FIRE Semester 1
Fall 2020
Cluster & Stream Selection Guide

FEARLESS RESEARCH DRIVES FEARLESS CAREER READINESS
Hello University of Maryland FIRE Student,

I hope that you are having a good semester. We fully recognize that remote instruction is a real challenge we hope that you are getting the support you need to succeed. Please check our dedicated support page to ensure you are using every UMD resource possible to support your success this semester.

We are excited that you are about to begin the process of selecting your FIRE cluster and stream to take the next step in your research training and experience with FIRE next semester.

This guide was assembled to help support you through this process. Please take the time to study it and visit all of the recommended resources in your decision-making process. Finally, please plan to attend The FIRE Summit on Monday, November 16 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. This event is being built with you in mind.

Sincerely,
Dr. Patrick Killion

Director of Discovery-Based Learning
Director of The First-Year Innovation & Research Experience
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost
University of Maryland
What do we know about FIRE courses for Spring 2021?
THE FIRE COURSE SEQUENCE

FIRE Semester 1
In our first course we welcome you to the research mission of UMD and build professional capacities that will help you succeed in your chosen FIRE stream.
Course Information: FIRE120, 3 credits, General Education Scholarship in Practice

FIRE Semester 2
In the second semester, we start square-zero training, deep immersion and research mentorship within the specific FIRE research stream you have chosen.
Course Information: FIRE198, 2 credits

FIRE Semester 3
In the third semester you transition from trainee to experienced practitioner within your chosen FIRE stream. You drive your research project to completion and communicate the results to a broad audience and potentially national conferences.
Course Information: FIRE298, 3 credits, General Education Scholarship in Practice
We are currently planning for a **online** FIRE course experience for FIRE Semester 2 in Spring 2021.

Wait, **online**?

Didn’t I recently receive a message from the FIRE program about courses being listed as **blended**?

While we have just recently communicated with you regarding our intent to offer our Spring 2021 courses using the University of Maryland designation of **blended**, we are now taking a purposeful step to move our courses **online**.

**What does this mean for you and your FIRE experience?**

Not a thing - we are still working to provide optional in-person research experiences anywhere and everywhere we can do so safely and sustainably.

You received a longer message from the FIRE program Director on this issue.

Please reference a [copy here](#) for further guidance.
What are the principles we will use to design both our course and research components?

**Learning from our experience** - We made a transition to remote instruction and mentorship this fall and have learned from our successes, challenges, and interactions with FIRE students.

**Fulfilling the goals of FIRE Semester 2** - We will do this in a way that fully provides you the ability to get to know and understand the FIRE program, work with peers, and receive mentorship from our faculty.

**Using resources that work** - We continue to engaging training for all FIRE faculty members to continue to excel at this mode of working with you.

**Building a course designed for flexibility** - We are hard at work designing FIRE Semester 2 for instruction in this way. You will not be experiencing an old version of FIRE Semester 2 slightly modified for online instruction - each FIRE stream will deliver an entirely new version built for online instruction.

**Building community safely** - We are putting thought into how we recreate the community you would have had with FIRE and an in-person FIRE course. We take this part of the FIRE experience seriously and will work hard to deliver. We know that some of you will be on our campus, some of you will not. While our instruction for the course component of FIRE Semester 2 will be online, we will look for every opportunity to safely connect first-semester FIRE students with each other and our faculty.
Will I have the option to continue with FIRE and take FIRE Semester 2 completely remotely if I am not on campus for Spring 2021?

YES

Worry not, we have you covered.

We recognize that some, perhaps many, FIRE students will be remote for the Spring 2021 semester. We will be ready to provide a FIRE Semester 2 experience in every cluster and stream to students who make this choice.
You are about to begin the process of selecting your FIRE cluster and stream.
Clusters

We organize FIRE research streams into three distinct clusters of streams.

Students of any major or background can join any cluster and stream. You do not need previous training or experience to consider any cluster or stream:

- [NATURAL SCIENCE](#)
- [SOCIAL SCIENCE](#)
- [TECH & APPLIED SCIENCE](#)
FIRE: THE FIRST-YEAR INNOVATION & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SOCIAL SCIENCE

FIRE.UMD.EDU
Stream Selection

Through your enrollment in FIRE Semester 1, you are participating in a process that will help you make your cluster and stream selection during the upcoming Spring 2021 course enrollment.

During this process, we wish for you to learn about each of our clusters and streams, meet the faculty leaders, talk to FIRE Semester 3 students, and get a sense of what the day-to-day looks like with respect to each stream's research mission.

