff member reach out to me and guide me in anything.	2 8
86	Increased the number of smaller classes and increased the number of full-time faculty members (vs. adjunct or graduate student teachers who tend to be less accessible through office hours or other out of class interaction).	1 2 8
93	Get instructors/staff to know students by name, and have a personal relationship with them (almost none of my undergrad professors did this. My grad professors, at a private university, all do this). Choose textbooks and readings that persuade/write effectively. Too many in my field are poor and rambling. […]	2 5
94	I was afraid to take classes outside of my major because I was worried about my gpa. I wish I had considered taking some pass/fail. I wish it had been offered as a suggestion by advisors or discussed more.	1 2 3 4
97	Developing professional ethics […] standards in the classroom were not very high. People thought just showing up to class was enough to get by and professors did little to counter that culture. That culture presented itself differently in group projects, where I think undeveloped professionalism was more present. People were not driven by the assignment and lacked a sense of what their contribution should be. Obviously, this behavior did not apply to everyone, although I think it did apply to the majority.	1 2 3 6 7 15
103	Should foster an environment more focused on solving world issues and not on the closed minded social stereotypical environments. Should increase ethical awareness i.e. dating your supervisor, working in teams, balancing work responsibilities and family life. Can there be a life coach for each student?	2 9 15
107	Mentoring relationships with faculty were basically non-existent. Fostering that would have improved the experience.	2
114	Hire faculty and staff members who care about the students and would like to establish mentoring with students.	2
116	[…] classes were giant and it was hard to get to know professors very well, even when working in a lab. I wish that the upper level classes offered were a bit smaller.	1 2 8
123	Courses that more directly tied what we learned to the real-world. More opportunities to work with children in the community to develop leadership skills. Courses that required more group work [...]. Checking in with advisors/mentors more often than once a semester.	1 2 5 7 9 12

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
132	It would have been nice to have advisors who do more to show all the opportunities regarding majors and career paths. I also think there should be some "life-building" skills seminars, that are required of freshman (or transfers). Managing finances, how to interview, etc.	2 3 5 6 7
139	More personal advising time within our departments, instead of giving them our UID and having our schedules approved without counseling.	2
141	My professors actually having an idea of what the ACTUAL job market for their field looks like. I had multiple professors tell me that I would have no problem finding a job with the skills I gained in their lab. In the real world, this was the opposite. The skills I gained weren't enough. I had no idea until I actually graduated how royally I had screwed up. [...] I do work in research now, but in cardiac surgery, which is different. I found the career help for people in my position was negligent. Look over the jobs posted in career terps....how many relate to what I do? Probably none. [...] Certainly, I can say UMD did help me appreciate diversity, and think more intelligently, and so forth...but it all comes down to a job. [...]	2 4 5 6 9 14
143	Make courses more challenging and have higher expectations of students and faculty	1 2
145	It's possible that the university already has in place opportunities to learn better leadership skills and speaking skills through various programs and seminars and the like. But with the push to fit in classes and work, there often was just not enough time in a day to take advantage. And with large class sizes, it's difficult to work those things into a curriculum. But that's where I would have liked to see them. At the very least, more critical feedback from professors as to speaking and leadership skills. I did find this in a couple grad-level classes I took during undergrad -- direct critiques of speaking presentations, which I found to be very helpful.	1 2 5 8 12
152	The University should have more workshops targeted toward freshman and sophmores that help them connect with faculty/staff, develop leadership and speaking skills, and talk with people working in their field about what degree and experiences are needed.	2 5 12
157	I only met with an advisor to get my classes approved once. I heard a lot of other students complain that faculty advisors gave them the wrong information, which would place them further behind in their schooling. Having advisors available that were knowledgable in the different academic plans and more flexible in meeting would be more helpful. It was difficult finding professors to write recommendation letters so I could attend graduate school because I did not have that relationship with faculty members.	1 2 5 13
158	There was one mentor for thousands of students so I would have liked to have more mentor relationships. I would have also liked to learn more about global issues and to have more opportunity to take classes outside of my major.	1 2 3 4 9 10
160	my major was so large I had no individual relationship with my adviser. I saw a different person each time and none of them knew anything about me, not even my name.	2 3 8
167	Provided options for possible mentors in our desired fields of study	2
181	Assign a ***faculty*** advisor to every freshman.	2 7
183	Help students form mentoring relationships with faculty and staff and advise faculty and staff to be more available to students as mentors. Help students manage their time better so they can achieve their goals efficiently and happily.	2
186	Decrease the student to professor ratio so that a professor had time to mentor me.	2
189	Most of my classes had very high attendance, so it was difficult developing a mentoring relationship with my professors. The University could establish a mentoring program, where professors from within each college volunteer their time to provide guidance to students on an as needed basis. I understand that professors are very busy with class and research; however, I think it would be a great resource for students. The mentoring program would be more valuable than the advising offices within each college.	1 2 13

Category=2 Keywords=mentor | relationship | advise | advisor | advising | professor | faculty | coach | counsel | staff

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
190	Encourage professors to be more available and show more interest in students' university experiences. Most professors seemed to be only available for issues pertaining to their specific class.	1 2
196	Make finding work experience easier, especially in the scientific research fields. Also, make finding a faculty member for a mentor easier.	2
200	Have more experienced, challenging and passionate professors. More faculty mentoring.	2
219	Mentoring opportunities with faculty.	2
224	more mentorship opportunity to network	2 10
226	Offered more sections taught by professors instead of TAs/Grad students, so that students could have more chances to meet professors and understand the professor's point of view.	2
234	The university could assign freshmen to a faculty mentor or possibly each department could require students to meet with a faculty mentor or something. I also think that just explaining to students how valuable faculty mentorship is and how to go about finding a mentor would have been helpful.	2 7
236	Established a mentoring program with outside organizations and students to allow them to get involved with professionals in the career they want to pursue.	2 4 6 11
246	Provide more mentoring relationships with faculty by having more faculty to do so with who are warm and welcoming […].	2
251	Schedule more opportunities to meet faculty and network/stress the importance of this-I didn't realize the importance in my earlier years.	2
262	Do more to encourage university faculty of undergraduate students to actively develop relationships with undergraduate students. I had excellent grades as an undergraduate but I never developed any significant or lasting relationships with any of the faculty. On the one hand I know it is the responsibility of students to approach faculty, but sometimes that can be intimidating. If faculty [...] actively reach out to students it can help. They can schedule one on one meetings which every student must attend. or invite students to meet to discuss issues besides the specific class they were teaching. [...] also they were very reluctant to write letters of recommendation despite my excellent performance in their class. this has significantly impeded my ability to advance professionally. while some were better than others, in general there was a culture that lacked concern for undergraduate students and did not reach out to them or support them in ways beyond giving immediate answers to test questions. Also, [...] there should have been more requirements for presentations as public speaking skills are critical in this field.	1 2 5 6 7
265	Establish a mentoring relationship with a UM faculty/staff member: I am not sure if such a program exists, but a broad-based mentoring system across all colleges might be helpful. While it is the student's responsibility to foster relationships with individual instructors and professors, having a basis for such a relationship through a structured program might increase the frequency with which those develop. Having such a program across colleges would provide a broad platform, and students might then be more motivated to develop stronger relationships within the closer community of their major. *If such a program already exists, publicizing it more would be my only suggestion.	2 3
270	I think the University could have sent out information on the types of faculty/student relationships other students had and how to get involved with research to freshmen. Also, a list of professors who were willing to partner with students would be helpful.	2 11 13
275	Provide more career related training in relation to the major. Provide more student professor mentorship programs. Allow more flexibility to choose minors or specialties within the major.	2 3 6
281	More mentoring	2

Category=2 Keywords=mentor | relationship | advise | advisor | advising | professor | faculty | coach | counsel | staff

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
313	I think the school needs to do a better job of developing mentoring relationships between students and faculty. I barely remember my professors' names.	2 6
314	More required meetings with counselors. Assigning a counselor to each student who will work with the student for the entire duration of their stay at University of Maryland. [...] I wish internships had been required for graduation in order to gain more knowledge, more contacts, more job opportunities/possibilities in my prospective field.	1 2 4 6 7
316	Start a mentoring program.	2
318	Implement curriculum that helps bridge relationships among faculty, staff, and students as well as depart from the general curriculum that distanced me from learning about every aspect of my field; in effect, a diverse knowledge of my field, rather than a smattering of courses.	1 2
319	Have more opportunities to get a chance to establish and meet professors outside of the normal classroom setting.	1 2 4
323	Professors who care about teaching--I found in my [...] major that the coursework was an afterthought for professors with other obligations/goals	1 2 3
327	assigned me a mentor	2 7
338	I would like to see more small, seminar format classes. I understand this can be a strain on resources since it requires special effort by faculty and teaching assistants, but courses like these were what really tested my skills as a writer and researcher.	1 2 5 7 8 13
339	Create a program/requirement for faculty mentoring.	2 7
342	First, hire professors who speak english effectively. Many of my professors were probably great teachers, but I couldn't understand most of what they said. Next, hire professors who actually care about teaching, and not just about research. Finally, I would recommend taking the surveys at the end of the semester EXTREMELY seriously. I have had professors who have ridiculous policies and exams, and I know for a fact that they got almost unanimously terrible reviews, and yet they continue to teach. Don't be afraid of students poorly rating difficult teachers. I know [...] gets great reviews, even though he is one of the hardest professors I have had, because he is indisputably the best professor in the [...] department. Also, core classes are a waste of time to some extent. [...]	1 2 5
344	Require courses that have lots of wiring/speeches. [...] As for the ethics, require an ethics class. The main reason I put establish a mentoring relationship is because I did have to search out the main one I had [...]. Part of the problem of have a large school with lots of people and large class sizes. It is harder to make a connection,	1 2 7 8 15
354	The university could have provided more direct, unsolicited assistance to students looking for internships. The university could provide better advising to letters and sciences majors.	2 3 4
356	match students who desire mentors with professors who desire to be them. Educate freshman on the programs that are available at the UM. Too may people don't know of programs that already exist until its too late.	2
363	Monitored the professionalism of the staff […] so that they would practice the same prodessionalism that they preach […]	2 6
364	Establish methods of assigning […]faculty mentors to students. Unless you were involved in research or TA-ing it seemed difficult to get time with faculty.	2 7 11
366	Revise the mentoring program [...] assign a professor the student already has taken a class with, rather than assign any professor. Enforce more mandatory meetings (one per semester is not enough). Mandate that every student must do at least a summer internship or semester long research on campus.	1 2 4 5 7

Category=2 Keywords=mentor | relationship | advise | advisor | advising | professor | faculty | coach | counsel | staff

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
367	Provide the same orientation/welcoming process for transfers as what new freshman receive. For instance, I was unaware of the option to create my own major until my senior year. I think I would have done so, if I had known it was available. [...] The intimate mentorship is difficult to establish (though absolutely possible). A semester internship should be incorporated into [...] all major programs.	2 3 4
368	Help students develop mentoring relationships with staff members by setting up a meeting for the purpose of setting up a mentoring program.	2
370	Leadership skills work shops specific to a students major/field. For the "apply what you ahve learned to other situations" there could be substantial assistance in helping a student find a summer internship. For instance UMD already has great relations with many local businesses, these businesses, in conjunction with UMD faculty/grad students could create extended workshops during the school year and offer summer internships. [...]	2 3 4 5 12
373	Make more general curricululm requirments within each major field (ie: mandatory for every student to take a Language course), so I would have more diverse classes, not solely classes within the field of my major. Set up more opportunities and programs (possibly required for incoming freshman or incoming students to a particular college program) to be paired with a UM Factulty/staff member for a mentoring/advising program.	1 2 3 7
387	Add a required core class about leadership & speaking... two things that are essential for every human to learn. Also, maybe require students to write 1 paper each year on 1 of their professors... which might push students to interact more with professors and encourage the attendance of office hours.	1 2 5 7 12
388	I feel that professors often favored the students who were bound for future education and research and less in the middle of the road student	2
397	The University could have encouraged mentoring relationships moreso than it does currently by establishing programs help students find mentors that may have not been availalble to them otherwise.	2
401	Provided more information about opportunities available earlier in my academic career at UMD. Ex: exploration of mentoring [...]. More leadership […] classes would have been appreciated.	1 2 6 12 13
405	What the university is severely lacking is ethics and leadership. The university promotes ethics and leadership, but fails to set an example that inspires students to do anything more than get their degree and get a reasonably-paying job after graduation. Many students hear about ethics one time or another at UM, but in what ways do the leaders at UM promote such ethics? Does giving out student social security numbers in 2008 and then covering up the issue to the media (and its own students) promote ethics? [...] Or how about giving tenure to lecture professors who have little public speaking and communicative skill, obviously chosen because of their research grant value to the university then anything contributory to student learning? These are MAJOR issues that the university needs to continuously improve if it wants help people succeed in all their walks of life, and not become an obstacle instead.	2 3 5 6 8 12 15
407	In most of my time at Maryland the majority of professors didn't seem interested in forming any sort of mentoring relationship. They were available for office hours, but beyond providing help with class did not appear too interested in each student as an individual.	1 2 3
438	Improve faculty/student inter-relations	2
442	Create a mentor program.	2
460	The University could have bridged out to programs more in order to establish relationships with staff or gaining an understanding of global issues. […]	2 9
461	Encourage greater faculty-student interaction in research projects and publications.	2

Category=2 Keywords=mentor | relationship | advise | advisor | advising | professor | faculty | coach | counsel | staff

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
465	I'm not sure how this would be achieved, but I think it's very important to have some sort of contact with other cultures (i.e. not America). This could be done in some sort of program where we had relationships with other schools in other countries to achieve a common goal/assignment. Internet correspondance, etc.	2 7
489	Some professors could be more available to meet with students outside of class time. Make some sort of Speech class more available or a required course. Have better advisors [...] to better guide students, who are not sure what they want to do, into a field of interest and tell them about leadership and other opportunities that are available.	1 2 4 7 12
497	Something that my graduate school does that UM did not was create a "big sibling" relationship which I think UM could benefit from. A student could be paired with either an older student in the major, a graduate student, or teacher and I think that would help prevent students who change majors many times.	1 2 3 8
498	A little more guidance in terms of real-world applications beyond education, i.e., employment and life management. A long-term and outward prospectus to better prepare for the future (i.e., employment, internships, graduate school). Students who did not pursue these things themselves (I, for example, never felt able to do an internship and did not have a strong faculty advisor relationship because I did not realize how would influences grad school possibility for me)were ill-prepared for post-undergraduate life. Some encourage and direction to do so would have been appreciated. I for example, would love to go to grad school but with a less than B average and no faculty relationship, I am largely deterred. I would also like to pursue and entry-level job in my major area but without experience in the area, I am not qualified.	2 3 4 6 8 9
511	Had a sort of first-look-fair but with available mentors instead of student groups.	2
517	- make it clearer how students should go about developing a mentoring relationship - professors show greater willingness to meet with students and take active role in relationship, since they know how it's done, whereas the students have most likely never	2
520	Provided Faculty advisors that relate to my individual field of study.	2
529	Except for being misadvised and being forced to withdraw from a class my first semester, the university could not have done anything differently.	1 2
535	I believe they could provide a mandatory internship course, where students had to apply their educational experience in the real world. I also feel like there should have been more english requirements. Maybe a mandatory course for writing development. [...] I also strongly believe there should be a mandatory government & politics/current issues class should be required. I believe that kind of knowledge is so necessary and a lot of people don't pay attention unless they are forced. I rarely had the opportunity for leadership in any of my courses. A lot of this is through my own fault for not actively pursuing student organizations where I could develop this skill. I do not think the school can offer anything more than the student orgs. For the global issues, I repeat the thought of having a mandatory government & politics course. I did not have any relationships with any of my professors, but that was my own fault. The faculty was more than accomodating and willing to mentor students. I just did not take the opportunities.	1 2 4 5 7 9 10 12
536	Assigned mentors from staff to each student, so we know who to turn to for references and relationships within our colleges.	2 7
537	I believe that from my personal experience along with my friends experience at University of Maryland we have came to the conclusion that they need better advisors. It always seemed like my advisors [...] were very rude and unhelpful with other agendas. I also believe that if they educate the students on the different majors/areas of studies that are available at the university, students would have a chance to choose a major they may not have known about.	2 3
561	Encourage instructors to establish closer relationships with students. Create more interdisciplinary courses and or ask instructors to connect their course content to other fields when possible.	1 2

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
564	Seeking researching opportunities with the professors at UMD was rather difficult. I approached many teachers who had openings, but got turned down after they reviewed my transcript. I felt so demoralized that I was afraid to ask others. School should provide more researching opportunities for [...] students and judge those who are willing to participate equally.	1 2 11
568	Provide more leadership rolls for students, decrease class size, and require professors to do more teaching and less power point. I think that Power Point should be banned from the classroom. Professors cannot seem to figure out how to use it effectively.	1 2 7 8 12
572	paired students up with some faculty/staff member	2
577	Internships linked with academic programs, assigning a mentor/advisor and making sure he/she actually advises me.	1 2 4 7
579	Opening up lab positions for undergrads. Making sure professors aren't here solely for research, but actually WANT to teach! LISTENING to student complains (several teachers come to mind strongly here)	1 2 4
582	Provide opportunities for social interaction between students and faculty outside of class. The current system, which is dependent primarily on office hours, does not facilitate conversation about topics outside of schoolwork. These non-topical conversations are a necessity to build the types of personal relationships that "mentoring relationships" depend on. [...]	1 2 4
588	Assigned a mentor to students or a group of students	2 7
591	I truly wish that I had more of an opportunity to establish a mentoring relationship with one of my professors, especially one in the research field and one who could have provided me career information. However, I do want to stress that I had a great relationship with a [...] TA. She gave me the faculty recommendation that led to my current job.	2 6 10 13
596	The University could have made it mandatory that students meet one on one with their professors, even if they didn't need to go to office hours, just so the student and teacher got to meet at least once by themselves.	1 2 7
617	Provide more opportunities for undergraduates to get to know their professors.	2
619	It was tough for me to take many more classes outside of [...], but reading, writing and speech classes are invaluable for any student. [...] I think it's better to have some mentors but I think proactive students can get to know one or more professors. The limiting factor is time. I think to have a few upper classmen mentors would be invaluable. I'm not sure if UMD has a class for project management but I think that would be a valuable class.	1 2 4 5
631	Create a mentoring program for all students and faculty - require the faculty to get involved in mentoring. That would be my biggest complaint about my experience at UMD. I did not find the majority of the faculty approachable, and they did not seem interested in outside involvement with students besides the day to day class work.	1 2 3 4 7 8 11
632	[...] Develop a sense of professional ethics: make an effort to explain to students /why/ the honor code is important -- the current program seems to amount to copying a paragraph and signing your name before tests; it feels mindless, and I believe that the student body could benefit from a short program (possibly online, like alcohol edu) explaining the morality of academic and professional integrity. -Establish a mentoring relationship: I understand that UM is a large institution, and requiring professors to mentor all students is ridiculous, but perhaps the university could initiate a program where upperclassmen are compelled to attend small group meetings with professors from their programs?	1 2 6 8 15
635	The University could have different guest speakers/professors/professionals come into the classroom environment to add to what the students read in their textbooks in order to offer different perspectives.	1 2 5 6 14
636	Assign a mentor for every entering class (whether that be a faculty or a reliable upper classman). It would be great to have such program institutionalized.	1 2 7

