



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY & BIOCHEMISTRY
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Dear Science Olympiad Coach and Team(s),

On behalf of University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), it is my pleasure to invite your High School's Science Olympiad Team(s) to compete in the annual UMBC Science Olympiad Invitational on Saturday January 16th, 2027 at UMBC. This *fee free* invitational event will host high school teams from across the state as well as neighboring states to compete in all 23 of the 2027 Science Olympiad events, with medals being awarded to individual event team winners as well as overall trophies for the top schools in all of the events.

This invitational competition will provide a fun-filled and supportive environment for students to showcase their scientific knowledge and acumen, while meeting other talented peers from across the state and region. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in problem-solving with high quality test materials, conduct experiments in our undergraduate teaching labs, and standardize the testing of their devices at our state-of-the-art facilities. This year, each event's test will be written under the supervision of chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics, geography and engineering faculty members. Once graded, the papers will be returned to students for review to further their learning and practice for future regional, state and national Science Olympiad events. Furthermore, student participants will also have the chance to explore the UMBC campus and meet with faculty and research students to discuss campus life and research opportunities that exist at UMBC.

We are happy to announce that in an effort to enhance equity and maximize participation, UMBC's College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences will be subsidizing the entirety of the tournament's registration costs (not including any fees associated with registering your team(s) with your state's Science Olympiad organization). So, whether you have a longtime team(s) or are trying out Science Olympiad for the first time, this tournament can provide your students with a great practice opportunity to expand their learning and perhaps help inspire the scientific leaders of tomorrow.

Registration for the tournament will open on Sept 21st, 2026. The last day to register your team(s) for this event is November 2nd, or potentially earlier if all slots have filled. We anticipate up to 90 teams, with over 1200 student competitors again this year. For more details and the link to register please visit, <https://umbc.edu/scienceolympiad>.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to either Dr. Bindu Abraham at abraham@umbc.edu or myself (Dr. Brian Cullum) at cullum@umbc.edu. We look forward to your team's participation and wish you all of the best in the competition.

Sincerely,

Brian M. Cullum – Ph.D.; FSPIE, FOSA
Professor & Chairperson
Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
University of Maryland Baltimore County