Information Packet for 2021-2022 Desk Manager Selection Process
Desk Manager (DM) Job Description
Each hall desk or apartment area desk (except for Walker Avenue Apartments) is managed by a
resident student Desk Manager. The DM supervises desk staff, distribution of mail, key control,
and guest check-in. The DM also assists with management of community/meeting facilities,
payroll of desk staff, and desk staff training.

A full job description and a list of job responsibilities for this position are available toward the
end of this information packet.

Application Requirements
Applicants must have a 2.50 cumulative GPA to apply for the position. Successful candidates
must maintain a 2.50 cumulative GPA and a 2.25 spring semester GPA and must maintain a 2.50
cumulative GPA and a 2.25 semester GPA for each semester while in the position.

Applicants must be undergraduate students for the 2021-2022 academic year. Applicants who are
enrolled in a combined BS/MS program are eligible to apply if they have not yet received their
bachelor’s degree.

You must be in good conduct standing, which means you cannot be on Disciplinary or
Residential Life probation to start the position. You must remain in good conduct standing to
continue in the position once hired.

Applicants must also have attended UMBC full-time for at least one semester by the application
deadline. Prior experience living in the residential communities is preferred, but not required. If
you have worked previously as a paraprofessional for Residential Life but are not one currently,
you are eligible to apply through this application process if you meet all other application
requirements.

Your application must be completed in full or you will not be able to continue in the
selection process.

Compensation
As a DM, you will receive a single room either in an apartment or in a residence hall. You will
also receive the Terrific 12 meal plan. If you would like a larger meal plan you will be
responsible for the difference in price. You will also receive a $275 stipend each semester.

If you have questions regarding compensation, please contact the Selection Committee.

Questions?
For any questions regarding this selection process or the DM position please contact
ResLifeSelection@umbc.edu

Application Process
The final deadline for applications is January 15, 2021 at 11:59pm. The following completed
documents are needed to apply: resume, application, two recommendation forms.
Selection Timeline
Final Application Deadline
January 15, 2021 at 11:59pm
Deadline for References to be Submitted
January 22, 2021 at 11:59pm
Notification of Interview Times/Locations
Early February
Individual Interview
February 18 & 19, 2021
Individual Interview (Snow Day Back Up)
February 25 & 26, 2021
Decision Letters Available
Early-March, 2021

Application To-Do List (a.k.a. HOW TO APPLY)
☒ Download this Information Packet from the Residential Life website and read it thoroughly.
☒ Contact the designated people to answer any questions or address concerns.
☒ Compose or update resume.
☒ Meet with Career Services to have resume critiqued (strongly encouraged).
☒ Two references must be provided on your application form. It is preferred that at least one is from a Residential Life (student staff or full-time) staff member or other professional position. Please ensure that the information provided is accurate particularly the email address as we will email your references the forms they will need to fill out. References should not be family members or those who can’t speak to the qualifications needed for the position.
☒ Submit completed application online
☒ Follow up with the two individuals completing reference forms and remind them of the due date (January 22, 2021). All reference forms need to be submitted electronically to Residential Life. Your application packet will not be considered complete until both references are delivered.

Resume Help
The Career Center (410-455-2216) offers all students assistance with needs associated with obtaining a job and starting a career, including help with resumes. You are strongly encouraged to have your resume critiqued before you submit it as part of your application so that your résumé is representative of your academic, extracurricular, and work experiences. The Career Center offers many opportunities for applicants to have their resume critiqued. The Career Center is anxious to help you!

A virtual resume review appointment can be made with a Career Center staff member by clicking the “Schedule Appointment” button on your UMBCworks home page. Next, select a 30- or 60-minute full resume review, OR a 15-minute Express Appointment (available Monday-Friday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., and Tuesday, 5:00-7:00 p.m.). All appointments are held via Webex, either screen share/video or phone. You will then receive a calendar invitation to the Webex appointment with directions on how to connect prior to your appointment time. Alternatively, resumes and cover letters can be reviewed and approved by email if you feel that your document is ready to go and you do not have additional job/intern search questions. Simply upload your document(s) to UMBCworks and then send an email to the Resume Review Inbox requesting a critique (ResumeReviews@umbc.edu).

Be sure to also review resume and cover letter templates and samples for guidance. In addition, refer to sample resumes in the Career Guide.
Short Answer Questions
The Desk Manager application requires applicants to answer a series of short answer questions that are located within the application. We recommend that you type your answers into a Word document first and then place your answers into the application.

If you need assistance with your answers please contact the Writing Center at 410-455-3126. The Writing Center is located on the first floor of the library, next to References. The Writing Center does not require appointments.

Information Sessions about the DM Position
If you are interested in receiving more one-on-one information about the DM position, you can talk to a current DM or any Community Director (CD). Also, Residential Life will be offering several information sessions throughout the fall semester for you to attend to view a presentation on the positions and get your specific questions answered by our current staff members. You can ask the presenters about their own experiences and learn about each position. Attending an Information Session is not required to apply for a position.