Category=2 Keywords=mentor | relationship | advise | advisor | advising | professor | faculty | coach | counsel | staff

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
648	Facilitated more contact between me and a faculty/staff member.	2
657	more challenging courses - tougher grading - research writing assignments & presentations - for some departments, more student/faculty mingling/contact (and not the awkward type where the faculty end up talking to other faculty and students end up talking to other students) - smaller classes - required senior theses?	1 2 5 7 8
658	Establish formal mentoring program. Encourage trips abroad during school breaks. […]	2
659	As a returning student with a lot of leadership and life experience, I would have liked the program to be more applicable to where I am in life. More interaction with faculty my own age would have allowed for a more meaningful experience. In my current leadership roles I deal a lot with the public and media. I needed more attention to my goals and interest to identify relevance and purposful application for my new career path in communications. I also was very interested in pursuing a masters but didn't really know which direction to go that would best fulfill on my passions and commitments to public service. I would have liked to have a mentor who could provide that guidance. If so, I may have pursued my masters and doctorate directly upon graduation.	2 6 12
661	The university could have prepared us better for the professional world. […] I did not feel well prepared at all in that respect. Also, the staff could have been more approachable and open to the students in order to provide a mentoring relationship.	2 4 6 9
664	The University should have offered seminar for my major to understand what opportunities existed for those that graduate with a degree in that field of study, including avenues to pursue, and requisites to obtain in order to be successful in pursuing those opportunities. [...] Essentially I could produce nothing but good essays. Additionally, I felt there was little presence when it came to academic advisor involvement when choosing my courses; no one was asking me what I hoped to do with my degree and advising from that stand point. There only concern was getting me to graduate within the confines of the major's requirements.	1 2 3 7 11
671	Present opportunities for independent research with a faculty member in field of major in freshman/sophomore year or during the summers thereafter.	2 3
674	Better encouraged interaction between me and professors, and counselors to help me figure out what I like and am good at	2
676	To prepare students for their future (current) positions, it would be helpful for UMCP to more closely monitor the field placements required of the major. If the goal of the internship is merely to give students work experience, then the program needs no modification. However, if the goal of the program is to align students in fields in which they intend to pursue careers, modifications need to be made. [...] As for more opportunities to establish mentoring relationships, UMCP could possibly assign each student to a faculty member within the department of their major.	2 3 4 6 7
682	Smaller class sizes, stronger advisor roll through professors	1 2 8
701	I wish my professors would have been more at my disposal. Many seemed very unwilling to help outside of classroom hours. Asking for a recommendation or even just for help was like pulling teeth for some (not all).	1 2 4
703	Teacher-student mentorship program within your major during junior and senior years	1 2 3
711	Have more opportunities for the students to meet or be engaged with professors on a more intimate level other than being a face in the crowd of 200 students in a large lecture hall. I always found it a "Catch 22" that the students that succeeded in those large classes never had the need to visit office hours, and thus never got to know their professors (making it harder to obtain accurate and detailed letters of recommendation if needed). I often found it much easier to confront my professors who knew me from smaller classes (which were usually outside of my major [...]). I also would have liked to be able to study abroad without having to take summer courses, excess AP courses in high school, or feeling pressured that if I did go abroad it would be incredibly stressful on my schedules for the other semesters. This is often the case for [...] students who need to follow a more regimented 4-year plan that doesn't provide much room for anything else.	1 2 3 4 8

Category=2 Keywords=mentor | relationship | advise | advisor | advising | professor | faculty | coach | counsel | staff

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
717	For establishing a mentoring relationship, I think having peer mentors would be a good first step. […] As such, having a peer mentor program would've been that much more invaluable.	2
719	It would be better if the advisors were more available. Also, if they looked at situations from the students perspective and not just as "another" student.	2
721	The university itself is a huge entity, so I certainly don't expect it to provide the type of leadership training/mentoring that a smaller institution would.	2 8 12
728	Focus more on, one on one education and employ instructors as well as TA's who can fluently speak the english language. Providing a learning support group to help students across all subjects could improve these skills as well. [...] a hard-ass attitude from professors did not help me one bit, but otherwise devalued my education. If these same professors would have better performed there requirements as instructors and less as researchers, while putting less pressure on students to learn the subjects that they did not teach well themselves would have resulted in a more enjoyable and beneficial learning experience (I was once told by one of my professors that their research was more important to them than the classes that they taught).	1 2 5 6 7
734	Treated each and every student as an individual with personal and academic promise. I had a documented learning disability, and many professors made no attempt to hide how much of an annoyance or absurdity they considered my accommodations to be. I began to think less of my own academic potential. I am now beginning graduate school at a University which I feel really welcomes my contribution and expects great things from me. I feel an optimism and ambition that I never felt at Maryland. Revised curriculum/academic requirements. I realized after I graduated that I had not read many of the major texts in my own area. The University has made college less and less about books and libraries. Experience is important, but so is serious scholarship. There are certain books you are expected to have read, ideas you are expected to have been exposed to, when you say you have a degree in humanities or social sciences. Held professors to higher standards. Professors should be making relevant, ongoing contributions to their fields. Students should be getting the strongest arguments and the most current information. Communicate institutional goals. I don't know what the University stands for, or where it's going. The unstoppable starts here and similar slogans are embarrassing. They don't make sense.	1 2 3 5 7 13
737	better faculty mentoring programs.	2
741	Smaller class sizes […] would have made it easier to connect with faculty.	1 2 8
747	in my coursework, the majority was focused on theoretical practices, which the professors were very focused on. With the push for UMD to be such a strong research institute, the practical studies fall to the wayside. I wish the curriculum was just more focused on the things that I have had to learn about in the field that I feel I should have been prepared for with my degree.	1 2 3 4
758	I think that my graduating class had it rough. We were graduating into a tumultuous economy and no one had any real clue as to how it would impact the job market and my graduating class. I think in times like that, it is a good idea to prepare for the worst. If the University of Maryland had been a bit more aggressive in advertising the reward that comes with a mentoring relationship with a faculty member, the increased time in the public spotlight could have been enough to spur myself and others into a more active role.	1 2 4 6
766	UM could offer more more classes of a smaller size […], to increase the opportunities to speak for each student and their ability to get to know the professor.	1 2 5 8
782	[...] Mentoring relationships should be more standardized and enforced, professors should not be able to blow off their mentees Increase the amount of funding for clubs and provide more university sponsored events that clubs can use to gain members and show off what they do.	2 11

Category=2 Keywords=mentor | relationship | advise | advisor | advising | professor | faculty | coach | counsel | staff

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
789	Introduce career opportunities and provide more background regarding the types of professions available to students with certain majors. Urge professors to relate class material to current global topics and interdisciplinary subjects to better relate to other situations and current events, instead of simply teaching out of the textbooks.	1 2 3 6 9
800	Offer free seminars on how to write and deliver speeches. Also offer more courses that focus on global issues and diverse perspectives. There could also be a mentorship program that encourages a stronger relationship between the faculty/staff and students.	1 2 5 9 14

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
7	I had three majors, two of which were quite large and one of which was medium sized. I get a lot out of one-on-one conferences, especially in bigger classes. Requiring or encouraging professors at least one individual conference per semester might help. Office hours are somewhat helpful, but when you don't particularly need specific help, a conference is nice to just to have some personal face time with the professor. I also think oral presentations should be a bigger part of all majors, you can get through your whole college experience and barely speak. Having at least one oral presentation requirement per class might help.	1 2 3 5 7 8
15	I would have liked more opportunity to develop my career path up-front in my freshman and softmore years. I would like to have been able to better understand what potential jobs would be like in my field before pursuing major-specific classes that may limit opportunities to change majors down the line.	1 3 6 10
30	The University could include more field placement opportunities […]. The University can assign mentors within your major field of study so that there is always someone for students to go to and make academic advising mandatory for more semesters.	1 2 3 7
32	I think the University did and still does give each student opportunities to learn and expand themselves both academically and personally both within and outside their major if they take advantage of it.	1 3 4
52	Better upper-level writing classes [...]! Overall, the majority of my papers were at the same academic level as my high school papers. Push us to a higher level of writing and discourse!	1 3 5
60	For increasing academic knowledge outside your major, the University could try to make it easier or more obtainable to achieve a minor. Another idea is to require all students to join an academic club or organization outside of the classroom.	1 3 4 7 11
65	Possibly a required public speaking or communications class for all majors	1 3 5 7
78	I don't know there is anything UMD could have done. We have short period of time to learn as much information as possible. I'm not displeased in the least with my experience at UMD, I just wish I could have taken more classes for fun and learned more outside of my major. But that's the point of majoring - it allows you to specialize.	1 3 4 13
91	The university could have done a better job of educating undergraduates of what their career options are for their respective majors.	3 6
94	I was afraid to take classes outside of my major because I was worried about my gpa. I wish I had considered taking some pass/fail. I wish it had been offered as a suggestion by advisors or discussed more.	1 2 3 4
97	Developing professional ethics […] standards in the classroom were not very high. People thought just showing up to class was enough to get by and professors did little to counter that culture. That culture presented itself differently in group projects, where I think undeveloped professionalism was more present. People were not driven by the assignment and lacked a sense of what their contribution should be. Obviously, this behavior did not apply to everyone, although I think it did apply to the majority.	1 2 3 6 7 15
115	Made classes available for credit that didn't require much work (so maybe not fulfill a requirement) therefore giving more opportunity/desirability for learning outside of major	1 3 4 5 7 10
131	I would have like more opportunity to prepare for my current job position. Due to limited enrollment into certain majors I was not able to get into the major I desired all 4 years, so I had to settle for an open major that was similiar to the one that I wanted. If I were able to get into the major I wanted I would have been better prepared for my job, and would not be taking specific classes in order to be certified.	1 3 4 6 10
132	It would have been nice to have advisors who do more to show all the opportunities regarding majors and career paths. I also think there should be some "life-building" skills seminars, that are required of freshman (or transfers). Managing finances, how to interview, etc.	2 3 5 6 7

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
158	There was one mentor for thousands of students so I would have liked to have more mentor relationships. I would have also liked to learn more about global issues and to have more opportunity to take classes outside of my major.	1 2 3 4 9 10
159	Increase academic knowledge outside your major- although UMD does require core classes in different areas of study, I feel like I didn't learn about other area until my junior year [...]	1 3 4 7
160	my major was so large I had no individual relationship with my adviser. I saw a different person each time and none of them knew anything about me, not even my name.	2 3 8
187	I think they should offer more specialized majors. Since it is such a diverse college shouldn't the academics offered also be very diverse and encourage students to look into a something that they may have never tried before but because it is offered they want to try it.	1 3
198	Making it easier to take the higher level "interesting" classes in other majors for people who are interested in seeing what a major is like but not ready (or have enough time) to commit to taking all of the prerequisites that you have to take now in order to get in to those classes. [...] Perhaps require a speech-writing or public speaking 1 credit class or at least have one available either major-specific or at least general area specific. Even a class in "small talk" would be interesting to practice having those conversations that need to be semi-formal (i.e. with a boss) but not an actual presentation. I don't think in any of my classes was there a point where new information was provided and we were expected to then incorporate that information into our already existing paper/presentation/project. I think that kind of flexibility would be a great thing to have or try to include in classwork - I'm writing journal articles now and new studies are constantly being done that are requiring me to re-write and re-think the article that I am writing up now. In terms of diversity I think Maryland has a lot of it, but people still separate themselves off into groups of their comfort level. I don't know if there is anything the university can do about that, but it's certainly worth striving for.	1 3 5 7 8 13 14
222	Assisted more in understanding how your major would affect your career opportunities. and then exposing you to those opportunities.	3 6
254	I wish the university pushed more for professional experience and supplement students who could not afford to take non-paid positions. Many institutions press their students to take co-ops, my college did not. Although I was very fortunate to find experiences that enhanced my professional portfolio, I do not feel that the school was very helpful in this matter, especially in the major I was most interested, [...] It would be nice to see a little more variation in the types of jobs that are available to students.	3 4 6
259	I wish the university pushed more for professional experience and supplement students who could not afford to take non-paid positions. Many institutions press their students to take co-ops, my college did not. Although I was very fortunate to find experiences that enhanced my professional portfolio, I do not feel that the school was very helpful in this matter, especially in the major I was most interested, Marketing. It seems that most of the jobs geared to students were in Finance, Accounting and Engineering. It would be nice to see a little more variation in the types of jobs that are available to students.	3 4 6
265	Establish a mentoring relationship with a UM faculty/staff member: I am not sure if such a program exists, but a broad-based mentoring system across all colleges might be helpful. While it is the student's responsibility to foster relationships with individual instructors and professors, having a basis for such a relationship through a structured program might increase the frequency with which those develop. Having such a program across colleges would provide a broad platform, and students might then be more motivated to develop stronger relationships within the closer community of their major. *If such a program already exists, publicizing it more would be my only suggestion.	2 3
267	For each major [...] host a panel of Maryland alumni from different employers and have them explain what duties they perform, skills that are needed, say what their employer values, and have them answer student questions related to their jobs. The panelists should have at least 2 years experience in their current position and have graduated 2 or more years ago.	3 4 5 6
268	I transferred in to UMD and was pretty much stuck with the major that most of my credits transferred into because most of the majors I was interested in were LEP.	3

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
269	There weren't much opportunities to interact with people outside of my major. Provinding those opportunities would have enabled me to know more about how to use my major with other issues in outside of my major.	3 4
275	Provide more career related training in relation to the major. Provide more student professor mentorship programs. Allow more flexibility to choose minors or specialties within the major.	2 3 6
306	The University of Maryland needs to be more open to the opinions of students concerning how the majors could be improved and what classes could be substituted. […]	1 3
312	The degree is very demanding and didn't allow me too many opportunities to take courses outside of my major.	1 3 4
323	Professors who care about teaching--I found in my [...] major that the coursework was an afterthought for professors with other obligations/goals	1 2 3
354	The university could have provided more direct, unsolicited assistance to students looking for internships. The university could provide better advising to letters and sciences majors.	2 3 4
367	Provide the same orientation/welcoming process for transfers as what new freshman receive. For instance, I was unaware of the option to create my own major until my senior year. I think I would have done so, if I had known it was available. [...] The intimate mentorship is difficult to establish (though absolutely possible). A semester internship should be incorporated into [...] all major programs.	2 3 4
370	Leadership skills work shops specific to a students major/field. For the "apply what you ahve learned to other situations" there could be substantial assistance in helping a student find a summer internship. For instance UMD already has great relations with many local businesses, these businesses, in conjunction with UMD faculty/grad students could create extended workshops during the school year and offer summer internships. [...]	2 3 4 5 12
373	Make more general curricululm requirments within each major field (ie: mandatory for every student to take a Language course), so I would have more diverse classes, not solely classes within the field of my major. Set up more opportunities and programs (possibly required for incoming freshman or incoming students to a particular college program) to be paired with a UM Factulty/staff member for a mentoring/advising program.	1 2 3 7
393	I concentrated specifically on completing my CORE and my major and two minors at UMD in two years so that I could graduate on time (I was a transfer student). Instead of having to take disparate CORE courses that were of no interest and a drag on my time and GPA, I would have preferred to have the opportunity to pursue another mine.	1 3 10
405	What the university is severely lacking is ethics and leadership. The university promotes ethics and leadership, but fails to set an example that inspires students to do anything more than get their degree and get a reasonably-paying job after graduation. Many students hear about ethics one time or another at UM, but in what ways do the leaders at UM promote such ethics? Does giving out student social security numbers in 2008 and then covering up the issue to the media (and its own students) promote ethics? [...] Or how about giving tenure to lecture professors who have little public speaking and communicative skill, obviously chosen because of their research grant value to the university then anything contributory to student learning? These are MAJOR issues that the university needs to continuously improve if it wants help people succeed in all their walks of life, and not become an obstacle instead.	2 3 5 6 8 12 15
407	In most of my time at Maryland the majority of professors didn't seem interested in forming any sort of mentoring relationship. They were available for office hours, but beyond providing help with class did not appear too interested in each student as an individual.	1 2 3
440	More minors. Connecting my major to the non-profit sector.	3
459	Provide more professional development courses, perhaps even specializing some for specific majors.	1 3 6

