WELCOME

Hello University of Maryland FIRE Student,

We are working, learning and living through an unprecedented and challenging time. I do not know any more than you when FIRE’s education and research engagements will return to what we once called “normal”.

That said, I am confident that every single FIRE faculty and staff member will work tirelessly this year to deliver on our mission: **fearless research driving fearless career readiness**.

In June we started planning for the strong possibility our work with you this semester would be exclusively online. Three months of hard thinking, discussion and professional development has empowered FIRE to make this reality meaningful, productive and empowering. Welcome to The University of Maryland, FIRE and a unique time in our lives together. **Here we go.**

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
Let’s take a moment to visit FIRE’s mission.
FEARLESS RESEARCH DRIVES FEARLESS CAREER READINESS
FIRE provides first-year UMD students an inclusive faculty-mentored research experience that drives accelerated professional development.

Fearless research drives fearless career readiness.

Research Experience

This is what you will do as a FIRE student. Guaranteed, every single one of our research streams use these principles.

**Authentic & Contemporary Methods**
Use authentic & contemporary practices, dealing with real-world gotchas and uncertainties.

**Discovery**
Engage the process of creating new knowledge.

**Relevance**
Do work that is broadly relevant to the greatest challenges of our time.

**Iteration**
Repeat or revise aspects of your research to address problems or inconsistencies, rule out alternative explanations, or gather additional data.
MISSION:
CAREER READINESS

FIRE provides first-year UMD students an inclusive faculty-mentored research experience that drives accelerated professional development.

Fearless research drives fearless career readiness.

Career Readiness

These are the ways in which you will grow as a FIRE student. Guaranteed, every single one of our research streams drives these outcomes.

Critical Thinking
Learn to use sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

Communications
Gain capacities to articulate ideas clearly.

Collaboration
Learn to build relationships representing diverse cultures, races, genders, religions, and viewpoints.

Professionalism
Develop accountability and effective work habits.

Leadership
Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.
Though circumstances have forced us to reconsider how we achieve our mission with you - be clear - our mission has not changed.
FALL 2020
FIRE COURSES

Though circumstances have forced us to reconsider how we achieve our mission with you - be clear - our mission has not changed.

Our courses, however, have had to adapt - here’s how.
FIRE is far more than a sequence of courses. The courses, however, are important! They are how we help you progress with the attainment of your degree while receiving broad academic, personal, research and professional mentorship. In other words - they are where we achieve our mission.

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
Hello New FIRE Student!

I have been with FIRE since we launched in 2015, was the founding Research Educator for FIRE Sustainability Analytics, and now serve as the Associate Director for FIRE. In this role I have a number of responsibilities but today I am here to talk about only one: the curriculum and student experience designer for FIRE Semester 1.

Each fall, we improve FIRE Semester 1 using educational research, our years of experience, and continual student feedback. We teach it as a team. Every first-semester FIRE student is ensured the same experience through a unified curriculum and team-synchronized instruction designed to help you join FIRE and succeed.

This year is not like every year. We have tripled-down on our preparations and work to ensure FIRE Semester 1 is a rewarding and meaningful online experience that will help you succeed in FIRE and beyond.

We have setup a dedicated web page to keep you informed and supported now and throughout the fall semester: https://fire.umd.edu/support

We are ready and hope you are, as well. **Let's do this as a team.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Ian Page

Associate Director of The First-Year Innovation & Research Experience Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost University of Maryland
THE FIRE PLAN

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

Fulfilling the goals of FIRE Semester 1 - 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 are acquiring resources and engaging training for all FIRE faculty members to be ready to excel at this mode of working with you.

Building a course designed for this - We are hard at work refining FIRE Semester 1 for instruction in this way. You will not be experiencing an old version of FIRE Semester 1 slightly modified for online instruction - you will be a part of an entirely new version built for online instruction.

Building community safely - We are putting a lot of thought into how we recreate the forms of community you would have had with FIRE and an in-person first-semester 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 1 will be online, we will look for every opportunity to safely connect first-semester FIRE students with each other and our faculty.
Speaking of community, we have a new way we will be better connecting everyone in the FIRE program (students, faculty, leadership):

More information coming soon!

