

Restorative Practices: what is it?



At UMBC, Student Judicial Programs, and Residential Life host Restorative Practices trainings and workshops, which provide faculty, staff and student leaders with various restorative skills. Once trained, a community member might use restorative methods to build community, or work through conflict or harm using affective statements and questions, circles or by hosting restorative discussions. We are committed to modeling and providing opportunities for students to engage in restorative practices that foster an excellent learning environment, respect for diversity, inclusion rather than exclusion, and a healthy method of resolving conflict.

Restorative Practices is an “umbrella” term for restorative models which view building relationships, repairing harm, and rebuilding trust when harm occurs as an important way to create a peaceful and productive society. The International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) describes the academic discipline of Restorative Practices, as a social science that focuses on building social capital and achieving social discipline through active, participatory learning, community building and decision-making.

More information and current research about restorative practices can be found on the IIRP website. We recommend starting here: [Defining Restorative](#)

All restorative practices rely on specific methods to encourage dialogue especially when harm has occurred, regardless of the restorative model used. The questions below help stakeholders determine impact, repair harm, and hopefully reestablish relationships.

- What happened
- What were you thinking at the time of the incident?
- What have you thought about since?
- Who has been affected by what happened and how?
- What about this has been the hardest for you?
- What do you think needs to be done to make things as right as possible?

Find us on MyUMBC, and join us November 6&7th for our *Building Campus Community Workshop*.

For more information about these opportunities, please email
ResLife@umbc.edu or Conduct@umbc.edu