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
490	Put more effort into hiring better teachers (read: those who actually know the subject they are "teaching"); put more funding and emphasis into actual TEACHING instead of pure research. Remove the "general education" credit requirements and instead offer course loads more directly related to a chosen major from the start. Offer classes on a better schedule, instead of all on the same day. [...]	1 3 7
497	Something that my graduate school does that UM did not was create a "big sibling" relationship which I think UM could benefit from. A student could be paired with either an older student in the major, a graduate student, or teacher and I think that would help prevent students who change majors many times.	1 2 3 8
498	A little more guidance in terms of real-world applications beyond education, i.e., employment and life management. A long-term and outward prospectus to better prepare for the future (i.e., employment, internships, graduate school). Students who did not pursue these things themselves (I, for example, never felt able to do an internship and did not have a strong faculty advisor relationship because I did not realize how would influences grad school possibility for me)were ill-prepared for post-undergraduate life. Some encourage and direction to do so would have been appreciated. I for example, would love to go to grad school but with a less than B average and no faculty relationship, I am largely deterred. I would also like to pursue and entry-level job in my major area but without experience in the area, I am not qualified.	2 3 4 6 8 9
526	Had classes directly related to that topic with in my major. [...]	1 3
537	I believe that from my personal experience along with my friends experience at University of Maryland we have came to the conclusion that they need better advisors. It always seemed like my advisors [...] were very rude and unhelpful with other agendas. I also believe that if they educate the students on the different majors/areas of studies that are available at the university, students would have a chance to choose a major they may not have known about.	2 3
538	Ultimately, I felt pegged into sticking with a specific direction when it came to selecting classes due to prerequisites or major specific classes. I came into Maryland in my 3rd year and I felt that it was too late to be able to explore different subjects more deeply and was just limited to find any class that was available. In the end, I wish I could have studied something else; I regretted my the major I selected. But in hindsight, I can't imagine how I could have changed the situation if I were to do it all over again due to the restrictions on classes.	1 3
559	The university could have internships available in the lower level classes available so students could get the real world situations and form a connection with professionals in their major of interest very early in their college experience.	1 3 4 6 9
578	Put the students in an outside the campus environment when it came to our majors. Most of the stuff learned where inside campus instead of projects to visit certain environments where it could give us a chance of experience the after life of UMD.	3 4
584	Provided a better core curriculum that focused on academic knowledge outside the major that could still be tied back to the major in some way to focus on how the area of study affects and is affected by other diverse and global issues.	1 3 4 9
595	I believe that the university should revise prerequisites for certain classes. [...] Of course priority in classes should go to students in those majors, but if there is high demand, the university should look into opening more sections so more non-majors can participate.	1 3 5 11
606	having a major has not increased my quality of life by presenting me any new or better opportunities. I work two jobs that dont require a degree.	3 6 7
631	Create a mentoring program for all students and faculty - require the faculty to get involved in mentoring. That would be my biggest complaint about my experience at UMD. I did not find the majority of the faculty approachable, and they did not seem interested in outside involvement with students besides the day to day class work.	1 2 3 4 7 8 11
637	More opportunities to take classes outside of your major. There are too many strict requirements.	1 3 4 7
656	I'm not sure what the University could have done about learning "global issues" unless they incorporate it in every major.	3 9

Category=3 Keywords=major

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
664	The University should have offered seminar for my major to understand what opportunities existed for those that graduate with a degree in that field of study, including avenues to pursue, and requisites to obtain in order to be successful in pursuing those opportunities. [...] Essentially I could produce nothing but good essays. Additionally, I felt there was little presence when it came to academic advisor involvement when choosing my courses; no one was asking me what I hoped to do with my degree and advising from that stand point. There only concern was getting me to graduate within the confines of the major's requirements.	1 2 3 7 11
666	Once you are in your major, it is very hard to take any elective courses outside of your career field. Therefore, outside of CORE classes in your freshman and sophomore years, there is no real opportunity to master or take a large amount of courses in other academic knowledge. [...]	1 3 4 6 8 10
671	Present opportunities for independent research with a faculty member in field of major in freshman/sophomore year or during the summers thereafter.	2 3
676	To prepare students for their future (current) positions, it would be helpful for UMCP to more closely monitor the field placements required of the major. If the goal of the internship is merely to give students work experience, then the program needs no modification. However, if the goal of the program is to align students in fields in which they intend to pursue careers, modifications need to be made. [...] As for more opportunities to establish mentoring relationships, UMCP could possibly assign each student to a faculty member within the department of their major.	2 3 4 6 7
692	I think the senior year of college could be more focused with a professional preparation class across majors.	1 3 4 6
703	Teacher-student mentorship program within your major during junior and senior years	1 2 3
711	Have more opportunities for the students to meet or be engaged with professors on a more intimate level other than being a face in the crowd of 200 students in a large lecture hall. I always found it a "Catch 22" that the students that succeeded in those large classes never had the need to visit office hours, and thus never got to know their professors (making it harder to obtain accurate and detailed letters of recommendation if needed). I often found it much easier to confront my professors who knew me from smaller classes (which were usually outside of my major [...]). I also would have liked to be able to study abroad without having to take summer courses, excess AP courses in high school, or feeling pressured that if I did go abroad it would be incredibly stressful on my schedules for the other semesters. This is often the case for [...] students who need to follow a more regimented 4-year plan that doesn't provide much room for anything else.	1 2 3 4 8
712	I would have loved for more elective credits to gain more knowledge outside my major. Or make the major more interdisciplinary. Everything and everyone is related!	1 3 4
729	More focus in my major. It was way too broad with no option to get a "track" or more specific field of study. Teaching us more about realistic opportunities in my field.	1 3
734	Treated each and every student as an individual with personal and academic promise. I had a documented learning disability, and many professors made no attempt to hide how much of an annoyance or absurdity they considered my accommodations to be. I began to think less of my own academic potential. I am now beginning graduate school at a University which I feel really welcomes my contribution and expects great things from me. I feel an optimism and ambition that I never felt at Maryland. Revised curriculum/academic requirements. I realized after I graduated that I had not read many of the major texts in my own area. The University has made college less and less about books and libraries. Experience is important, but so is serious scholarship. There are certain books you are expected to have read, ideas you are expected to have been exposed to, when you say you have a degree in humanities or social sciences. Held professors to higher standards. Professors should be making relevant, ongoing contributions to their fields. Students should be getting the strongest arguments and the most current information. Communicate institutional goals. I don't know what the University stands for, or where it's going. The unstoppable starts here and similar slogans are embarrassing. They don't make sense.	1 2 3 5 7 13
745	Less core requirements in fields completely unrelated to my major	3 7

Category=3 Keywords=major

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
747	in my coursework, the majority was focused on theoretical practices, which the professors were very focused on. With the push for UMD to be such a strong research institute, the practical studies fall to the wayside. I wish the curriculum was just more focused on the things that I have had to learn about in the field that I feel I should have been prepared for with my degree.	1 2 3 4
789	Introduce career opportunities and provide more background regarding the types of professions available to students with certain majors. Urge professors to relate class material to current global topics and interdisciplinary subjects to better relate to other situations and current events, instead of simply teaching out of the textbooks.	1 2 3 6 9

Category=4 Keywords=interns | internship | prepare | preparation | practiced | position | hands on | hands-on | real life | real world | outside

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
32	I think the University did and still does give each student opportunities to learn and expand themselves both academically and personally both within and outside their major if they take advantage of it.	1 3 4
46	It's hard at a huge university, I would imagine, to create a culture of awareness on global issues outside of the obvious political science, history, etc. courses. But that certainly doesn't exist. I always liked going to see the speakers that came to UMD, but a lot of students didn't take advantage...maybe you could encourage people to take advantage of those opportunities more when they're freshmen and sophomores. [...] Also, international students add a lot. Creating (more) scholarships for them would be awesome.	1 4 5 9
51	I have thought of this for a while, and the only thing I can think of to increase many of the factors your suvery is examining is to develop a MANDATORY EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT. This would make it mandatory to have an internship/summer inernship/fellowship/research assistantship/clinic/etc. before you graduate. The problem with college is the lack of hands on experience to apply what you learned in the field. I learned a multitude of more information in two weeks in my internship then I would have in 2 months in a course. With our proximity to DC, it is a shame the number of students who refuse to take advantage of that. A mandatory graduation requirement would change that.	1 4 7 8 13
58	Provided more opportunities for outside of the classroom events with faculty/staff.	1 2 4
60	For increasing academic knowledge outside your major, the University could try to make it easier or more obtainable to achieve a minor. Another idea is to require all students to join an academic club or organization outside of the classroom.	1 3 4 7 11
62	I was most disappointed with the academic advising. I felt that I did not have a mentor on campus who was always there to answer questions or provide guidance, whether it be about classes, summer internships, etc. […]	1 2 4
64	I was a transfer student, and I never had an advisor or teacher who really helped me during college. In my program [...], it would have been helpful to have been assigned one specific advisor, in order to help me with my experience, to give me advice, and to establish a relationship with. In addition, I think that advisors should encourage student to get internships to gain experience outside of college. I completed two internships while at UMD, but secured both of them on my own, without the help of advisors.	1 2 4 7
66	More hands on experience in my field would have been helpful.	4
78	I don't know there is anything UMD could have done. We have short period of time to learn as much information as possible. I'm not displeased in the least with my experience at UMD, I just wish I could have taken more classes for fun and learned more outside of my major. But that's the point of majoring - it allows you to specialize.	1 3 4 13
94	I was afraid to take classes outside of my major because I was worried about my gpa. I wish I had considered taking some pass/fail. I wish it had been offered as a suggestion by advisors or discussed more.	1 2 3 4
109	I feel that […] program prepared me well for graduate school, but not as well for my job. I would have liked more practical instruction […].	4 6
115	Made classes available for credit that didn't require much work (so maybe not fulfill a requirement) therefore giving more opportunity/desirability for learning outside of major	1 3 4 5 7 10
131	I would have like more opportunity to prepare for my current job position. Due to limited enrollment into certain majors I was not able to get into the major I desired all 4 years, so I had to settle for an open major that was similiar to the one that I wanted. If I were able to get into the major I wanted I would have been better prepared for my job, and would not be taking specific classes in order to be certified.	1 3 4 6 10
135	Learning how to speak clearly is extremely important. Any way UMD can encourage clear public speaking or even clear interpersonal communication would be great. - More exposure to real-life applied studies would help smooth our transition from academia to the real world. [...]	4 5 9

Category=4 Keywords=interns | internship | prepare | preparation | practiced | position | hands on | hands-on | real life | real world | outside

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
141	My professors actually having an idea of what the ACTUAL job market for their field looks like. I had multiple professors tell me that I would have no problem finding a job with the skills I gained in their lab. In the real world, this was the opposite. The skills I gained weren't enough. I had no idea until I actually graduated how royally I had screwed up. [...] I do work in research now, but in cardiac surgery, which is different. I found the career help for people in my position was negligent. Look over the jobs posted in career terps....how many relate to what I do? Probably none. [...] Certainly, I can say UMD did help me appreciate diversity, and think more intelligently, and so forth...but it all comes down to a job. [...]	2 4 5 6 9 14
147	Provide hands on experience with the topic.	4
158	There was one mentor for thousands of students so I would have liked to have more mentor relationships. I would have also liked to learn more about global issues and to have more opportunity to take classes outside of my major.	1 2 3 4 9 10
159	Increase academic knowledge outside your major- although UMD does require core classes in different areas of study, I feel like I didn't learn about other area until my junior year [...]	1 3 4 7
176	I believe having a better program towards internships and opportunities that we, as students, don't think to do as underclass-men. For instance, there are so many opportunities that DC has for Sophomores / Juniors [..] with so many different companies that I was not aware of until now. Many students such as myself only started to think about Internships our SENIOR year, where we could have started Sophomore/Junior thus gaining valuable experience in the field.	1 4
179	I would have liked greater opportunity to learn and then apply that knowledge to practical skills used in the workplace. Looking back, the most value came from my internships, not the classes.	1 4 5 10
195	Prepared me for something other than graduate work. Every one of my classes was about theory and writing a long paper, not about real work experiences. Encourage your teachers to reach out to students. And encourage your students to do something OTHER than drink and waste all their parents money. [...]	1 4 5
212	Greater focus on academic rigor. I felt unprepared in my graduate level courses because I hardly wrote at all in my undergraduate career. [...]	1 4 6
236	Established a mentoring program with outside organizations and students to allow them to get involved with professionals in the career they want to pursue.	2 4 6 11
254	I wish the university pushed more for professional experience and supplement students who could not afford to take non-paid positions. Many institutions press their students to take co-ops, my college did not. Although I was very fortunate to find experiences that enhanced my professional portfolio, I do not feel that the school was very helpful in this matter, especially in the major I was most interested, [...] It would be nice to see a little more variation in the types of jobs that are available to students.	3 4 6
259	I wish the university pushed more for professional experience and supplement students who could not afford to take non-paid positions. Many institutions press their students to take co-ops, my college did not. Although I was very fortunate to find experiences that enhanced my professional portfolio, I do not feel that the school was very helpful in this matter, especially in the major I was most interested, Marketing. It seems that most of the jobs geared to students were in Finance, Accounting and Engineering. It would be nice to see a little more variation in the types of jobs that are available to students.	3 4 6
267	For each major [...] host a panel of Maryland alumni from different employers and have them explain what duties they perform, skills that are needed, say what their employer values, and have them answer student questions related to their jobs. The panelists should have at least 2 years experience in their current position and have graduated 2 or more years ago.	3 4 5 6
269	There weren't much opportunities to interact with people outside of my major. Provinding those opportunities would have enabled me to know more about how to use my major with other issues in outside of my major.	3 4
273	Provide more proactive assistance for internships and involvement opportunities. Often students miss a lot of opportunities because they do not know about them or they never received the nudge to try or apply for positions.	4 11

Category=4 Keywords=interns | internship | prepare | preparation | practiced | position | hands on | hands-on | real life | real world | outside

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
295	require more internships before graduation	4 7
312	The degree is very demanding and didn't allow me too many opportunities to take courses outside of my major.	1 3 4
314	More required meetings with counselors. Assigning a counselor to each student who will work with the student for the entire duration of their stay at University of Maryland. [...] I wish internships had been required for graduation in order to gain more knowledge, more contacts, more job opportunities/possibilities in my prospective field.	1 2 4 6 7
319	Have more opportunities to get a chance to establish and meet professors outside of the normal classroom setting.	1 2 4
347	Prepare students for the tough job market, offered an internship class during the school year so I wouldn't have to pay out of state tuition for the summer class.	1 4 6
354	The university could have provided more direct, unsolicited assistance to students looking for internships. The university could provide better advising to letters and sciences majors.	2 3 4
366	Revise the mentoring program [...] assign a professor the student already has taken a class with, rather than assign any professor. Enforce more mandatory meetings (one per semester is not enough). Mandate that every student must do at least a summer internship or semester long research on campus.	1 2 4 5 7
367	Provide the same orientation/welcoming process for transfers as what new freshman receive. For instance, I was unaware of the option to create my own major until my senior year. I think I would have done so, if I had known it was available. [...] The intimate mentorship is difficult to establish (though absolutely possible). A semester internship should be incorporated into [...] all major programs.	2 3 4
370	Leadership skills work shops specific to a students major/field. For the "apply what you ahve learned to other situations" there could be substantial assistance in helping a student find a summer internship. For instance UMD already has great relations with many local businesses, these businesses, in conjunction with UMD faculty/grad students could create extended workshops during the school year and offer summer internships. [...]	2 3 4 5 12
374	I think it would be great if there was an either mandatory internship or the UM strongly encouraged students to have an internship before their junior year. I say that because I think a lot of people were just not very prepared to work in groups. there were personality clashes and students were just not acting professionally. this kind of attitude didn't do any good to our grades. students need to learn how to be respectful and work hard on a group assignment rather than waiting for someone to push them. [...]	4 6 7
386	Put more of an emphasis on finding internships during breaks or entering coops. Encouraging such opportunities and stressing the benefits of them.	4
406	Much more encouragement to have students prepare for current professional development. I would liked to have more assistance in the preparation of interviews,resume building, etc.	4 6
443	The University could have put more emphasis on how to actually go about finding a job and put more emphasis on the importance of an internship to gain experience. A lot of students that I talk to that have now graduated or that have graduated before me were not totally prepared once graduation hit.	4 6
464	The University should increase its effort to help students secure internship opportunities	4
481	The University of Maryland could do nothing different. When I answered these questions, I just wish I had more years there. No matter how much the University does, you will never be prepared for the real world.	4 9
489	Some professors could be more available to meet with students outside of class time. Make some sort of Speech class more available or a required course. Have better advisors [...] to better guide students, who are not sure what they want to do, into a field of interest and tell them about leadership and other opportunities that are available.	1 2 4 7 12

Category=4 Keywords=interns | internship | prepare | preparation | practiced | position | hands on | hands-on | real life | real world | outside

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
498	A little more guidance in terms of real-world applications beyond education, i.e., employment and life management. A long-term and outward prospectus to better prepare for the future (i.e., employment, internships, graduate school). Students who did not pursue these things themselves (I, for example, never felt able to do an internship and did not have a strong faculty advisor relationship because I did not realize how would influences grad school possibility for me)were ill-prepared for post-undergraduate life. Some encourage and direction to do so would have been appreciated. I for example, would love to go to grad school but with a less than B average and no faculty relationship, I am largely deterred. I would also like to pursue and entry-level job in my major area but without experience in the area, I am not qualified.	2 3 4 6 8 9
499	It would be nice if there was a place on campus to learn real world technical skills and earn certifications-- kind of like how you can get CPR certified at the ERC and you can learn arts skills at the Arts and Learning center-- something like that but for tech skills. For example if there was a tech skills center where you could take Cisco certification classes, MS cert classes, A+, Net+, etc. Or just take like a class on python or something [...] *everyone* could benefit a little bit from learning how a computer works and getting to know a little bit about programming). Similar classes for simple life skills like taking care of your car or balancing your finances would be appreciated.	1 4 5 9
535	I believe they could provide a mandatory internship course, where students had to apply their educational experience in the real world. I also feel like there should have been more english requirements. Maybe a mandatory course for writing development. [...] I also strongly believe there should be a mandatory government & politics/current issues class should be required. I believe that kind of knowledge is so necessary and a lot of people don't pay attention unless they are forced. I rarely had the opportunity for leadership in any of my courses. A lot of this is through my own fault for not actively pursuing student organizations where I could develop this skill. I do not think the school can offer anything more than the student orgs. For the global issues, I repeat the thought of having a mandatory government & politics course. I did not have any relationships with any of my professors, but that was my own fault. The faculty was more than accomodating and willing to mentor students. I just did not take the opportunities.	1 2 4 5 7 9 10 12
559	The university could have internships available in the lower level classes available so students could get the real world situations and form a connection with professionals in their major of interest very early in their college experience.	1 3 4 6 9
576	More real world application to what most graduates would be doing/designing	4 9
577	Internships linked with academic programs, assigning a mentor/advisor and making sure he/she actually advises me.	1 2 4 7
578	Put the students in an outside the campus environment when it came to our majors. Most of the stuff learned where inside campus instead of projects to visit certain environments where it could give us a chance of experience the after life of UMD.	3 4
579	Opening up lab positions for undergrads. Making sure professors aren't here solely for research, but actually WANT to teach! LISTENING to student complains (several teachers come to mind strongly here)	1 2 4
582	Provide opportunities for social interaction between students and faculty outside of class. The current system, which is dependent primarily on office hours, does not facilitate conversation about topics outside of schoolwork. These non-topical conversations are a necessity to build the types of personal relationships that "mentoring relationships" depend on. [...]	1 2 4
584	Provided a better core curriculum that focused on academic knowledge outside the major that could still be tied back to the major in some way to focus on how the area of study affects and is affected by other diverse and global issues.	1 3 4 9
619	It was tough for me to take many more classes outside of [...], but reading, writing and speech classes are invaluable for any student. [...] I think it's better to have some mentors but I think proactive students can get to know one or more professors. The limiting factor is time. I think to have a few upper classmen mentors would be invaluable. I'm not sure if UMD has a class for project management but I think that would be a valuable class.	1 2 4 5
631	Create a mentoring program for all students and faculty - require the faculty to get involved in mentoring. That would be my biggest complaint about my experience at UMD. I did not find the majority of the faculty approachable, and they did not seem interested in outside involvement with students besides the day to day class work.	1 2 3 4 7 8 11