Check [https://fire.umd.edu/support](https://fire.umd.edu/support) in late August for additional details about how to better connect with everyone in the FIRE program.
FAQs

How will this online class 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.

How do I pick my FIRE stream?

We have a comprehensive process during the fall that will allow you to learn about each of our 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. By taking FIRE Semester 1, you will automatically participate in that process and will make your stream selection during spring course enrollment.

Does my section of FIRE Semester 1 affect which stream I will join?

No. Stream selection occurs during the fall semester and we will provide all students complete and total information about that process at the right time. No matter which section of FIRE Semester 1 you take, you will be eligible to join any FIRE research stream.
THE LONG TERM

FIRE Semester 1 is all about university research and FIRE-program readiness, empowerment, the capacity to work with and understand diverse sources of information, and developing initial capacities for you to communicate highly complex concepts efficiently and effectively. We know how this course has worked in-person and we know how to translate these goals into this new setting.

Remember, the long-term plan.

FIRE Semester 1 is just the entry-point to the longer-term experience we have planned for you.

We are confident in how we will work with you in an online environment this Fall semester and look forward to working directly with you in the semesters that follow.
In 2019 we started something new and exciting 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 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!**

Our goals remain the same as last year with some potential benefits to the online version.

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

More details to come soon!
Summer Scholars
FIRE Summer Scholars was a new program created for the Summer of 2020. Our goal was to help FIRE Semester 2 completing students stay connected to their research stream and continue research and professional development over the summer. The program was entirely online and students participated from around the world. Students participated in a series of scholarly activities and weekly discussions with their stream Research Educator and peers over a four week period in June. They gained a greater understanding of their stream's research and how its goals are linked to some of the greatest societal challenges of our time.

We expect to again 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. Students learn, test, and implement new research methodologies; develop new protocols; and pilot experiments for their stream.

We hope to offer FIRE Summer Fellows in the Summer of 2021 (contingent on COVID-19 status).

Additional Information & Questions
All FIRE Semester 2 students will have the opportunity to apply for FIRE Summer Opportunities during the Spring semester of 2021.
General Information
This year we are broadening our Peer Mentoring Program into a broader set of opportunities we are calling FIRE Leadership Opportunities.

Eligibility
FIRE participating students who complete all 3 semesters of the FIRE experience are eligible for consideration. We particularly seek students who have demonstrated a willingness to go above and beyond and seek to advance their leadership skills.

Application
All FIRE Semester 3 students will receive information about applying during the Fall 2020 semester. Interested students should follow the instructions and meet the deadline for application submission.

Additional Information & Questions
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
NEXT-STEPS
OPPORTUNITIES

General Information
FIRE students are strongly positioned to transition to next steps in their professional development after completing the FIRE 3 semester experience. In addition to the technical skills you have gained, FIRE students are career ready.

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

Additional Information & Questions
We recommend you consider the steps and options presented at: https://fire.umd.edu/next-steps

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
Stream Selection
As previously mentioned, we have a comprehensive process during the fall that will allow you to learn about each of our 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.

By taking FIRE Semester 1, you will automatically participate in that process and will make your stream selection during spring course enrollment.

You may wish to begin to study the research streams we have available: https://fire.umd.edu/streams

Please keep in mind that each year some number of our research streams retire which allows us to build exciting new options for you.

Stream Clusters
We organize FIRE research streams into three clusters. Students of any major or background can join any stream.
FIRE: THE FIRST-YEAR INNOVATION & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

TECH & APPLIED SCIENCE

FIRE.UMD.EDU
FIRE: THE FIRST-YEAR INNOVATION & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

NATURAL SCIENCE

FIRE.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!
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

**TERMPAGE**
Several FIRE services (Google Shared drives and Slack) require you to have an active Termpmail 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/elmsstudent
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).
Web & Social Media

Website: https://fire.umd.edu/
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/umdfire/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/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 being a part of the FIRE community with you this Fall 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