How?

First, use our website to study each of the research streams we have available in our three clusters.

It is probably best to first decide on a cluster that aligns with your interests and then focus on streams therein. Be sure, however, to look at all of the clusters and consider options outside your major!

We have a high level of confidence that you will be able to enroll in a stream within your chosen cluster and this is why we emphasize this as the first step.

What should you do next?

Add real human connection, conversation, and experience to your cluster and stream selection process through participation in The FIRE Summit.
Second, attend the FIRE Summit. In 2019 we started something new to benefit both FIRE Semester 1 & FIRE Semester 3 students - The FIRE Summit.

This event was huge - hundreds of posters and a near complete take-over of the Edward St. John Teaching and Learning Center (ESJ). We had over 1000 UMD students, faculty, and staff attend!

We will not be able to hold this event in person this year but - **we will hold this event on Monday, November 16 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.** Our goals remain the same as last year with potential benefits to the online version:

**FIRE Semester 1 goals:**
- Provide you an opportunity to see and hear from FIRE Semester 3 students and peer mentors as they showcase their FIRE accomplishments.
- Allow you to see the authentic research from each FIRE research cluster and stream in a manner that helps you choose the one you will join.

Please check [this part of our website](#) regularly and watch for future communications from us about this event.
ADDITIONAL FIRE COMMUNITY ON SLACK

Speaking of community, we have a new way we are connecting everyone in the FIRE program (students, faculty, leadership):

We launched Slack in late August as a new and exciting way in which we connect FIRE Semester 1 students to each other, to FIRE leadership, and to our FIRE faculty members.

We will be providing more information on Slack regarding the upcoming FIRE Summit and the cluster and stream selection process.

See these channels in our Slack workspace:
- #summit
- #cluster-and-stream-selection
FIRE Semester 2 Course Enrollment

Third, when you are enrolling for your Spring 2021 courses, enroll in the a section of FIRE198 that has open seats remaining (each section is connected with a specific FIRE stream).

Summary of FIRE cluster and stream selection:
- Choose your FIRE cluster and study streams therein first.
- Attend the FIRE Summit second.
- Enroll in a section of FIRE198 third.

Yes, some FIRE streams may have filled by the time you are able to enroll.

We have designed this process to be in the hands of FIRE students so that you can decide and even re-decide should your interests or schedule change (they do). If you choose your cluster first we strongly believe you will gain membership in a stream therein.
FAQs

How will this remote course component work? Will I be on my own?

The class will be hosted online but will come with broad support. The class will meet online each week on the scheduled day and time to ensure all FIRE students have the opportunity to work with each other and their FIRE faculty member as they would have in person. Students will engage training and receive feedback during each week.

Does my cluster and stream choice need to align with my major?

You are empowered to choose any FIRE cluster or stream that might interest you. No experience is required.

Will I be able to join a stream within my chosen FIRE cluster?

Our historical data and FIRE student surveys clearly show us that students are able to gain enrollment in a stream within their chosen cluster. We strongly encourage you to consider your cluster first, stream second, and have multiple streams of interest within a cluster.

Will I be able to join a specific stream?

FIRE streams do fill. Please choose your cluster and multiple streams of interest within that cluster. We promise the research and professional development goals of FIRE happen in every FIRE stream.
FIRE Semester 2 is the next step in your FIRE experience.

Additional opportunities will be available to you, as well.
Summer Scholars
**FIRE Summer Scholars** is a new FIRE program created for the Summer of 2020. Our goal is to help students finishing FIRE Semester 2 stay connected to their research stream and continue research and professional development over the summer.

We expect to offer FIRE Summer Scholars in the Summer of 2021.

Summer Fellows
**FIRE Summer Fellows** involves a research-intensive 8-week summer experience. FIRE Summer Fellows work closely with their Research Educator and a small group of their peers on advanced research projects for their stream.

We hope to offer FIRE Summer Fellows in the Summer of 2021 (contingent on COVID-19 campus status).
This year we are broadening our Peer Mentoring Program into a broader set of opportunities we are calling FIRE Leadership Opportunities.

Students who complete all 3 semesters of FIRE are eligible for consideration.

The most up to date information about FIRE Leadership Opportunities can be found at: https://fire.umd.edu/leadership

Questions can be sent to:

Dr. Cristina Risco
Research Educator - FIRE Addiction Science Chair - Leadership Initiatives
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost
University of Maryland

Email: crisco1@umd.edu
FIRE students are strongly positioned to transition to next steps in their professional development after completing the FIRE three-semester experience.