Category=4 Keywords=interns | internship | prepare | preparation | practiced | position | hands on | hands-on | real life | real world | outside

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
634	I would have liked more preparation for graduate school. As in, which schools and programs would be better suited for my academic interests.	1 4
637	More opportunities to take classes outside of your major. There are too many strict requirements.	1 3 4 7
640	[…] I was not properly prepared in basic sciences.	4
661	The university could have prepared us better for the professional world. […] I did not feel well prepared at all in that respect. Also, the staff could have been more approachable and open to the students in order to provide a mentoring relationship.	2 4 6 9
662	I wish that getting an internship related to my field of study was part of the curriculum.	4
666	Once you are in your major, it is very hard to take any elective courses outside of your career field. Therefore, outside of CORE classes in your freshman and sophomore years, there is no real opportunity to master or take a large amount of courses in other academic knowledge. [...]	1 3 4 6 8 10
676	To prepare students for their future (current) positions, it would be helpful for UMCP to more closely monitor the field placements required of the major. If the goal of the internship is merely to give students work experience, then the program needs no modification. However, if the goal of the program is to align students in fields in which they intend to pursue careers, modifications need to be made. [...] As for more opportunities to establish mentoring relationships, UMCP could possibly assign each student to a faculty member within the department of their major.	2 3 4 6 7
692	I think the senior year of college could be more focused with a professional preparation class across majors.	1 3 4 6
701	I wish my professors would have been more at my disposal. Many seemed very unwilling to help outside of classroom hours. Asking for a recommendation or even just for help was like pulling teeth for some (not all).	1 2 4
711	Have more opportunities for the students to meet or be engaged with professors on a more intimate level other than being a face in the crowd of 200 students in a large lecture hall. I always found it a "Catch 22" that the students that succeeded in those large classes never had the need to visit office hours, and thus never got to know their professors (making it harder to obtain accurate and detailed letters of recommendation if needed). I often found it much easier to confront my professors who knew me from smaller classes (which were usually outside of my major [...]). I also would have liked to be able to study abroad without having to take summer courses, excess AP courses in high school, or feeling pressured that if I did go abroad it would be incredibly stressful on my schedules for the other semesters. This is often the case for [...] students who need to follow a more regimented 4-year plan that doesn't provide much room for anything else.	1 2 3 4 8
712	I would have loved for more elective credits to gain more knowledge outside my major. Or make the major more interdisciplinary. Everything and everyone is related!	1 3 4
747	in my coursework, the majority was focused on theoretical practices, which the professors were very focused on. With the push for UMD to be such a strong research institute, the practical studies fall to the wayside. I wish the curriculum was just more focused on the things that I have had to learn about in the field that I feel I should have been prepared for with my degree.	1 2 3 4
758	I think that my graduating class had it rough. We were graduating into a tumultuous economy and no one had any real clue as to how it would impact the job market and my graduating class. I think in times like that, it is a good idea to prepare for the worst. If the University of Maryland had been a bit more aggressive in advertising the reward that comes with a mentoring relationship with a faculty member, the increased time in the public spotlight could have been enough to spur myself and others into a more active role.	1 2 4 6
765	Provide more learning opportunities outside of thr classroom and provide more diverse and interesting classes in the CORE curriculum.	1 4

Category=5 Keywords=speak | speaking | writing | write | argument | persuasive | thinking | revise | skill | ability

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
7	I had three majors, two of which were quite large and one of which was medium sized. I get a lot out of one-on-one conferences, especially in bigger classes. Requiring or encouraging professors at least one individual conference per semester might help. Office hours are somewhat helpful, but when you don't particularly need specific help, a conference is nice to just to have some personal face time with the professor. I also think oral presentations should be a bigger part of all majors, you can get through your whole college experience and barely speak. Having at least one oral presentation requirement per class might help.	1 2 3 5 7 8
12	1. mentoring partnerships between students and staff 2. have less adjunct faculty who do not remain at the university for more than one semester 3. speak more on global issues	2 5 9
18	The University could use a better vetting process for faculty academic advisers. Mine did not know what classes I needed and was unable to help in picking out courses. It also did not help that he struggled to speak and understand English.	1 2 5
34	The one thing that I don't believe that I improved very much on was my speaking skill. I wish that there was a class for people like me who are afraid of speaking in public. If there was such a class, I think that it should have been announced somehow so that students would know about it. I, along with many other students, suffered through presentations and there was even a time when I had points taken off due to my nervousness, which isn't fair. Developing relationships with faculty was sometimes difficult only because a student would only have a certain professor's class once or twice. Also, trying to establish a relationship when there are 20 other students could be difficult.	1 2 5
46	It's hard at a huge university, I would imagine, to create a culture of awareness on global issues outside of the obvious political science, history, etc. courses. But that certainly doesn't exist. I always liked going to see the speakers that came to UMD, but a lot of students didn't take advantage...maybe you could encourage people to take advantage of those opportunities more when they're freshmen and sophomores. [...] Also, international students add a lot. Creating (more) scholarships for them would be awesome.	1 4 5 9
52	Better upper-level writing classes [...]! Overall, the majority of my papers were at the same academic level as my high school papers. Push us to a higher level of writing and discourse!	1 3 5
65	Possibly a required public speaking or communications class for all majors	1 3 5 7
70	More quality writing classes. […]	1 5
79	Have required public speaking courses.	1 5 7
85	I would have liked a public speaking requirement.	5 7
93	Get instructors/staff to know students by name, and have a personal relationship with them (almost none of my undergrad professors did this. My grad professors, at a private university, all do this). Choose textbooks and readings that persuade/write effectively. Too many in my field are poor and rambling. […]	2 5
115	Made classes available for credit that didn't require much work (so maybe not fulfill a requirement) therefore giving more opportunity/desirability for learning outside of major	1 3 4 5 7 10
123	Courses that more directly tied what we learned to the real-world. More opportunities to work with children in the community to develop leadership skills. Courses that required more group work [...]. Checking in with advisors/mentors more often than once a semester.	1 2 5 7 9 12
132	It would have been nice to have advisors who do more to show all the opportunities regarding majors and career paths. I also think there should be some "life-building" skills seminars, that are required of freshman (or transfers). Managing finances, how to interview, etc.	2 3 5 6 7

Category=5 Keywords=speak | speaking | writing | write | argument | persuasive | thinking | revise | skill | ability

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
135	Learning how to speak clearly is extremely important. Any way UMD can encourage clear public speaking or even clear interpersonal communication would be great. - More exposure to real-life applied studies would help smooth our transition from academia to the real world. [...]	4 5 9
137	More minors. A required debate or public speaking class.	1 5 7
141	My professors actually having an idea of what the ACTUAL job market for their field looks like. I had multiple professors tell me that I would have no problem finding a job with the skills I gained in their lab. In the real world, this was the opposite. The skills I gained weren't enough. I had no idea until I actually graduated how royally I had screwed up. [...] I do work in research now, but in cardiac surgery, which is different. I found the career help for people in my position was negligent. Look over the jobs posted in career terps....how many relate to what I do? Probably none. [...] Certainly, I can say UMD did help me appreciate diversity, and think more intelligently, and so forth...but it all comes down to a job. [...]	2 4 5 6 9 14
145	It's possible that the university already has in place opportunities to learn better leadership skills and speaking skills through various programs and seminars and the like. But with the push to fit in classes and work, there often was just not enough time in a day to take advantage. And with large class sizes, it's difficult to work those things into a curriculum. But that's where I would have liked to see them. At the very least, more critical feedback from professors as to speaking and leadership skills. I did find this in a couple grad-level classes I took during undergrad -- direct critiques of speaking presentations, which I found to be very helpful.	1 2 5 8 12
152	The University should have more workshops targeted toward freshman and sophmores that help them connect with faculty/staff, develop leadership and speaking skills, and talk with people working in their field about what degree and experiences are needed.	2 5 12
157	I only met with an advisor to get my classes approved once. I heard a lot of other students complain that faculty advisors gave them the wrong information, which would place them further behind in their schooling. Having advisors available that were knowledgable in the different academic plans and more flexible in meeting would be more helpful. It was difficult finding professors to write recommendation letters so I could attend graduate school because I did not have that relationship with faculty members.	1 2 5 13
168	Students do have the opportunity to take additional communication classes but are not aware of how important speaking and writing skills are in the professional world. [..]	1 5 6 9 10
179	I would have liked greater opportunity to learn and then apply that knowledge to practical skills used in the workplace. Looking back, the most value came from my internships, not the classes.	1 4 5 10
195	Prepared me for something other than graduate work. Every one of my classes was about theory and writing a long paper, not about real work experiences. Encourage your teachers to reach out to students. And encourage your students to do something OTHER than drink and waste all their parents money. [...]	1 4 5
198	Making it easier to take the higher level "interesting" classes in other majors for people who are interested in seeing what a major is like but not ready (or have enough time) to commit to taking all of the prerequisites that you have to take now in order to get in to those classes. [...] Perhaps require a speech-writing or public speaking 1 credit class or at least have one available either major-specific or at least general area specific. Even a class in "small talk" would be interesting to practice having those conversations that need to be semi-formal (i.e. with a boss) but not an actual presentation. I don't think in any of my classes was there a point where new information was provided and we were expected to then incorporate that information into our already existing paper/presentation/project. I think that kind of flexibility would be a great thing to have or try to include in classwork - I'm writing journal articles now and new studies are constantly being done that are requiring me to re-write and re-think the article that I am writing up now. In terms of diversity I think Maryland has a lot of it, but people still separate themselves off into groups of their comfort level. I don't know if there is anything the university can do about that, but it's certainly worth striving for.	1 3 5 7 8 13 14
203	Too much inconsistency between writing classes. Some extremely easy, some extremely hard. I would have liked a better writing education.	1 5

Category=5 Keywords=speak | speaking | writing | write | argument | persuasive | thinking | revise | skill | ability

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
244	Create more opportunities for undergraduate students to gain more realistic lab experience at the University. While lecture based labs have their merits, they do not present students with the skills necessary to be successful scientists. Emphasize the importance of writing!!! [...]	5 8
250	I think that the university could do more to try and make a community--which I know is difficult for a large university--but being exposed to different ideas can also just mean being exposed to different disciplines and lines of thinking. [...] There was a tendency to get sort of compartmentalized in our disciplines.	5 8
262	Do more to encourage university faculty of undergraduate students to actively develop relationships with undergraduate students. I had excellent grades as an undergraduate but I never developed any significant or lasting relationships with any of the faculty. On the one hand I know it is the responsibility of students to approach faculty, but sometimes that can be intimidating. If faculty [...] actively reach out to students it can help. They can schedule one on one meetings which every student must attend. or invite students to meet to discuss issues besides the specific class they were teaching. [...] also they were very reluctant to write letters of recommendation despite my excellent performance in their class. this has significantly impeded my ability to advance professionally. while some were better than others, in general there was a culture that lacked concern for undergraduate students and did not reach out to them or support them in ways beyond giving immediate answers to test questions. Also, [...] there should have been more requirements for presentations as public speaking skills are critical in this field.	1 2 5 6 7
267	For each major [...] host a panel of Maryland alumni from different employers and have them explain what duties they perform, skills that are needed, say what their employer values, and have them answer student questions related to their jobs. The panelists should have at least 2 years experience in their current position and have graduated 2 or more years ago.	3 4 5 6
291	More opportunities to speak in front of the class would be nice. Lots of short presentations are better than a few long presentations. Often in classes you get to give one really long presentation. This is nice but often audience is bored and feedback is less meaningful because you cannot immediately apply it to another project (because it is usually the end of the semester.	1 5
324	Speak effectively - Encourage more spontaneous speeches/oral presentations in class Write effectively - [...] more writiting opportunities would be helpful	1 5
329	I think that the university could have placed more emphasis on speaking skills. Although I have become skilled at writing papers, I am not particularly good at delivering one.	5
336	The University could have had more opportunities for students to speak effectively, […]	5
338	I would like to see more small, seminar format classes. I understand this can be a strain on resources since it requires special effort by faculty and teaching assistants, but courses like these were what really tested my skills as a writer and researcher.	1 2 5 7 8 13
342	First, hire professors who speak english effectively. Many of my professors were probably great teachers, but I couldn't understand most of what they said. Next, hire professors who actually care about teaching, and not just about research. Finally, I would recommend taking the surveys at the end of the semester EXTREMELY seriously. I have had professors who have ridiculous policies and exams, and I know for a fact that they got almost unanimously terrible reviews, and yet they continue to teach. Don't be afraid of students poorly rating difficult teachers. I know [...] gets great reviews, even though he is one of the hardest professors I have had, because he is indisputably the best professor in the [...] department. Also, core classes are a waste of time to some extent. [...]	1 2 5
366	Revise the mentoring program [...] assign a professor the student already has taken a class with, rather than assign any professor. Enforce more mandatory meetings (one per semester is not enough). Mandate that every student must do at least a summer internship or semester long research on campus.	1 2 4 5 7

Category=5 Keywords=speak | speaking | writing | write | argument | persuasive | thinking | revise | skill | ability

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
370	Leadership skills work shops specific to a students major/field. For the "apply what you ahve learned to other situations" there could be substantial assistance in helping a student find a summer internship. For instance UMD already has great relations with many local businesses, these businesses, in conjunction with UMD faculty/grad students could create extended workshops during the school year and offer summer internships. [...]	2 3 4 5 12
387	Add a required core class about leadership & speaking... two things that are essential for every human to learn. Also, maybe require students to write 1 paper each year on 1 of their professors... which might push students to interact more with professors and encourage the attendance of office hours.	1 2 5 7 12
398	Offer additional public speaking classes	1 5
405	What the university is severely lacking is ethics and leadership. The university promotes ethics and leadership, but fails to set an example that inspires students to do anything more than get their degree and get a reasonably-paying job after graduation. Many students hear about ethics one time or another at UM, but in what ways do the leaders at UM promote such ethics? Does giving out student social security numbers in 2008 and then covering up the issue to the media (and its own students) promote ethics? [...] Or how about giving tenure to lecture professors who have little public speaking and communicative skill, obviously chosen because of their research grant value to the university then anything contributory to student learning? These are MAJOR issues that the university needs to continuously improve if it wants help people succeed in all their walks of life, and not become an obstacle instead.	2 3 5 6 8 12 15
434	[...] little to no writing was required in my upper level classes. While I took classes […] to improve my ctitical writing skills, I wish more classes had been offered that trained report writing and analytical use of [...] data.	1 5 7
445	One more year of required english/ effective writing courses	1 5 7
478	Focus more on critical writing.	5
499	It would be nice if there was a place on campus to learn real world technical skills and earn certifications-- kind of like how you can get CPR certified at the ERC and you can learn arts skills at the Arts and Learning center-- something like that but for tech skills. For example if there was a tech skills center where you could take Cisco certification classes, MS cert classes, A+, Net+, etc. Or just take like a class on python or something [...] *everyone* could benefit a little bit from learning how a computer works and getting to know a little bit about programming). Similar classes for simple life skills like taking care of your car or balancing your finances would be appreciated.	1 4 5 9
502	Train students to improve their critical reading, speaking, thinking, and writing skills through special courses. For instance, students should be expected to read non-fiction articles, scholarly articles, magazines, etc. critically assess them, respond to them, and discuss it openly in discussion. This would have helped students break free from formulized thinking and help them to improve academically.	1 5
530	I would like to have interviewed with companies based in states other than the DC/Maryland/VA area. I would also liked to have had a lot more writing courses that I was required to take. [...] I think the school could have done a better job of teaching global current events. There should have been a required class each year that met once a month or so tailored to the student's course of study.	1 5 6 7 9
535	I believe they could provide a mandatory internship course, where students had to apply their educational experience in the real world. I also feel like there should have been more english requirements. Maybe a mandatory course for writing development. [...] I also strongly believe there should be a mandatory government & politics/current issues class should be required. I believe that kind of knowledge is so necessary and a lot of people don't pay attention unless they are forced. I rarely had the opportunity for leadership in any of my courses. A lot of this is through my own fault for not actively pursuing student organizations where I could develop this skill. I do not think the school can offer anything more than the student orgs. For the global issues, I repeat the thought of having a mandatory government & politics course. I did not have any relationships with any of my professors, but that was my own fault. The faculty was more than accomodating and willing to mentor students. I just did not take the opportunities.	1 2 4 5 7 9 10 12
557	Make a listing of the most useful cross disciplinary skills for us to consider e.g. a speech class, economics and other stuff I wish I had taken but didn't think of until I got out into the world and realized I would have liked those skills.	1 5 9

Category=5 Keywords=speak | speaking | writing | write | argument | persuasive | thinking | revise | skill | ability

