

UMBC Retriever Card Center

Meal Plan Terms and Conditions

Academic Year: 2026 - 2027

Updated: May 28, 2026

Overview

UMBC meal plans are administered by the UMBC Retriever Card Center (RCC). The UMBC Retriever Card serves as your Campus ID card and is used to access meal plans as well as the various funds that may be placed on your card account for dining and other purposes. These funds include, but are not limited to, Retriever Dollars, Flex, and Chartwells Rewards. UMBC-issued meal plans are designed as a weekly, recurring amount of meals, or as blocks containing a specific number of meals that may be used at the campus dining facilities.

Meal plan activation begins on the first day of move-in for each semester and extends through dinner on the last day of the semester (Graduate Student Commencement), with limited, partial-day access for a designated period following commencement. Meal Plans are not active during the Fall Thanksgiving Break and the Spring Semester Break, when dining facilities are shut down. To accommodate the early return of student staff and athletes, Pre-Semester Meal Plans may be purchased and arranged through the RCC department. All meal plan usage issues must be addressed by the RCC.

Meal Plan Categories

Mandatory Meal Plans

Includes: Ultimate, Savvy 16, Flexible 14, Terrific 12, and Super 225

The term 'mandatory' refers to meal plans having a minimum weekly count of 12, and the Super 225 Block. UMBC students residing on campus in a traditional residence hall are required to select a mandatory meal plan as defined in the Residential Life housing contract. Mandatory meal plans may not be reduced after the [schedule adjustment \(add/drop\) period](#) concludes for the current semester. The purchase of a mandatory meal plan is a Residential Life requirement and is non-negotiable as it relates to health issues associated with having ready access to dining resources.

Voluntary Meal Plans

Includes: 100 Block, Mega 50, and Mini 25

Block plans with a count of less than 225 are defined as 'voluntary' meal plans. Students residing in housing other than a traditional residence hall, and commuters, are entitled to sign up for any 'voluntary' or 'mandatory' meal plan. Voluntary meal plans may not be reduced, or removed, after the conclusion of the [schedule adjustment \(add/drop\) period](#) for the current semester.

Meal Plan Types

Recurring Regular Plans

Includes: Savvy 16 and Terrific 12

Meal plans having a specific number of meals per week which reset weekly, prior to breakfast on Monday morning. All available meals should be used by the Sunday Late Night period as unused meals do not carry forward into the next week. Once the total count of meals for the week has been reached, no additional meals are available until Monday morning with the reset of the plan's weekly count.

Recurring regular plans allow for the use of one meal per meal period at any campus dining location (except The Skylight Room). Additional purchases within the same meal period can be made with Flex, Retriever Dollars, or Chartwells Rewards.

Recurring Flexible Plans

Includes: Flexible 14

Meal plans having a specific number of meals per week which reset weekly, prior to breakfast on Monday morning. All available meals should be used by the Sunday Late Night period as unused meals do not carry forward into the next week. Once the total count of meals for the week has been reached, no additional meals are available until Monday morning with the reset of the plan's weekly count. Recurring flexible plans allow for the use of multiple meals per meal period at any campus dining location (except The Skylight Room and Retriever Markets).

Block Plans

Includes: Super 225, 100 Block, Mega 50, and Mini 25

Block plans are presented as a total count of meals available for an entire semester. Block plans do not reset on a weekly basis. A special feature of the block plans is the ability to have multiple meals during the same meal period at True Grits only. Block plans do not allow multiple meals per meal period at retail locations. Once the total count for the plan has been reached, no additional meals are available through that particular block plan. Additional block plans may be purchased at any point during the semester.

The Ultimate Plan

The Ultimate plan allows unlimited entry into True Grits during the Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner meal periods for the entire semester. Retail use, however, is restricted to one equivalency use per meal period. Additionally, the first use of The Ultimate plan during any specific meal period determines subsequent use for the remainder of that meal period. If that first use is at True Grits, no meal equivalency may be used for that period; if that first use is an equivalency, True Grits may not be entered during that period. The Ultimate plan is the default plan assigned to students residing in a traditional residence hall. This selection may be adjusted at any time prior to the conclusion of [the schedule adjustment \(add/drop\) period](#) for the current semester. *Unlimited access valid only for True Grits all-you-care-to-eat dining hall and excludes Retail operations in True Grits.

Meal Periods

<u>Meal Period</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Equivalency Value</u>
Breakfast	6:00AM - 10:59AM	\$8.90
Lunch	11:00AM - 3:59PM	\$8.90
Dinner	4:00PM - 7:59PM	\$8.90
Late Night	8:00PM - 2:59AM	\$8.90

Additional Dining Benefits

Guest Passes

All recurring meal plans having a count of 12 or higher, the Super 225 Block, and The Ultimate meal plan include five guest passes. Guest Passes may not be used as 'extra' meals for the plan holder and are intended to treat family and friends of the plan holder to meals at True Grits dining hall during Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner. Guest Passes are only valid at True Grits and may not be used at any other campus location. To use a Guest Pass, inform the cashier of your intention and an available pass will be deducted from your account by card swipe. Guest Passes are not transferable and any remaining passes are forfeited at the end of the semester.