We are working on developing additional resources and support to help you transition to a next step after you complete FIRE.

Questions can be sent to:

Dr. Carol Vieira  
Research Educator - FIRE Found In Translation Chair - Next Steps Initiatives  
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost  
University of Maryland  

Email: cvieira@umd.edu
We are using one location to keep you **updated**, **supported**, and **informed** this semester:

https://fire.umd.edu/support

Please visit this location and check back regularly!
STUDENT SUPPORT: LIFE

Please be sure you are getting the personal, academic, and professional support you need to succeed in all of your UMD courses.

These resources are all documented at our support web page: https://fire.umd.edu/support

KEEP LEARNING
https://ugst.umd.edu/keeplearning/
UMD has worked to aggregate many technology and learning services in one place. Please visit Keep Learning @ UMD to learn more about the Fall semester, ways to academically succeed and solutions to technology problems.

THE COUNSELING CENTER
https://www.counseling.umd.edu/
The Counseling Center provides comprehensive support services that promote the personal, social, and academic success of UMD students.

THE TUTORING CENTER
https://tutoring.umd.edu/
The University is committed to academic excellence and provides a variety of tutoring and other academic resources to support student success.

THE CAREER CENTER
https://careers.umd.edu/
The University Career Center & The President’s Promise provides comprehensive career assistance for all students enrolled at the University of Maryland, College Park. Designed to support students through each stage of their career development, the Center offers an array of resources, services, and programs that empower students to pursue their ambitions and navigate a meaningful career journey.

STUDENT SUCCESS OFFICE
https://studentsuccess.umd.edu/Resources/overview.html
The Student Success Office has a broad range of support available for students seeking tutoring, financial assistance, information on academic policies, and health and wellness services.

4Maryland
https://umd.edu/4Maryland
Fall 2020 Reopening Plan - UMD has been working collaboratively across campus to develop a plan to ensure all operations and courses are safe, coordinated, and in line with state and national guidance.
The following is a list of resources that will help ensure you and your computer are ready for the engagement. These resources are all documented at our support web page: https://fire.umd.edu/support

TERPMAIL
Several FIRE services (Google Shared drives and Slack) require you to have an active Terpmail account working. Please follow these steps to get this important UMD resource up and running!

TERPWARE
https://terpware.umd.edu/
Visit the UMD Terpware website and download and install software provided by your enrollment at UMD.

Even if you already have some of this software (Microsoft Office), it is recommended that you uninstall your existing version and install a full and complete version of the current version on Terpware.

CHROME
https://www.google.com/chrome/
There are many web browsers, right? FIRE highly recommends you adopt and use Google Chrome exclusively for your UMD courses. We have found that most of the websites, applications, and extensions we use work best and most reliably with Chrome. We have fixed many problems that students have by suggesting, "Have you tried it in Chrome?" So, just start with Chrome, and let's go from there.

GOOGLE DRIVE & GOOGLE APPS
https://drive.google.com/
You have a huge amount of cloud storage available to you through your UMD Google account. Install Google Drive File Stream on your computer to ensure all of your non-Google documents (Office, PDF, source code, etc) are automatically backed up as you work on them!

TECH HELP DESK
https://umd.service-now.com/itsupport/
Get help now with any technology issues that you are having (or call 301-405-1500).

LEARN ELMS & GET HELP
https://go.umd.edu/elmssstudent
Take advantage of this short tutorial, and get help when you need it. You can also browse tutorials and ELMs support guides (or call 877-399-4090).
FIRE CONTACTS

Web & Social Media
Website: https://fire.umd.edu/
Instagram: @umdfire
Twitter: @umdfire

FIRE Leadership
Do you need assistance with your FIRE research stream or courses?

Director: Dr. Patrick Killion
Phone: 301-405-0057
Email: pkillion@umd.edu

Associate Director: Dr. Ian Page
Phone: 301-405-5849
Email: ibpage@umd.edu

Please leave a voice message if you call - we will return your call as soon as possible.

Campus Issues & Emergencies

UMPD - 301-405-3333 (emergencies)
UMPD - 301-405-3555 (non-emergencies)
I am looking forward to continuing to be a part of the FIRE community with you this spring and ask that you continue to do everything you can to protect your emotional and physical health and well-being during this challenging time.

Patrick Killion
Director, FIRE