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
562	I had a phenomenal experience at UM, and I would have loved opportunities to do even more of what I know was extremely beneficial to me. UMD should offer more critical thinking opportuniies […]	5
589	I wish there were more job opportunities available to student prior to graduating. Yes, there were career fairs open for students. However, they were a waste of time. Everyone told me and my sister to "apply online". I even had an on-campus interview as an result from one of the career fairs, but again was told to "apply online". After going online, I found out I needed a master's degree for the job. I have been applying online for jobs for an entire year! It may be the economy, but it is very hard for graduates my age to obtain employment in the D.C. area. Now, I may be joining Americorps in the fall! As for writing and speaking more effectively, UMD did a fantastic job. However, you can always have more education in these areas. [...]	5 6
595	I believe that the university should revise prerequisites for certain classes. [...] Of course priority in classes should go to students in those majors, but if there is high demand, the university should look into opening more sections so more non-majors can participate.	1 3 5 11
616	My co-op during the fall of my junior year was the best experience for preparing me for the professional world after college. I learned many valuable skills, and when I returned to campus, I gained much more out of my remaining college experience. I appreciate how UMD has enabled students to do a co-op. At the same time, I wish UMD put more of an emphasis on the value of a co-op and provided more guidance for students about what co-op opportunities are available.	5 6 9
619	It was tough for me to take many more classes outside of [...], but reading, writing and speech classes are invaluable for any student. [...] I think it's better to have some mentors but I think proactive students can get to know one or more professors. The limiting factor is time. I think to have a few upper classmen mentors would be invaluable. I'm not sure if UMD has a class for project management but I think that would be a valuable class.	1 2 4 5
624	Classes to learn how to teach native speakers of Spanish and technology	1 5
635	The University could have different guest speakers/professors/professionals come into the classroom environment to add to what the students read in their textbooks in order to offer different perspectives.	1 2 5 6 14
641	Provide more opportunities for presenting in front of a large audience. Provide more opportunities for development of strong writing skills. [...] In the corporate environment, it is not only the content but also the presentation that matters. A single writing class is not enough [...] to develop very strong written communication although it is one of the most sought skills by employers.	1 5 6 8
657	more challenging courses - tougher grading - research writing assignments & presentations - for some departments, more student/faculty mingling/contact (and not the awkward type where the faculty end up talking to other faculty and students end up talking to other students) - smaller classes - required senior theses?	1 2 5 7 8
697	Speaking Effectively	5
710	[...] The only thing that I wish there was more emphasis on was presentation and communication skills. My job within the DoD requires heavily on being able to present and communicate with an audience. Although this was expressed in a few of my classes I feel like it could have been more of an important part of my college career. I have since then learned these skills out of neccessity but it would have been nice to be comfortable with it before beginning my career.	1 5 6 7
726	More writing! Even in law school most of us have no idea how to write well.	5
728	Focus more on, one on one education and employ instructors as well as TA's who can fluently speak the english language. Providing a learning support group to help students across all subjects could improve these skills as well. [...] a hard-ass attitude from professors did not help me one bit, but otherwise devalued my education. If these same professors would have better performed there requirements as instructors and less as researchers, while putting less pressure on students to learn the subjects that they did not teach well themselves would have resulted in a more enjoyable and beneficial learning experience (I was once told by one of my professors that their research was more important to them than the classes that they taught).	1 2 5 6 7

Category=5 Keywords=speak | speaking | writing | write | argument | persuasive | thinking | revise | skill | ability

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
734	Treated each and every student as an individual with personal and academic promise. I had a documented learning disability, and many professors made no attempt to hide how much of an annoyance or absurdity they considered my accommodations to be. I began to think less of my own academic potential. I am now beginning graduate school at a University which I feel really welcomes my contribution and expects great things from me. I feel an optimism and ambition that I never felt at Maryland. Revised curriculum/academic requirements. I realized after I graduated that I had not read many of the major texts in my own area. The University has made college less and less about books and libraries. Experience is important, but so is serious scholarship. There are certain books you are expected to have read, ideas you are expected to have been exposed to, when you say you have a degree in humanities or social sciences. Held professors to higher standards. Professors should be making relevant, ongoing contributions to their fields. Students should be getting the strongest arguments and the most current information. Communicate institutional goals. I don't know what the University stands for, or where it's going. The unstoppable starts here and similar slogans are embarrassing. They don't make sense.	1 2 3 5 7 13
766	UM could offer more more classes of a smaller size […], to increase the opportunities to speak for each student and their ability to get to know the professor.	1 2 5 8
787	Encourage or enforce more presentations in every class to create a regular rhythm of public speaking and presentation skills.	1 5
798	Required public speaking class	1 5 7
800	Offer free seminars on how to write and deliver speeches. Also offer more courses that focus on global issues and diverse perspectives. There could also be a mentorship program that encourages a stronger relationship between the faculty/staff and students.	1 2 5 9 14

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
15	I would have liked more opportunity to develop my career path up-front in my freshman and softmore years. I would like to have been able to better understand what potential jobs would be like in my field before pursuing major-specific classes that may limit opportunities to change majors down the line.	1 3 6 10
91	The university could have done a better job of educating undergraduates of what their career options are for their respective majors.	3 6
97	Developing professional ethics […] standards in the classroom were not very high. People thought just showing up to class was enough to get by and professors did little to counter that culture. That culture presented itself differently in group projects, where I think undeveloped professionalism was more present. People were not driven by the assignment and lacked a sense of what their contribution should be. Obviously, this behavior did not apply to everyone, although I think it did apply to the majority.	1 2 3 6 7 15
109	I feel that […] program prepared me well for graduate school, but not as well for my job. I would have liked more practical instruction […].	4 6
131	I would have like more opportunity to prepare for my current job position. Due to limited enrollment into certain majors I was not able to get into the major I desired all 4 years, so I had to settle for an open major that was similiar to the one that I wanted. If I were able to get into the major I wanted I would have been better prepared for my job, and would not be taking specific classes in order to be certified.	1 3 4 6 10
132	It would have been nice to have advisors who do more to show all the opportunities regarding majors and career paths. I also think there should be some "life-building" skills seminars, that are required of freshman (or transfers). Managing finances, how to interview, etc.	2 3 5 6 7
141	My professors actually having an idea of what the ACTUAL job market for their field looks like. I had multiple professors tell me that I would have no problem finding a job with the skills I gained in their lab. In the real world, this was the opposite. The skills I gained weren't enough. I had no idea until I actually graduated how royally I had screwed up. [...] I do work in research now, but in cardiac surgery, which is different. I found the career help for people in my position was negligent. Look over the jobs posted in career terps....how many relate to what I do? Probably none. [...] Certainly, I can say UMD did help me appreciate diversity, and think more intelligently, and so forth...but it all comes down to a job. [...]	2 4 5 6 9 14
168	Students do have the opportunity to take additional communication classes but are not aware of how important speaking and writing skills are in the professional world. [..]	1 5 6 9 10
212	Greater focus on academic rigor. I felt unprepared in my graduate level courses because I hardly wrote at all in my undergraduate career. [...]	1 4 6
222	Assisted more in understanding how your major would affect your career opportunities. and then exposing you to those opportunities.	3 6
236	Established a mentoring program with outside organizations and students to allow them to get involved with professionals in the career they want to pursue.	2 4 6 11
254	I wish the university pushed more for professional experience and supplement students who could not afford to take non-paid positions. Many institutions press their students to take co-ops, my college did not. Although I was very fortunate to find experiences that enhanced my professional portfolio, I do not feel that the school was very helpful in this matter, especially in the major I was most interested, [...] It would be nice to see a little more variation in the types of jobs that are available to students.	3 4 6
259	I wish the university pushed more for professional experience and supplement students who could not afford to take non-paid positions. Many institutions press their students to take co-ops, my college did not. Although I was very fortunate to find experiences that enhanced my professional portfolio, I do not feel that the school was very helpful in this matter, especially in the major I was most interested, Marketing. It seems that most of the jobs geared to students were in Finance, Accounting and Engineering. It would be nice to see a little more variation in the types of jobs that are available to students.	3 4 6

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
262	Do more to encourage university faculty of undergraduate students to actively develop relationships with undergraduate students. I had excellent grades as an undergraduate but I never developed any significant or lasting relationships with any of the faculty. On the one hand I know it is the responsibility of students to approach faculty, but sometimes that can be intimidating. If faculty [...] actively reach out to students it can help. They can schedule one on one meetings which every student must attend. or invite students to meet to discuss issues besides the specific class they were teaching. [...] also they were very reluctant to write letters of recommendation despite my excellent performance in their class. this has significantly impeded my ability to advance professionally. while some were better than others, in general there was a culture that lacked concern for undergraduate students and did not reach out to them or support them in ways beyond giving immediate answers to test questions. Also, [...] there should have been more requirements for presentations as public speaking skills are critical in this field.	1 2 5 6 7
267	For each major [...] host a panel of Maryland alumni from different employers and have them explain what duties they perform, skills that are needed, say what their employer values, and have them answer student questions related to their jobs. The panelists should have at least 2 years experience in their current position and have graduated 2 or more years ago.	3 4 5 6
275	Provide more career related training in relation to the major. Provide more student professor mentorship programs. Allow more flexibility to choose minors or specialties within the major.	2 3 6
289	N/A. The University did a fantastic job. I could've had more opportunities with the selected items if I took the initiative.	6
313	I think the school needs to do a better job of developing mentoring relationships between students and faculty. I barely remember my professors' names.	2 6
314	More required meetings with counselors. Assigning a counselor to each student who will work with the student for the entire duration of their stay at University of Maryland. [...] I wish internships had been required for graduation in order to gain more knowledge, more contacts, more job opportunities/possibilities in my prospective field.	1 2 4 6 7
347	Prepare students for the tough job market, offered an internship class during the school year so I wouldn't have to pay out of state tuition for the summer class.	1 4 6
363	Monitored the professionalism of the staff […] so that they would practice the same prodessionalism that they preach […]	2 6
374	I think it would be great if there was an either mandatory internship or the UM strongly encouraged students to have an internship before their junior year. I say that because I think a lot of people were just not very prepared to work in groups. there were personality clashes and students were just not acting professionally. this kind of attitude didn't do any good to our grades. students need to learn how to be respectful and work hard on a group assignment rather than waiting for someone to push them. [...]	4 6 7
383	More opportunity for leadership. Clubs felt cliquey so I often didn't want to join. All in all- a GREAT job was done.	6 10 11 12
401	Provided more information about opportunities available earlier in my academic career at UMD. Ex: exploration of mentoring [...]. More leadership […] classes would have been appreciated.	1 2 6 12 13
405	What the university is severely lacking is ethics and leadership. The university promotes ethics and leadership, but fails to set an example that inspires students to do anything more than get their degree and get a reasonably-paying job after graduation. Many students hear about ethics one time or another at UM, but in what ways do the leaders at UM promote such ethics? Does giving out student social security numbers in 2008 and then covering up the issue to the media (and its own students) promote ethics? [...] Or how about giving tenure to lecture professors who have little public speaking and communicative skill, obviously chosen because of their research grant value to the university then anything contributory to student learning? These are MAJOR issues that the university needs to continuously improve if it wants help people succeed in all their walks of life, and not become an obstacle instead.	2 3 5 6 8 12 15
406	Much more encouragement to have students prepare for current professional development. I would liked to have more assistance in the preparation of interviews,resume building, etc.	4 6

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
443	The University could have put more emphasis on how to actually go about finding a job and put more emphasis on the importance of an internship to gain experience. A lot of students that I talk to that have now graduated or that have graduated before me were not totally prepared once graduation hit.	4 6
459	Provide more professional development courses, perhaps even specializing some for specific majors.	1 3 6
470	Im not sure if they could have done anything to help me get a job in today's job market... since graduating I have had two jobs that did not require my degree and I have been laid off from both of them.	6 7
498	A little more guidance in terms of real-world applications beyond education, i.e., employment and life management. A long-term and outward prospectus to better prepare for the future (i.e., employment, internships, graduate school). Students who did not pursue these things themselves (I, for example, never felt able to do an internship and did not have a strong faculty advisor relationship because I did not realize how would influences grad school possibility for me)were ill-prepared for post-undergraduate life. Some encourage and direction to do so would have been appreciated. I for example, would love to go to grad school but with a less than B average and no faculty relationship, I am largely deterred. I would also like to pursue and entry-level job in my major area but without experience in the area, I am not qualified.	2 3 4 6 8 9
530	I would like to have interviewed with companies based in states other than the DC/Maryland/VA area. I would also liked to have had a lot more writing courses that I was required to take. [...] I think the school could have done a better job of teaching global current events. There should have been a required class each year that met once a month or so tailored to the student's course of study.	1 5 6 7 9
539	The University could do a better job in the guidance department of helping students choose a 4 year plan tailored to their field of interest. [...]	6
559	The university could have internships available in the lower level classes available so students could get the real world situations and form a connection with professionals in their major of interest very early in their college experience.	1 3 4 6 9
574	The University should make better use of its location near Washington, especially in policy-related fields [...], and offer classes with a more practical bent. The University should also have more classes that teach students to use tools related to jobs in such fields - no student of the social sciences should graduate without learning how to use at least one statistical software package (e.g. Stata) very well.	1 6
589	I wish there were more job opportunities available to student prior to graduating. Yes, there were career fairs open for students. However, they were a waste of time. Everyone told me and my sister to "apply online". I even had an on-campus interview as an result from one of the career fairs, but again was told to "apply online". After going online, I found out I needed a master's degree for the job. I have been applying online for jobs for an entire year! It may be the economy, but it is very hard for graduates my age to obtain employment in the D.C. area. Now, I may be joining Americorps in the fall! As for writing and speaking more effectively, UMD did a fantastic job. However, you can always have more education in these areas. [...]	5 6
590	Discussion of more careers and presence at career fairs (other than financial/accounting firms)	6
591	I truly wish that I had more of an opportunity to establish a mentoring relationship with one of my professors, especially one in the research field and one who could have provided me career information. However, I do want to stress that I had a great relationship with a [...] TA. She gave me the faculty recommendation that led to my current job.	2 6 10 13
606	having a major has not increased my quality of life by presenting me any new or better opportunities. I work two jobs that dont require a degree.	3 6 7
616	My co-op during the fall of my junior year was the best experience for preparing me for the professional world after college. I learned many valuable skills, and when I returned to campus, I gained much more out of my remaining college experience. I appreciate how UMD has enabled students to do a co-op. At the same time, I wish UMD put more of an emphasis on the value of a co-op and provided more guidance for students about what co-op opportunities are available.	5 6 9

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
632	[...] Develop a sense of professional ethics: make an effort to explain to students /why/ the honor code is important -- the current program seems to amount to copying a paragraph and signing your name before tests; it feels mindless, and I believe that the student body could benefit from a short program (possibly online, like alcohol edu) explaining the morality of academic and professional integrity. -Establish a mentoring relationship: I understand that UM is a large institution, and requiring professors to mentor all students is ridiculous, but perhaps the university could initiate a program where upperclassmen are compelled to attend small group meetings with professors from their programs?	1 2 6 8 15
635	The University could have different guest speakers/professors/professionals come into the classroom environment to add to what the students read in their textbooks in order to offer different perspectives.	1 2 5 6 14
638	Encourage a self discovery course. A course that taught you what kind of jobs you may be fit for and how it can help you find the right career. Some sort of Myers-Briggs test will also be helpful to help develop leadership and ways to appreciate and work with others that are different from oneself.	1 6 12
641	Provide more opportunities for presenting in front of a large audience. Provide more opportunities for development of strong writing skills. [...] In the corporate environment, it is not only the content but also the presentation that matters. A single writing class is not enough [...] to develop very strong written communication although it is one of the most sought skills by employers.	1 5 6 8
659	As a returning student with a lot of leadership and life experience, I would have liked the program to be more applicable to where I am in life. More interaction with faculty my own age would have allowed for a more meaningful experience. In my current leadership roles I deal a lot with the public and media. I needed more attention to my goals and interest to identify relevance and purposful application for my new career path in communications. I also was very interested in pursuing a masters but didn't really know which direction to go that would best fulfill on my passions and commitments to public service. I would have liked to have a mentor who could provide that guidance. If so, I may have pursued my masters and doctorate directly upon graduation.	2 6 12
661	The university could have prepared us better for the professional world. […] I did not feel well prepared at all in that respect. Also, the staff could have been more approachable and open to the students in order to provide a mentoring relationship.	2 4 6 9
666	Once you are in your major, it is very hard to take any elective courses outside of your career field. Therefore, outside of CORE classes in your freshman and sophomore years, there is no real opportunity to master or take a large amount of courses in other academic knowledge. [...]	1 3 4 6 8 10
676	To prepare students for their future (current) positions, it would be helpful for UMCP to more closely monitor the field placements required of the major. If the goal of the internship is merely to give students work experience, then the program needs no modification. However, if the goal of the program is to align students in fields in which they intend to pursue careers, modifications need to be made. [...] As for more opportunities to establish mentoring relationships, UMCP could possibly assign each student to a faculty member within the department of their major.	2 3 4 6 7
692	I think the senior year of college could be more focused with a professional preparation class across majors.	1 3 4 6
709	More resources for graduating and recently graduated students;particularly for those who don't have a post-graduations plan (ie-less 'transition to a job' and more 'what to do when you can't find a job that will pay your bills')	6 13
710	[...] The only thing that I wish there was more emphasis on was presentation and communication skills. My job within the DoD requires heavily on being able to present and communicate with an audience. Although this was expressed in a few of my classes I feel like it could have been more of an important part of my college career. I have since then learned these skills out of neccessity but it would have been nice to be comfortable with it before beginning my career.	1 5 6 7
718	The University did a good job of providing opportunities. I would just promote those opportunities more, so students knew about them.	6

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
728	Focus more on, one on one education and employ instructors as well as TA's who can fluently speak the english language. Providing a learning support group to help students across all subjects could improve these skills as well. [...] a hard-ass attitude from professors did not help me one bit, but otherwise devalued my education. If these same professors would have better performed there requirements as instructors and less as researchers, while putting less pressure on students to learn the subjects that they did not teach well themselves would have resulted in a more enjoyable and beneficial learning experience (I was once told by one of my professors that their research was more important to them than the classes that they taught).	1 2 5 6 7
736	Offered professional ethics classes.	1 6 15
758	I think that my graduating class had it rough. We were graduating into a tumultuous economy and no one had any real clue as to how it would impact the job market and my graduating class. I think in times like that, it is a good idea to prepare for the worst. If the University of Maryland had been a bit more aggressive in advertising the reward that comes with a mentoring relationship with a faculty member, the increased time in the public spotlight could have been enough to spur myself and others into a more active role.	1 2 4 6
778	The university did a very good job at making things available. I perhaps wish those opportunities were advertised more. However, most of the blame falls on myself for not seeking extra opportunities. […]	6
789	Introduce career opportunities and provide more background regarding the types of professions available to students with certain majors. Urge professors to relate class material to current global topics and interdisciplinary subjects to better relate to other situations and current events, instead of simply teaching out of the textbooks.	1 2 3 6 9