Meal Plan Adjustments

Meal Plan Adjustments

Students may decrease their meal plan selection any time prior to the conclusion of the [schedule adjustment \(add/drop\) period](#). During this time, there are no processing fees associated with making changes to the meal plan selection; however, regular proration fees will be applied (see Per Diem Charges below). After the conclusion of the schedule adjustment (add/drop) period, meal plans may not be reduced or removed. Meal plans may be increased at any time during the semester without incurring a processing fee. Regular proration fees apply.

Per Diem Charges

The Dining Services vendor (Chartwells) is paid daily per active meal plan in the RCC transaction processing system and not on a 'meals eaten' basis. This arrangement exists to assure adequate food availability for the maximum potential diners on any particular day.

Weekly meal plan holders are responsible for paying the meal plan per diem charge regardless of plan use. Charges for dropped or changed weekly plans will be prorated and are calculated based on the number of days the existing plan was active in the system. Meal plans applied after the first day of the semester will be billed at a prorated amount based upon the day of activation.

Block plans and Flex are prorated by actual usage, not per diem rates. Block plans are billed at the full value of the plan regardless of the day of activation. Additionally, Flex is applied at the full plan value regardless of activation date or any previous plan usage.

Retail Operations in True Grits

Late Night and Retriever Market

True Grits dining hall offers 19 serving times during the typical week based on the traditional breakdown of breakfast, lunch/brunch, and dinner. Food is available in True Grits outside these meal periods through the Late Night and Retriever Market operations. Late Night is a retail operation that allows the purchase of food through use of a meal equivalency, Flex, Retriever Dollars, or Chartwells Rewards. Late Night is offered in Wing 2 of True Grits, every day from 9:00 PM – 1:00 AM. Prepackaged, convenience-type food and beverages are available in the True Grits Retriever Market every day from 8:00 AM – 2:00 AM. Purchases may be made using an available meal equivalency, Flex, Retriever Dollars, or Chartwells Rewards.

Auxiliary Funds

Flex

Flex is a dedicated fund either automatically attached to a specific meal plan, or purchased independently as the Flex Bundle, to be used for food purchases at any Dining Services venue. Flex amounts attached to meal plans are 'dollars' that are pre-determined for each plan and may not be increased during the semester. The Flex Bundle may be purchased independently of, or in conjunction with, a meal plan. The Flex Bundle provides a pre-determined amount of 'dollars' and is subject to a limit of two (2) purchases per semester (Fall and Spring semesters only). While Flex may be used for any Dining Services purchase, it is intended to cover the difference between a meal equivalency allowance and actual cost of the meal at retail venues.

Unused Flex balances from the Fall semester will carry over for use during the Spring semester. All Flex balances from the Fall and Spring semesters will expire at the conclusion of the Spring semester. Similarly, remaining \$50 and \$100 Flex plans offered during the Summer or Winter sessions will carry forward to the subsequent Fall or Spring semester. Flex may only be used at Dining Services venues on campus with one exception; Papa John's Pizza located at 1407A Sulphur Spring Road, Halethorpe, MD 21227.

Retriever Dollars

Retriever Dollars is money added to the Retriever Card by cash, check, or credit card. Once added to the card, Retriever Dollars may be used for purchases at any campus location that accepts the Retriever Card, including all campus dining locations, vending machines, and select [off-campus locations](#). Retriever Dollars are subject to the RCC Retriever Card Accounts Refund Process which occurs at the end of the Academic Year, prior to the beginning of the Summer Sessions. Please note a \$15 administrative fee will be assessed on all account refunds. [More information can be found here.](#)

Contact and Support

Online Support – Meal Plan Descriptions and Pricing

Please [visit our website](#) for details regarding each meal plan, pricing, and more.

Online Support – Meal Plan Purchases and Adjustments

To purchase a meal plan, or make an adjustment to a meal plan selection, [click here](#), or follow the instructions below:

- Navigate to campuscard.umbc.edu
- Select 'Support'
- Select 'Meal Plan Purchases and Adjustments'
- Complete all appropriate boxes
- Select 'Submit'

Online Support – General Inquiries

For assistance with anything other than the purchase or change of a meal plan, [click here](#), or follow the instructions below:

- Navigate to campuscard.umbc.edu
- Select 'Support'
- Select 'General Inquiries'
- Complete all appropriate boxes
- Select 'Submit'

Address and Hours of Operation

Front Counter Operations: Monday – Friday, 8:30AM – 4:00PM

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8AM – 4:30PM

Telephone: 443-612-2273

Fax: 410-455-8622

Mailing Address: UMBC Retriever Card Center
1000 Hilltop Circle
University Center 112
Baltimore, MD 21250