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
7	I had three majors, two of which were quite large and one of which was medium sized. I get a lot out of one-on-one conferences, especially in bigger classes. Requiring or encouraging professors at least one individual conference per semester might help. Office hours are somewhat helpful, but when you don't particularly need specific help, a conference is nice to just to have some personal face time with the professor. I also think oral presentations should be a bigger part of all majors, you can get through your whole college experience and barely speak. Having at least one oral presentation requirement per class might help.	1 2 3 5 7 8
30	The University could include more field placement opportunities […]. The University can assign mentors within your major field of study so that there is always someone for students to go to and make academic advising mandatory for more semesters.	1 2 3 7
51	I have thought of this for a while, and the only thing I can think of to increase many of the factors your suvery is examining is to develop a MANDATORY EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT. This would make it mandatory to have an internship/summer inernship/fellowship/research assistantship/clinic/etc. before you graduate. The problem with college is the lack of hands on experience to apply what you learned in the field. I learned a multitude of more information in two weeks in my internship then I would have in 2 months in a course. With our proximity to DC, it is a shame the number of students who refuse to take advantage of that. A mandatory graduation requirement would change that.	1 4 7 8 13
60	For increasing academic knowledge outside your major, the University could try to make it easier or more obtainable to achieve a minor. Another idea is to require all students to join an academic club or organization outside of the classroom.	1 3 4 7 11
64	I was a transfer student, and I never had an advisor or teacher who really helped me during college. In my program [...], it would have been helpful to have been assigned one specific advisor, in order to help me with my experience, to give me advice, and to establish a relationship with. In addition, I think that advisors should encourage student to get internships to gain experience outside of college. I completed two internships while at UMD, but secured both of them on my own, without the help of advisors.	1 2 4 7
65	Possibly a required public speaking or communications class for all majors	1 3 5 7
67	Improve academic advising services; they are very focused on graduation date and requirements to get there.	1 2 7
71	I would have liked the opportunity to focus more on one concentrated area in my degree. [...] had a lot of required courses and without knowing what electives would be offered semester to semester it made it very difficult to plan out a course load that focused more in one area.	1 7 10
79	Have required public speaking courses.	1 5 7
85	I would have liked a public speaking requirement.	5 7
97	Developing professional ethics […] standards in the classroom were not very high. People thought just showing up to class was enough to get by and professors did little to counter that culture. That culture presented itself differently in group projects, where I think undeveloped professionalism was more present. People were not driven by the assignment and lacked a sense of what their contribution should be. Obviously, this behavior did not apply to everyone, although I think it did apply to the majority.	1 2 3 6 7 15
115	Made classes available for credit that didn't require much work (so maybe not fulfill a requirement) therefore giving more opportunity/desirability for learning outside of major	1 3 4 5 7 10
123	Courses that more directly tied what we learned to the real-world. More opportunities to work with children in the community to develop leadership skills. Courses that required more group work [...]. Checking in with advisors/mentors more often than once a semester.	1 2 5 7 9 12

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
132	It would have been nice to have advisors who do more to show all the opportunities regarding majors and career paths. I also think there should be some "life-building" skills seminars, that are required of freshman (or transfers). Managing finances, how to interview, etc.	2 3 5 6 7
137	More minors. A required debate or public speaking class.	1 5 7
153	Classes and/or seminars that count toward graduation requirements	1 7
159	Increase academic knowledge outside your major- although UMD does require core classes in different areas of study, I feel like I didn't learn about other area until my junior year [...]	1 3 4 7
181	Assign a ***faculty*** advisor to every freshman.	2 7
198	Making it easier to take the higher level "interesting" classes in other majors for people who are interested in seeing what a major is like but not ready (or have enough time) to commit to taking all of the prerequisites that you have to take now in order to get in to those classes. [...] Perhaps require a speech-writing or public speaking 1 credit class or at least have one available either major-specific or at least general area specific. Even a class in "small talk" would be interesting to practice having those conversations that need to be semi-formal (i.e. with a boss) but not an actual presentation. I don't think in any of my classes was there a point where new information was provided and we were expected to then incorporate that information into our already existing paper/presentation/project. I think that kind of flexibility would be a great thing to have or try to include in classwork - I'm writing journal articles now and new studies are constantly being done that are requiring me to re-write and re-think the article that I am writing up now. In terms of diversity I think Maryland has a lot of it, but people still separate themselves off into groups of their comfort level. I don't know if there is anything the university can do about that, but it's certainly worth striving for.	1 3 5 7 8 13 14
234	The university could assign freshmen to a faculty mentor or possibly each department could require students to meet with a faculty mentor or something. I also think that just explaining to students how valuable faculty mentorship is and how to go about finding a mentor would have been helpful.	2 7
262	Do more to encourage university faculty of undergraduate students to actively develop relationships with undergraduate students. I had excellent grades as an undergraduate but I never developed any significant or lasting relationships with any of the faculty. On the one hand I know it is the responsibility of students to approach faculty, but sometimes that can be intimidating. If faculty [...] actively reach out to students it can help. They can schedule one on one meetings which every student must attend. or invite students to meet to discuss issues besides the specific class they were teaching. [...] also they were very reluctant to write letters of recommendation despite my excellent performance in their class. this has significantly impeded my ability to advance professionally. while some were better than others, in general there was a culture that lacked concern for undergraduate students and did not reach out to them or support them in ways beyond giving immediate answers to test questions. Also, [...] there should have been more requirements for presentations as public speaking skills are critical in this field.	1 2 5 6 7
295	require more internships before graduation	4 7
314	More required meetings with counselors. Assigning a counselor to each student who will work with the student for the entire duration of their stay at University of Maryland. [...] I wish internships had been required for graduation in order to gain more knowledge, more contacts, more job opportunities/possibilities in my prospective field.	1 2 4 6 7
321	Provide a class that dealt with global issues [...]. Maybe touched on the topic in required courses.	1 7 9
327	assigned me a mentor	2 7
338	I would like to see more small, seminar format classes. I understand this can be a strain on resources since it requires special effort by faculty and teaching assistants, but courses like these were what really tested my skills as a writer and researcher.	1 2 5 7 8 13
339	Create a program/requirement for faculty mentoring.	2 7

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
344	Require courses that have lots of wiring/speeches. [...] As for the ethics, require an ethics class. The main reason I put establish a mentoring relationship is because I did have to search out the main one I had [...]. Part of the problem of have a large school with lots of people and large class sizes. It is harder to make a connection,	1 2 7 8 15
364	Establish methods of assigning […]faculty mentors to students. Unless you were involved in research or TA-ing it seemed difficult to get time with faculty.	2 7 11
366	Revise the mentoring program [...] assign a professor the student already has taken a class with, rather than assign any professor. Enforce more mandatory meetings (one per semester is not enough). Mandate that every student must do at least a summer internship or semester long research on campus.	1 2 4 5 7
373	Make more general curricululm requirments within each major field (ie: mandatory for every student to take a Language course), so I would have more diverse classes, not solely classes within the field of my major. Set up more opportunities and programs (possibly required for incoming freshman or incoming students to a particular college program) to be paired with a UM Factulty/staff member for a mentoring/advising program.	1 2 3 7
374	I think it would be great if there was an either mandatory internship or the UM strongly encouraged students to have an internship before their junior year. I say that because I think a lot of people were just not very prepared to work in groups. there were personality clashes and students were just not acting professionally. this kind of attitude didn't do any good to our grades. students need to learn how to be respectful and work hard on a group assignment rather than waiting for someone to push them. [...]	4 6 7
387	Add a required core class about leadership & speaking... two things that are essential for every human to learn. Also, maybe require students to write 1 paper each year on 1 of their professors... which might push students to interact more with professors and encourage the attendance of office hours.	1 2 5 7 12
399	Well, usually there just aren't enough hours in the day to do everything. If there were a few less core requirements, it could have freed up more space for electives, which would hopefully have been more fulfilling	7
434	[...] little to no writing was required in my upper level classes. While I took classes […] to improve my ctitical writing skills, I wish more classes had been offered that trained report writing and analytical use of [...] data.	1 5 7
445	One more year of required english/ effective writing courses	1 5 7
465	I'm not sure how this would be achieved, but I think it's very important to have some sort of contact with other cultures (i.e. not America). This could be done in some sort of program where we had relationships with other schools in other countries to achieve a common goal/assignment. Internet correspondance, etc.	2 7
470	Im not sure if they could have done anything to help me get a job in today's job market... since graduating I have had two jobs that did not require my degree and I have been laid off from both of them.	6 7
489	Some professors could be more available to meet with students outside of class time. Make some sort of Speech class more available or a required course. Have better advisors [...] to better guide students, who are not sure what they want to do, into a field of interest and tell them about leadership and other opportunities that are available.	1 2 4 7 12
490	Put more effort into hiring better teachers (read: those who actually know the subject they are "teaching"); put more funding and emphasis into actual TEACHING instead of pure research. Remove the "general education" credit requirements and instead offer course loads more directly related to a chosen major from the start. Offer classes on a better schedule, instead of all on the same day. [...]	1 3 7
518	make a requirement to attend several (say 10) workshops or seminars a week. This way students could learn about a variety of issues without much academic strain.	1 7

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
530	I would like to have interviewed with companies based in states other than the DC/Maryland/VA area. I would also liked to have had a lot more writing courses that I was required to take. [...] I think the school could have done a better job of teaching global current events. There should have been a required class each year that met once a month or so tailored to the student's course of study.	1 5 6 7 9
535	I believe they could provide a mandatory internship course, where students had to apply their educational experience in the real world. I also feel like there should have been more english requirements. Maybe a mandatory course for writing development. [...] I also strongly believe there should be a mandatory government & politics/current issues class should be required. I believe that kind of knowledge is so necessary and a lot of people don't pay attention unless they are forced. I rarely had the opportunity for leadership in any of my courses. A lot of this is through my own fault for not actively pursuing student organizations where I could develop this skill. I do not think the school can offer anything more than the student orgs. For the global issues, I repeat the thought of having a mandatory government & politics course. I did not have any relationships with any of my professors, but that was my own fault. The faculty was more than accomodating and willing to mentor students. I just did not take the opportunities.	1 2 4 5 7 9 10 12
536	Assigned mentors from staff to each student, so we know who to turn to for references and relationships within our colleges.	2 7
568	Provide more leadership rolls for students, decrease class size, and require professors to do more teaching and less power point. I think that Power Point should be banned from the classroom. Professors cannot seem to figure out how to use it effectively.	1 2 7 8 12
577	Internships linked with academic programs, assigning a mentor/advisor and making sure he/she actually advises me.	1 2 4 7
588	Assigned a mentor to students or a group of students	2 7
596	The University could have made it mandatory that students meet one on one with their professors, even if they didn't need to go to office hours, just so the student and teacher got to meet at least once by themselves.	1 2 7
606	having a major has not increased my quality of life by presenting me any new or better opportunities. I work two jobs that dont require a degree.	3 6 7
631	Create a mentoring program for all students and faculty - require the faculty to get involved in mentoring. That would be my biggest complaint about my experience at UMD. I did not find the majority of the faculty approachable, and they did not seem interested in outside involvement with students besides the day to day class work.	1 2 3 4 7 8 11
636	Assign a mentor for every entering class (whether that be a faculty or a reliable upper classman). It would be great to have such program institutionalized.	1 2 7
637	More opportunities to take classes outside of your major. There are too many strict requirements.	1 3 4 7
657	more challenging courses - tougher grading - research writing assignments & presentations - for some departments, more student/faculty mingling/contact (and not the awkward type where the faculty end up talking to other faculty and students end up talking to other students) - smaller classes - required senior theses?	1 2 5 7 8
664	The University should have offered seminar for my major to understand what opportunities existed for those that graduate with a degree in that field of study, including avenues to pursue, and requisites to obtain in order to be successful in pursuing those opportunities. [...] Essentially I could produce nothing but good essays. Additionally, I felt there was little presence when it came to academic advisor involvement when choosing my courses; no one was asking me what I hoped to do with my degree and advising from that stand point. There only concern was getting me to graduate within the confines of the major's requirements.	1 2 3 7 11

Category=7 Keywords=require | assign | mandatory

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
676	To prepare students for their future (current) positions, it would be helpful for UMCP to more closely monitor the field placements required of the major. If the goal of the internship is merely to give students work experience, then the program needs no modification. However, if the goal of the program is to align students in fields in which they intend to pursue careers, modifications need to be made. [...] As for more opportunities to establish mentoring relationships, UMCP could possibly assign each student to a faculty member within the department of their major.	2 3 4 6 7
710	[...] The only thing that I wish there was more emphasis on was presentation and communication skills. My job within the DoD requires heavily on being able to present and communicate with an audience. Although this was expressed in a few of my classes I feel like it could have been more of an important part of my college career. I have since then learned these skills out of neccessity but it would have been nice to be comfortable with it before beginning my career.	1 5 6 7
728	Focus more on, one on one education and employ instructors as well as TA's who can fluently speak the english language. Providing a learning support group to help students across all subjects could improve these skills as well. [...] a hard-ass attitude from professors did not help me one bit, but otherwise devalued my education. If these same professors would have better performed there requirements as instructors and less as researchers, while putting less pressure on students to learn the subjects that they did not teach well themselves would have resulted in a more enjoyable and beneficial learning experience (I was once told by one of my professors that their research was more important to them than the classes that they taught).	1 2 5 6 7
734	Treated each and every student as an individual with personal and academic promise. I had a documented learning disability, and many professors made no attempt to hide how much of an annoyance or absurdity they considered my accommodations to be. I began to think less of my own academic potential. I am now beginning graduate school at a University which I feel really welcomes my contribution and expects great things from me. I feel an optimism and ambition that I never felt at Maryland. Revised curriculum/academic requirements. I realized after I graduated that I had not read many of the major texts in my own area. The University has made college less and less about books and libraries. Experience is important, but so is serious scholarship. There are certain books you are expected to have read, ideas you are expected to have been exposed to, when you say you have a degree in humanities or social sciences. Held professors to higher standards. Professors should be making relevant, ongoing contributions to their fields. Students should be getting the strongest arguments and the most current information. Communicate institutional goals. I don't know what the University stands for, or where it's going. The unstoppable starts here and similar slogans are embarrassing. They don't make sense.	1 2 3 5 7 13
745	Less core requirements in fields completely unrelated to my major	3 7
763	Require us to get a subscription to a world newspaper online. Something like the New York Times, CNN, MSNBC, BBC, Anything where they give you world news regardless of its political slant.	7 9
781	Most of the opportunities I wish I had explored further were lacking due to my own decisions (see below). One possible way to address this from a institutional standpoint would be to require (though that would probably not be popular) greater engagement along a broad spectrum of extra-curricular activities or to stress in orientation classes [...] the importance of seeking out a wide range of activities, rather than focusing on only one area. [...]	1 7
798	Required public speaking class	1 5 7

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
1	Smaller classes would have increased the possibility of developing closer relationships with professors. […]	1 2 8
7	I had three majors, two of which were quite large and one of which was medium sized. I get a lot out of one-on-one conferences, especially in bigger classes. Requiring or encouraging professors at least one individual conference per semester might help. Office hours are somewhat helpful, but when you don't particularly need specific help, a conference is nice to just to have some personal face time with the professor. I also think oral presentations should be a bigger part of all majors, you can get through your whole college experience and barely speak. Having at least one oral presentation requirement per class might help.	1 2 3 5 7 8
14	Because UMD is such a big school, I understand that it's difficult to develop mentoring relationships with professors. I was lucky to be in [...] smaller classes, so I was able to get to know my professors more. I would suggest maybe requiring [...] students to have to go to office hours of a professor at least once in their first semester. Once you get over that anxiety, it becomes a lot easier and more valuable to students.	1 2 8
16	[…] I did not find any real opportunities to bond and create mentoring relationships with professors in large part because of the size of classes and the time limits my professors […] faced because of those class sizes.	1 2 8
19	Mentoring program with faculty, classes with more small-group discussions	1 2 8
45	The University could emphasize mentoring by creating a program where students can be matched up with professors who are willing to act as a mentor.	2 8
51	I have thought of this for a while, and the only thing I can think of to increase many of the factors your suvery is examining is to develop a MANDATORY EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT. This would make it mandatory to have an internship/summer inernship/fellowship/research assistantship/clinic/etc. before you graduate. The problem with college is the lack of hands on experience to apply what you learned in the field. I learned a multitude of more information in two weeks in my internship then I would have in 2 months in a course. With our proximity to DC, it is a shame the number of students who refuse to take advantage of that. A mandatory graduation requirement would change that.	1 4 7 8 13
76	The University is so large, that it is difficult for staff members to mentor individuals beyond those who are exceptional. That leaves the remainder of students without a mentor. I graduated magna cum laude but still did not have any staff member reach out to me and guide me in anything.	2 8
86	Increased the number of smaller classes and increased the number of full-time faculty members (vs. adjunct or graduate student teachers who tend to be less accessible through office hours or other out of class interaction).	1 2 8
116	[…] classes were giant and it was hard to get to know professors very well, even when working in a lab. I wish that the upper level classes offered were a bit smaller.	1 2 8
145	It's possible that the university already has in place opportunities to learn better leadership skills and speaking skills through various programs and seminars and the like. But with the push to fit in classes and work, there often was just not enough time in a day to take advantage. And with large class sizes, it's difficult to work those things into a curriculum. But that's where I would have liked to see them. At the very least, more critical feedback from professors as to speaking and leadership skills. I did find this in a couple grad-level classes I took during undergrad -- direct critiques of speaking presentations, which I found to be very helpful.	1 2 5 8 12
150	Smaller class sizes for more individual attention	1 8
160	my major was so large I had no individual relationship with my adviser. I saw a different person each time and none of them knew anything about me, not even my name.	2 3 8

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
198	Making it easier to take the higher level "interesting" classes in other majors for people who are interested in seeing what a major is like but not ready (or have enough time) to commit to taking all of the prerequisites that you have to take now in order to get in to those classes. [...] Perhaps require a speech-writing or public speaking 1 credit class or at least have one available either major-specific or at least general area specific. Even a class in "small talk" would be interesting to practice having those conversations that need to be semi-formal (i.e. with a boss) but not an actual presentation. I don't think in any of my classes was there a point where new information was provided and we were expected to then incorporate that information into our already existing paper/presentation/project. I think that kind of flexibility would be a great thing to have or try to include in classwork - I'm writing journal articles now and new studies are constantly being done that are requiring me to re-write and re-think the article that I am writing up now. In terms of diversity I think Maryland has a lot of it, but people still separate themselves off into groups of their comfort level. I don't know if there is anything the university can do about that, but it's certainly worth striving for.	1 3 5 7 8 13 14
244	Create more opportunities for undergraduate students to gain more realistic lab experience at the University. While lecture based labs have their merits, they do not present students with the skills necessary to be successful scientists. Emphasize the importance of writing!!! [...]	5 8
250	I think that the university could do more to try and make a community--which I know is difficult for a large university--but being exposed to different ideas can also just mean being exposed to different disciplines and lines of thinking. [...] There was a tendency to get sort of compartmentalized in our disciplines.	5 8
328	Decreased class sizes.	1 8
338	I would like to see more small, seminar format classes. I understand this can be a strain on resources since it requires special effort by faculty and teaching assistants, but courses like these were what really tested my skills as a writer and researcher.	1 2 5 7 8 13
344	Require courses that have lots of wiring/speeches. [...] As for the ethics, require an ethics class. The main reason I put establish a mentoring relationship is because I did have to search out the main one I had [...]. Part of the problem of have a large school with lots of people and large class sizes. It is harder to make a connection,	1 2 7 8 15
405	What the university is severely lacking is ethics and leadership. The university promotes ethics and leadership, but fails to set an example that inspires students to do anything more than get their degree and get a reasonably-paying job after graduation. Many students hear about ethics one time or another at UM, but in what ways do the leaders at UM promote such ethics? Does giving out student social security numbers in 2008 and then covering up the issue to the media (and its own students) promote ethics? [...] Or how about giving tenure to lecture professors who have little public speaking and communicative skill, obviously chosen because of their research grant value to the university then anything contributory to student learning? These are MAJOR issues that the university needs to continuously improve if it wants help people succeed in all their walks of life, and not become an obstacle instead.	2 3 5 6 8 12 15
414	Smaller classes in Freshmen and Sophmore year onward.	1 8
496	More small group classes or activities	1 8
497	Something that my graduate school does that UM did not was create a "big sibling" relationship which I think UM could benefit from. A student could be paired with either an older student in the major, a graduate student, or teacher and I think that would help prevent students who change majors many times.	1 2 3 8
498	A little more guidance in terms of real-world applications beyond education, i.e., employment and life management. A long-term and outward prospectus to better prepare for the future (i.e., employment, internships, graduate school). Students who did not pursue these things themselves (I, for example, never felt able to do an internship and did not have a strong faculty advisor relationship because I did not realize how would influences grad school possibility for me)were ill-prepared for post-undergraduate life. Some encourage and direction to do so would have been appreciated. I for example, would love to go to grad school but with a less than B average and no faculty relationship, I am largely deterred. I would also like to pursue and entry-level job in my major area but without experience in the area, I am not qualified.	2 3 4 6 8 9
523	The university could have involved freshman students in more small classes.	1 8 11

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
568	Provide more leadership rolls for students, decrease class size, and require professors to do more teaching and less power point. I think that Power Point should be banned from the classroom. Professors cannot seem to figure out how to use it effectively.	1 2 7 8 12
631	Create a mentoring program for all students and faculty - require the faculty to get involved in mentoring. That would be my biggest complaint about my experience at UMD. I did not find the majority of the faculty approachable, and they did not seem interested in outside involvement with students besides the day to day class work.	1 2 3 4 7 8 11
632	[...] Develop a sense of professional ethics: make an effort to explain to students /why/ the honor code is important -- the current program seems to amount to copying a paragraph and signing your name before tests; it feels mindless, and I believe that the student body could benefit from a short program (possibly online, like alcohol edu) explaining the morality of academic and professional integrity. -Establish a mentoring relationship: I understand that UM is a large institution, and requiring professors to mentor all students is ridiculous, but perhaps the university could initiate a program where upperclassmen are compelled to attend small group meetings with professors from their programs?	1 2 6 8 15
641	Provide more opportunities for presenting in front of a large audience. Provide more opportunities for development of strong writing skills. [...] In the corporate environment, it is not only the content but also the presentation that matters. A single writing class is not enough [...] to develop very strong written communication although it is one of the most sought skills by employers.	1 5 6 8
657	more challenging courses - tougher grading - research writing assignments & presentations - for some departments, more student/faculty mingling/contact (and not the awkward type where the faculty end up talking to other faculty and students end up talking to other students) - smaller classes - required senior theses?	1 2 5 7 8
666	Once you are in your major, it is very hard to take any elective courses outside of your career field. Therefore, outside of CORE classes in your freshman and sophomore years, there is no real opportunity to master or take a large amount of courses in other academic knowledge. [...]	1 3 4 6 8 10
682	Smaller class sizes, stronger advisor roll through professors	1 2 8
711	Have more opportunities for the students to meet or be engaged with professors on a more intimate level other than being a face in the crowd of 200 students in a large lecture hall. I always found it a "Catch 22" that the students that succeeded in those large classes never had the need to visit office hours, and thus never got to know their professors (making it harder to obtain accurate and detailed letters of recommendation if needed). I often found it much easier to confront my professors who knew me from smaller classes (which were usually outside of my major [...]). I also would have liked to be able to study abroad without having to take summer courses, excess AP courses in high school, or feeling pressured that if I did go abroad it would be incredibly stressful on my schedules for the other semesters. This is often the case for [...] students who need to follow a more regimented 4-year plan that doesn't provide much room for anything else.	1 2 3 4 8
721	The university itself is a huge entity, so I certainly don't expect it to provide the type of leadership training/mentoring that a smaller institution would.	2 8 12
741	Smaller class sizes [...] would have made it easier to connect with faculty.	1 2 8
752	I benefited from my small program and small class size.	1 8
761	Hold more graduate school fairs, create smaller classrooms	1 8
766	UM could offer more more classes of a smaller size [...], to increase the opportunities to speak for each student and their ability to get to know the professor.	1 2 5 8

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
12	1. mentoring partnerships between students and staff 2. have less adjunct faculty who do not remain at the university for more than one semester 3. speak more on global issues	2 5 9
46	It's hard at a huge university, I would imagine, to create a culture of awareness on global issues outside of the obvious political science, history, etc. courses. But that certainly doesn't exist. I always liked going to see the speakers that came to UMD, but a lot of students didn't take advantage...maybe you could encourage people to take advantage of those opportunities more when they're freshmen and sophomores. [...] Also, international students add a lot. Creating (more) scholarships for them would be awesome.	1 4 5 9
103	Should foster an environment more focused on solving world issues and not on the closed minded social stereotypical environments. Should increase ethical awareness i.e. dating your supervisor, working in teams, balancing work responsibilities and family life. Can there be a life coach for each student?	2 9 15
123	Courses that more directly tied what we learned to the real-world. More opportunities to work with children in the community to develop leadership skills. Courses that required more group work [...]. Checking in with advisors/mentors more often than once a semester.	1 2 5 7 9 12
135	Learning how to speak clearly is extremely important. Any way UMD can encourage clear public speaking or even clear interpersonal communication would be great. - More exposure to real-life applied studies would help smooth our transition from academia to the real world. [...]	4 5 9
141	My professors actually having an idea of what the ACTUAL job market for their field looks like. I had multiple professors tell me that I would have no problem finding a job with the skills I gained in their lab. In the real world, this was the opposite. The skills I gained weren't enough. I had no idea until I actually graduated how royally I had screwed up. [...] I do work in research now, but in cardiac surgery, which is different. I found the career help for people in my position was negligent. Look over the jobs posted in career terps....how many relate to what I do? Probably none. [...] Certainly, I can say UMD did help me appreciate diversity, and think more intelligently, and so forth...but it all comes down to a job. [...]	2 4 5 6 9 14
158	There was one mentor for thousands of students so I would have liked to have more mentor relationships. I would have also liked to learn more about global issues and to have more opportunity to take classes outside of my major.	1 2 3 4 9 10
168	Students do have the opportunity to take additional communication classes but are not aware of how important speaking and writing skills are in the professional world. [..]	1 5 6 9 10
279	Incorporated global issues into classes.	1 9
321	Provide a class that dealt with global issues [...]. Maybe touched on the topic in required courses.	1 7 9
381	[...] I would have liked more of an emphasis on global issues in my classes overall.	1 9
458	Nothing. This is the best Universtiy in the world, and I mean that. The only reason that I was not able to do everything I wanted to do was because I had to work full-time while I was in school full-time. That took all of my extra time so I was unable to participate in extracurriculars.	9 11
460	The University could have bridged out to programs more in order to establish relationships with staff or gaining an understanding of global issues. [...]	2 9
475	Increase opportunity to study culture and business in different cultures -- also how current and newsworthy events affect everything you do in the business world	9 10
481	The University of Maryland could do nothing different. When I answered these questions, I just wish I had more years there. No matter how much the University does, you will never be prepared for the real world.	4 9

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
498	A little more guidance in terms of real-world applications beyond education, i.e., employment and life management. A long-term and outward prospectus to better prepare for the future (i.e., employment, internships, graduate school). Students who did not pursue these things themselves (I, for example, never felt able to do an internship and did not have a strong faculty advisor relationship because I did not realize how would influences grad school possibility for me)were ill-prepared for post-undergraduate life. Some encourage and direction to do so would have been appreciated. I for example, would love to go to grad school but with a less than B average and no faculty relationship, I am largely deterred. I would also like to pursue and entry-level job in my major area but without experience in the area, I am not qualified.	2 3 4 6 8 9
499	It would be nice if there was a place on campus to learn real world technical skills and earn certifications-- kind of like how you can get CPR certified at the ERC and you can learn arts skills at the Arts and Learning center-- something like that but for tech skills. For example if there was a tech skills center where you could take Cisco certification classes, MS cert classes, A+, Net+, etc. Or just take like a class on python or something [...] *everyone* could benefit a little bit from learning how a computer works and getting to know a little bit about programming). Similar classes for simple life skills like taking care of your car or balancing your finances would be appreciated.	1 4 5 9
530	I would like to have interviewed with companies based in states other than the DC/Maryland/VA area. I would also liked to have had a lot more writing courses that I was required to take. [...] I think the school could have done a better job of teaching global current events. There should have been a required class each year that met once a month or so tailored to the student's course of study.	1 5 6 7 9
535	I believe they could provide a mandatory internship course, where students had to apply their educational experience in the real world. I also feel like there should have been more english requirements. Maybe a mandatory course for writing development. [...] I also strongly believe there should be a mandatory government & politics/current issues class should be required. I believe that kind of knowledge is so necessary and a lot of people don't pay attention unless they are forced. I rarely had the opportunity for leadership in any of my courses. A lot of this is through my own fault for not actively pursuing student organizations where I could develop this skill. I do not think the school can offer anything more than the student orgs. For the global issues, I repeat the thought of having a mandatory government & politics course. I did not have any relationships with any of my professors, but that was my own fault. The faculty was more than accomodating and willing to mentor students. I just did not take the opportunities.	1 2 4 5 7 9 10 12
557	Make a listing of the most useful cross disciplinary skills for us to consider e.g. a speech class, economics and other stuff I wish I had taken but didn't think of until I got out into the world and realized I would have liked those skills.	1 5 9
559	The university could have internships available in the lower level classes available so students could get the real world situations and form a connection with professionals in their major of interest very early in their college experience.	1 3 4 6 9
576	More real world application to what most graduates would be doing/designing	4 9
584	Provided a better core curriculum that focused on academic knowledge outside the major that could still be tied back to the major in some way to focus on how the area of study affects and is affected by other diverse and global issues.	1 3 4 9
616	My co-op during the fall of my junior year was the best experience for preparing me for the professional world after college. I learned many valuable skills, and when I returned to campus, I gained much more out of my remaining college experience. I appreciate how UMD has enabled students to do a co-op. At the same time, I wish UMD put more of an emphasis on the value of a co-op and provided more guidance for students about what co-op opportunities are available.	5 6 9
656	I'm not sure what the University could have done about learning "global issues" unless they incorporate it in every major.	3 9
661	The university could have prepared us better for the professional world. […] I did not feel well prepared at all in that respect. Also, the staff could have been more approachable and open to the students in order to provide a mentoring relationship.	2 4 6 9
763	Require us to get a subscription to a world newspaper online. Something like the New York Times, CNN, MSNBC, BBC, Anything where they give you world news regardless of its political slant.	7 9

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
789	Introduce career opportunities and provide more background regarding the types of professions available to students with certain majors. Urge professors to relate class material to current global topics and interdisciplinary subjects to better relate to other situations and current events, instead of simply teaching out of the textbooks.	1 2 3 6 9
800	Offer free seminars on how to write and deliver speeches. Also offer more courses that focus on global issues and diverse perspectives. There could also be a mentorship program that encourages a stronger relationship between the faculty/staff and students.	1 2 5 9 14

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
15	I would have liked more opportunity to develop my career path up-front in my freshman and softmore years. I would like to have been able to better understand what potential jobs would be like in my field before pursuing major-specific classes that may limit opportunities to change majors down the line.	1 3 6 10
71	I would have liked the opportunity to focus more on one concentrated area in my degree. [...] had a lot of required courses and without knowing what electives would be offered semester to semester it made it very difficult to plan out a course load that focused more in one area.	1 7 10
115	Made classes available for credit that didn't require much work (so maybe not fulfill a requirement) therefore giving more opportunity/desirability for learning outside of major	1 3 4 5 7 10
131	I would have like more opportunity to prepare for my current job position. Due to limited enrollment into certain majors I was not able to get into the major I desired all 4 years, so I had to settle for an open major that was similiar to the one that I wanted. If I were able to get into the major I wanted I would have been better prepared for my job, and would not be taking specific classes in order to be certified.	1 3 4 6 10
158	There was one mentor for thousands of students so I would have liked to have more mentor relationships. I would have also liked to learn more about global issues and to have more opportunity to take classes outside of my major.	1 2 3 4 9 10
168	Students do have the opportunity to take additional communication classes but are not aware of how important speaking and writing skills are in the professional world. [..]	1 5 6 9 10
169	Certain classes were difficult to get into based on popularity or other factors. If students really wanted to learn those specific subjects but were unable to, that's a missed opportunity. Maybe UM can open more classes so more students can have access to these classes in high demand.	1 10
179	I would have liked greater opportunity to learn and then apply that knowledge to practical skills used in the workplace. Looking back, the most value came from my internships, not the classes.	1 4 5 10
224	more mentorship opportunity to network	2 10
286	More opportunity to take upper level electives in other fields without so many pre-requisite classes.	1 10
383	More opportunity for leadership. Clubs felt cliquey so I often didn't want to join. All in all- a GREAT job was done.	6 10 11 12
393	I concentrated specifically on completing my CORE and my major and two minors at UMD in two years so that I could graduate on time (I was a transfer student). Instead of having to take disparate CORE courses that were of no interest and a drag on my time and GPA, I would have preferred to have the opportunity to pursue another mine.	1 3 10
475	Increase opportunity to study culture and business in different cultures -- also how current and newsworthy events affect everything you do in the business world	9 10
535	I believe they could provide a mandatory internship course, where students had to apply their educational experience in the real world. I also feel like there should have been more english requirements. Maybe a mandatory course for writing development. [...] I also strongly believe there should be a mandatory government & politics/current issues class should be required. I believe that kind of knowledge is so necessary and a lot of people don't pay attention unless they are forced. I rarely had the opportunity for leadership in any of my courses. A lot of this is through my own fault for not actively pursuing student organizations where I could develop this skill. I do not think the school can offer anything more than the student orgs. For the global issues, I repeat the thought of having a mandatory government & politics course. I did not have any relationships with any of my professors, but that was my own fault. The faculty was more than accomodating and willing to mentor students. I just did not take the opportunities.	1 2 4 5 7 9 10 12

Category=10 Keywords=opportunity

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
591	I truly wish that I had more of an opportunity to establish a mentoring relationship with one of my professors, especially one in the research field and one who could have provided me career information. However, I do want to stress that I had a great relationship with a [...] TA. She gave me the faculty recommendation that led to my current job.	2 6 10 13
666	Once you are in your major, it is very hard to take any elective courses outside of your career field. Therefore, outside of CORE classes in your freshman and sophomore years, there is no real opportunity to master or take a large amount of courses in other academic knowledge. [...]	1 3 4 6 8 10
730	Due to the fact that I was admitted into the university during the spring semester, it was difficult for me to get integrated into the campus community during my first few semesters. Transitioning to college is a tough process but the challenge can be greatly lessened when you share that burden with a community of your peers. I was not fortunate enough to have that. This made it difficult to participate to participate in many activities as I would have liked, but it was also difficult to "fit in" I would have liked to be part of an honor society, or one of the educational housing programs (e.g Scholars) or a living and learning program during my earlier years. I would have been a much better student as I would have had the support I needed to get a good foundation. I know I did not have this opportunity due to my special case. As I said I was admitted in the Spring semester, and I attended secondary school abroad. However I think the university could have made efforts to reach out to all new students, traditional and non traditional. In my ignorance I stumbled through the first few semesters, but I finally found my footing. Although I enjoyed my UM experience, it could have been much better. Also, most of what I accomplished, I did solely by my effort and my motivation and by being proactive. I had to put in more work to get what other students were offered so easily, which I did not think was just. However, now that I look back, it made me a stronger person. Of course, I appreciate the scholarships, and financial support I received later in my junior/ senior years. However, I was, and still am a bright student. I feel that if my abilities were cultivated earlier, I would have achieved more than I eventually did. All in all, I have no regrets, only great aspirations for the future.	1 10 11

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
35	Improve housing for in-state Maryland residents so that I would not have to commute 1+ hours one way, giving me more time and flexibility to get involved on campus.	11
60	For increasing academic knowledge outside your major, the University could try to make it easier or more obtainable to achieve a minor. Another idea is to require all students to join an academic club or organization outside of the classroom.	1 3 4 7 11
236	Established a mentoring program with outside organizations and students to allow them to get involved with professionals in the career they want to pursue.	2 4 6 11
270	I think the University could have sent out information on the types of faculty/student relationships other students had and how to get involved with research to freshmen. Also, a list of professors who were willing to partner with students would be helpful.	2 11 13
273	Provide more proactive assistance for internships and involvement opportunities. Often students miss a lot of opportunities because they do not know about them or they never received the nudge to try or apply for positions.	4 11
364	Establish methods of assigning […]faculty mentors to students. Unless you were involved in research or TA-ing it seemed difficult to get time with faculty.	2 7 11
383	More opportunity for leadership. Clubs felt cliquey so I often didn't want to join. All in all- a GREAT job was done.	6 10 11 12
458	Nothing. This is the best Universtiy in the world, and I mean that. The only reason that I was not able to do everything I wanted to do was because I had to work full-time while I was in school full-time. That took all of my extra time so I was unable to participate in extracurriculars.	9 11
508	I feel that UMD prides itself on diversity, and although this is true, I feel the university still has a lot to cover in terms of integration. Although it is grate to have specific clubs/opportunities for particular groups, I feel that more integrated clubs would help to achieve many of the listed objectives above.	11 14
516	I work as a graduate research assistant, and more classes that involved setting up experiments, taking and processing data would have been helpful.	1 11
523	The university could have involved freshman students in more small classes.	1 8 11
564	Seeking researching opportunities with the professors at UMD was rather difficult. I approached many teachers who had openings, but got turned down after they reviewed my transcript. I felt so demoralized that I was afraid to ask others. School should provide more researching opportunities for [...] students and judge those who are willing to participate equally.	1 2 11
595	I believe that the university should revise prerequisites for certain classes. [...] Of course priority in classes should go to students in those majors, but if there is high demand, the university should look into opening more sections so more non-majors can participate.	1 3 5 11
626	The University could've spread more awareness about the opportunities to do different things such as travel or scholarships. They could've marketed some of the student clubs and societies more to students.	11
631	Create a mentoring program for all students and faculty - require the faculty to get involved in mentoring. That would be my biggest complaint about my experience at UMD. I did not find the majority of the faculty approachable, and they did not seem interested in outside involvement with students besides the day to day class work.	1 2 3 4 7 8 11

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
664	The University should have offered seminar for my major to understand what opportunities existed for those that graduate with a degree in that field of study, including avenues to pursue, and requisites to obtain in order to be successful in pursuing those opportunities. [...] Essentially I could produce nothing but good essays. Additionally, I felt there was little presence when it came to academic advisor involvement when choosing my courses; no one was asking me what I hoped to do with my degree and advising from that stand point. There only concern was getting me to graduate within the confines of the major's requirements.	1 2 3 7 11
730	Due to the fact that I was admitted into the university during the spring semester, it was difficult for me to get integrated into the campus community during my first few semesters. Transitioning to college is a tough process but the challenge can be greatly lessened when you share that burden with a community of your peers. I was not fortunate enough to have that. This made it difficult to participate to participate in many activities as I would have liked, but it was also difficult to "fit in" I would have liked to be part of an honor society, or one of the educational housing programs (e.g Scholars) or a living and learning program during my earlier years. I would have been a much better student as I would have had the support I needed to get a good foundation. I know I did not have this opportunity due to my special case. As I said I was admitted in the Spring semester, and I attended secondary school abroad. However I think the university could have made efforts to reach out to all new students, traditional and non traditional. In my ignorance I stumbled through the first few semesters, but I finally found my footing. Although I enjoyed my UM experience, it could have been much better. Also, most of what I accomplished, I did solely by my effort and my motivation and by being proactive. I had to put in more work to get what other students were offered so easily, which I did not think was just. However, now that I look back, it made me a stronger person. Of course, I appreciate the scholarships, and financial support I received later in my junior/ senior years. However, I was, and still am a bright student. I feel that if my abilities were cultivated earlier, I would have achieved more than I eventually did. All in all, I have no regrets, only great aspirations for the future.	1 10 11
782	[...] Mentoring relationships should be more standardized and enforced, professors should not be able to blow off their mentees Increase the amount of funding for clubs and provide more university sponsored events that clubs can use to gain members and show off what they do.	2 11

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
123	Courses that more directly tied what we learned to the real-world. More opportunities to work with children in the community to develop leadership skills. Courses that required more group work [...]. Checking in with advisors/mentors more often than once a semester.	1 2 5 7 9 12
145	It's possible that the university already has in place opportunities to learn better leadership skills and speaking skills through various programs and seminars and the like. But with the push to fit in classes and work, there often was just not enough time in a day to take advantage. And with large class sizes, it's difficult to work those things into a curriculum. But that's where I would have liked to see them. At the very least, more critical feedback from professors as to speaking and leadership skills. I did find this in a couple grad-level classes I took during undergrad -- direct critiques of speaking presentations, which I found to be very helpful.	1 2 5 8 12
152	The University should have more workshops targeted toward freshman and sophmores that help them connect with faculty/staff, develop leadership and speaking skills, and talk with people working in their field about what degree and experiences are needed.	2 5 12
370	Leadership skills work shops specific to a students major/field. For the "apply what you ahve learned to other situations" there could be substantial assistance in helping a student find a summer internship. For instance UMD already has great relations with many local businesses, these businesses, in conjunction with UMD faculty/grad students could create extended workshops during the school year and offer summer internships. [...]	2 3 4 5 12
383	More opportunity for leadership. Clubs felt cliquey so I often didn't want to join. All in all- a GREAT job was done.	6 10 11 12
387	Add a required core class about leadership & speaking... two things that are essential for every human to learn. Also, maybe require students to write 1 paper each year on 1 of their professors... which might push students to interact more with professors and encourage the attendance of office hours.	1 2 5 7 12
401	Provided more information about opportunities available earlier in my academic career at UMD. Ex: exploration of mentoring [...]. More leadership […] classes would have been appreciated.	1 2 6 12 13
405	What the university is severely lacking is ethics and leadership. The university promotes ethics and leadership, but fails to set an example that inspires students to do anything more than get their degree and get a reasonably-paying job after graduation. Many students hear about ethics one time or another at UM, but in what ways do the leaders at UM promote such ethics? Does giving out student social security numbers in 2008 and then covering up the issue to the media (and its own students) promote ethics? [...] Or how about giving tenure to lecture professors who have little public speaking and communicative skill, obviously chosen because of their research grant value to the university then anything contributory to student learning? These are MAJOR issues that the university needs to continuously improve if it wants help people succeed in all their walks of life, and not become an obstacle instead.	2 3 5 6 8 12 15
489	Some professors could be more available to meet with students outside of class time. Make some sort of Speech class more available or a required course. Have better advisors [...] to better guide students, who are not sure what they want to do, into a field of interest and tell them about leadership and other opportunities that are available.	1 2 4 7 12
535	I believe they could provide a mandatory internship course, where students had to apply their educational experience in the real world. I also feel like there should have been more english requirements. Maybe a mandatory course for writing development. [...] I also strongly believe there should be a mandatory government & politics/current issues class should be required. I believe that kind of knowledge is so necessary and a lot of people don't pay attention unless they are forced. I rarely had the opportunity for leadership in any of my courses. A lot of this is through my own fault for not actively pursuing student organizations where I could develop this skill. I do not think the school can offer anything more than the student orgs. For the global issues, I repeat the thought of having a mandatory government & politics course. I did not have any relationships with any of my professors, but that was my own fault. The faculty was more than accomodating and willing to mentor students. I just did not take the opportunities.	1 2 4 5 7 9 10 12
568	Provide more leadership rolls for students, decrease class size, and require professors to do more teaching and less power point. I think that Power Point should be banned from the classroom. Professors cannot seem to figure out how to use it effectively.	1 2 7 8 12

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
638	Encourage a self discovery course. A course that taught you what kind of jobs you may be fit for and how it can help you find the right career. Some sort of Myers-Briggs test will also be helpful to help develop leadership and ways to appreciate and work with others that are different from oneself.	1 6 12
659	As a returning student with a lot of leadership and life experience, I would have liked the program to be more applicable to where I am in life. More interaction with faculty my own age would have allowed for a more meaningful experience. In my current leadership roles I deal a lot with the public and media. I needed more attention to my goals and interest to identify relevance and purposful application for my new career path in communications. I also was very interested in pursuing a masters but didn't really know which direction to go that would best fulfill on my passions and commitments to public service. I would have liked to have a mentor who could provide that guidance. If so, I may have pursued my masters and doctorate directly upon graduation.	2 6 12
721	The university itself is a huge entity, so I certainly don't expect it to provide the type of leadership training/mentoring that a smaller institution would.	2 8 12
786	Present more leadership opportunities based on merit rather than popularity.	12

Category=13 Keywords=resource | information

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
51	I have thought of this for a while, and the only thing I can think of to increase many of the factors your suvery is examining is to develop a MANDATORY EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GRADUATION REQUIREMENT. This would make it mandatory to have an internship/summer inernship/fellowship/research assistantship/clinic/etc. before you graduate. The problem with college is the lack of hands on experience to apply what you learned in the field. I learned a multitude of more information in two weeks in my internship then I would have in 2 months in a course. With our proximity to DC, it is a shame the number of students who refuse to take advantage of that. A mandatory graduation requirement would change that.	1 4 7 8 13
78	I don't know there is anything UMD could have done. We have short period of time to learn as much information as possible. I'm not displeased in the least with my experience at UMD, I just wish I could have taken more classes for fun and learned more outside of my major. But that's the point of majoring - it allows you to specialize.	1 3 4 13
157	I only met with an advisor to get my classes approved once. I heard a lot of other students complain that faculty advisors gave them the wrong information, which would place them further behind in their schooling. Having advisors available that were knowledgable in the different academic plans and more flexible in meeting would be more helpful. It was difficult finding professors to write recommendation letters so I could attend graduate school because I did not have that relationship with faculty members.	1 2 5 13
189	Most of my classes had very high attendance, so it was difficult developing a mentoring relationship with my professors. The University could establish a mentoring program, where professors from within each college volunteer their time to provide guidance to students on an as needed basis. I understand that professors are very busy with class and research; however, I think it would be a great resource for students. The mentoring program would be more valuable than the advising offices within each college.	1 2 13
198	Making it easier to take the higher level "interesting" classes in other majors for people who are interested in seeing what a major is like but not ready (or have enough time) to commit to taking all of the prerequisites that you have to take now in order to get in to those classes. [...] Perhaps require a speech-writing or public speaking 1 credit class or at least have one available either major-specific or at least general area specific. Even a class in "small talk" would be interesting to practice having those conversations that need to be semi-formal (i.e. with a boss) but not an actual presentation. I don't think in any of my classes was there a point where new information was provided and we were expected to then incorporate that information into our already existing paper/presentation/project. I think that kind of flexibility would be a great thing to have or try to include in classwork - I'm writing journal articles now and new studies are constantly being done that are requiring me to re-write and re-think the article that I am writing up now. In terms of diversity I think Maryland has a lot of it, but people still separate themselves off into groups of their comfort level. I don't know if there is anything the university can do about that, but it's certainly worth striving for.	1 3 5 7 8 13 14
270	I think the University could have sent out information on the types of faculty/student relationships other students had and how to get involved with research to freshmen. Also, a list of professors who were willing to partner with students would be helpful.	2 11 13
338	I would like to see more small, seminar format classes. I understand this can be a strain on resources since it requires special effort by faculty and teaching assistants, but courses like these were what really tested my skills as a writer and researcher.	1 2 5 7 8 13
401	Provided more information about opportunities available earlier in my academic career at UMD. Ex: exploration of mentoring [...]. More leadership […] classes would have been appreciated.	1 2 6 12 13
591	I truly wish that I had more of an opportunity to establish a mentoring relationship with one of my professors, especially one in the research field and one who could have provided me career information. However, I do want to stress that I had a great relationship with a [...] TA. She gave me the faculty recommendation that led to my current job.	2 6 10 13
603	Used class time more effectively. Many classes repeated information from prerequisite classes which wasted time that could have been spent teaching us ways to use our knowledge more effectively.	1 13

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
709	More resources for graduating and recently graduated students;particularly for those who don't have a post-graduations plan (ie-less 'transition to a job' and more 'what to do when you can't find a job that will pay your bills')	6 13
734	Treated each and every student as an individual with personal and academic promise. I had a documented learning disability, and many professors made no attempt to hide how much of an annoyance or absurdity they considered my accommodations to be. I began to think less of my own academic potential. I am now beginning graduate school at a University which I feel really welcomes my contribution and expects great things from me. I feel an optimism and ambition that I never felt at Maryland. Revised curriculum/academic requirements. I realized after I graduated that I had not read many of the major texts in my own area. The University has made college less and less about books and libraries. Experience is important, but so is serious scholarship. There are certain books you are expected to have read, ideas you are expected to have been exposed to, when you say you have a degree in humanities or social sciences. Held professors to higher standards. Professors should be making relevant, ongoing contributions to their fields. Students should be getting the strongest arguments and the most current information. Communicate institutional goals. I don't know what the University stands for, or where it's going. The unstoppable starts here and similar slogans are embarrassing. They don't make sense.	1 2 3 5 7 13

Category=14 Keywords=diversity | diverse perspective | different perspective

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
141	My professors actually having an idea of what the ACTUAL job market for their field looks like. I had multiple professors tell me that I would have no problem finding a job with the skills I gained in their lab. In the real world, this was the opposite. The skills I gained weren't enough. I had no idea until I actually graduated how royally I had screwed up. [...] I do work in research now, but in cardiac surgery, which is different. I found the career help for people in my position was negligent. Look over the jobs posted in career terps....how many relate to what I do? Probably none. [...] Certainly, I can say UMD did help me appreciate diversity, and think more intelligently, and so forth...but it all comes down to a job. [...]	2 4 5 6 9 14
198	Making it easier to take the higher level "interesting" classes in other majors for people who are interested in seeing what a major is like but not ready (or have enough time) to commit to taking all of the prerequisites that you have to take now in order to get in to those classes. [...] Perhaps require a speech-writing or public speaking 1 credit class or at least have one available either major-specific or at least general area specific. Even a class in "small talk" would be interesting to practice having those conversations that need to be semi-formal (i.e. with a boss) but not an actual presentation. I don't think in any of my classes was there a point where new information was provided and we were expected to then incorporate that information into our already existing paper/presentation/project. I think that kind of flexibility would be a great thing to have or try to include in classwork - I'm writing journal articles now and new studies are constantly being done that are requiring me to re-write and re-think the article that I am writing up now. In terms of diversity I think Maryland has a lot of it, but people still separate themselves off into groups of their comfort level. I don't know if there is anything the university can do about that, but it's certainly worth striving for.	1 3 5 7 8 13 14
351	Teach classes from different perspectives to get students to think differently to come up with new ideas.	1 14
508	I feel that UMD prides itself on diversity, and although this is true, I feel the university still has a lot to cover in terms of integration. Although it is grate to have specific clubs/opportunities for particular groups, I feel that more integrated clubs would help to achieve many of the listed objectives above.	11 14
635	The University could have different guest speakers/professors/professionals come into the classroom environment to add to what the students read in their textbooks in order to offer different perspectives.	1 2 5 6 14
642	Provide a diversity of class projects	1 14
800	Offer free seminars on how to write and deliver speeches. Also offer more courses that focus on global issues and diverse perspectives. There could also be a mentorship program that encourages a stronger relationship between the faculty/staff and students.	1 2 5 9 14

Category=15 Keywords=ethic

ID	What UM could do	All categories associated with this comment
97	Developing professional ethics […] standards in the classroom were not very high. People thought just showing up to class was enough to get by and professors did little to counter that culture. That culture presented itself differently in group projects, where I think undeveloped professionalism was more present. People were not driven by the assignment and lacked a sense of what their contribution should be. Obviously, this behavior did not apply to everyone, although I think it did apply to the majority.	1 2 3 6 7 15
103	Should foster an environment more focused on solving world issues and not on the closed minded social stereotypical environments. Should increase ethical awareness i.e. dating your supervisor, working in teams, balancing work responsibilities and family life. Can there be a life coach for each student?	2 9 15
344	Require courses that have lots of wiring/speeches. [...] As for the ethics, require an ethics class. The main reason I put establish a mentoring relationship is because I did have to search out the main one I had [...]. Part of the problem of have a large school with lots of people and large class sizes. It is harder to make a connection,	1 2 7 8 15
405	What the university is severely lacking is ethics and leadership. The university promotes ethics and leadership, but fails to set an example that inspires students to do anything more than get their degree and get a reasonably-paying job after graduation. Many students hear about ethics one time or another at UM, but in what ways do the leaders at UM promote such ethics? Does giving out student social security numbers in 2008 and then covering up the issue to the media (and its own students) promote ethics? [...] Or how about giving tenure to lecture professors who have little public speaking and communicative skill, obviously chosen because of their research grant value to the university then anything contributory to student learning? These are MAJOR issues that the university needs to continuously improve if it wants help people succeed in all their walks of life, and not become an obstacle instead.	2 3 5 6 8 12 15
632	[...] Develop a sense of professional ethics: make an effort to explain to students /why/ the honor code is important -- the current program seems to amount to copying a paragraph and signing your name before tests; it feels mindless, and I believe that the student body could benefit from a short program (possibly online, like alcohol edu) explaining the morality of academic and professional integrity. -Establish a mentoring relationship: I understand that UM is a large institution, and requiring professors to mentor all students is ridiculous, but perhaps the university could initiate a program where upperclassmen are compelled to attend small group meetings with professors from their programs?	1 2 6 8 15
736	Offered professional ethics classes.	1 6 15
744	Having presentations in […] courses could have helped. A discussion of ethics […] was basically non-existant, and we could have learned more. There's more to […] ethics than the umd honor code!	1 15