Interview Tips
Part of our selection process is an individual interview with 2-3 of our current staff members. Here are some tips you may want to consider as you prepare for your individual interview.

1. Prepare for your interview – talk to current staff, think about the questions you may like to ask, and think about the kinds of questions you might be asked as well as personal experiences you might be able to reference in your responses.

2. Be on time – arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the scheduled interview time. This will allow you to relax and gather your thoughts before beginning the interview.

3. Professional dress is preferred-- wear clothes that are appropriate in a professional setting. Cardigan sweaters, khaki pants, and button-down shirts are a few options.

4. Be prepared with questions. The interview is a great time to be with current staff and ask them questions you might have about the positions and the office!

What do we consider in the Paraprofessional Selection Process?
Every part of the Paraprofessional Selection Process is important and is considered when making final selection decisions. Your past behavior within the residential or campus community is also considered. Factors we evaluate include, but are not limited to:

- Your application is reviewed for completeness, accuracy, and timeliness. Your short answers are reviewed for depth of thought, coherence of message, and freedom from errors. References are reviewed and reviewers’ comments are considered.

- The individual interview is designed to judge your understanding of important concepts related to the position, your ability to put those concepts into words, and to provide examples of how you would respond in the position. Questions for each position are different, but all candidates should think about the following topics:
  - How strong communities are built
• The impact of positive and negative student behavior on a community
• How you help other students resolve problems or concerns
• How you work on a team of 8 to 18 people
• How you will handle this new commitment, should you be hired
• How you will function in an environment that is multicultural and celebrative of difference
• How you resolve ethical dilemmas and what the importance of role modeling is
• The role of “customer service” in the position for which you have applied

☑ Ways in which Residential Life or UMBC staff have seen you resolve interpersonal conflicts, positively or negatively contribute to your community, or act in groups (student organizations, on your floor, at programs or events, and so on).

Alternate Positions
Every year a number of applicants are chosen as alternates. Being chosen as an alternate means that you are qualified for the position, but we did not have enough vacant positions to offer you a job at this time. Frequently, alternates are offered positions over the summer because some people who have been hired decide they are not able to take the job. Additionally, alternates can be offered positions throughout the course of the academic year. If you are not offered a position during the year, alternates are guaranteed employment for the 2022-2023 academic year. This means you do not need to reapply for the same job the next year.

As an alternate, if a position is offered to you and you choose to decline it, you will be removed from the alternate pool and must reapply if you want a position for the next academic year.

Once you receive the letter stating you are an alternate, you must let Residential Life know that you are accepting the position. If you accept the alternate position, you will need to attend all Spring semester and August training sessions and take the Psych 215 class in the fall semester.

Spring & Fall Training
It is mandatory for all applicants who are hired and who accept the position to attend training sessions throughout the year. If you are hired, the first new paraprofessional training session will be held in April. This session will introduce you to the position and let you know more of the expectations that Residential Life has for you. You will also need to attend a session in the spring to fill out payroll paperwork. There will be a new staff meeting with paraprofessionals from your new staff, as well. The Community Director of the community you will be working in will organize this meeting.

The next training will occur in August and usually begins about two weeks before freshmen move into the halls. August training is mandatory as well and you cannot be a paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 academic year if you do not attend. Training can be intense as it usually begins around 9:00am and ends in the evening but is also a ton of fun!

If you have concerns regarding mandatory training sessions, you can talk to a current paraprofessional, any CD, or contact the Selection Committee.

Psych 215 (Paraprofessional Class)
All Desk Managers who are hired or chosen as alternates need to register for Psych 215. This is a mandatory class for all paraprofessionals to take during the fall semester. You must pass the class
with a C or better in order to continue your employment with Residential Life. More information about when the class will be offered and how to sign up for the class will be included in the letter you receive if you are hired or chosen as an alternate.

**Paraprofessional Selection and Housing Selection**
Offers for DM positions will be made prior to the deadline to submit housing applications for the next year. If you are offered a position and plan to accept it, you must submit your housing application by the deadline. If you plan to live on-campus next year regardless of whether you are in the position or not, you must submit your housing application by the deadline. If you are unsure that, or know that, you don’t want to live-on campus next year, do not submit an application until you are offered a position.

DMs assigned to the apartments and Harbor Hall are able to pick at least one roommate, if they wish.

For questions about how applying for a paraprofessional position will impact your Housing Selection process, contact Operations at 410-455-8832.

**Other Residential Life Involvement Opportunities**
If you are not hired as a paraprofessional, there are other opportunities for you to get involved with Residential Life which will help to prepare you more for the next time you apply. These opportunities include:

**CC** – Each community has a CC (Community Council), which is a residential student organization that plans activities and works on improvements for the community. Contact your community director if you are interested in getting involved with your community’s CC.

**RSA** – RSA stands for Resident Student Association. This group governs all of the CCs and helps to create activities and policies for residential students. There are opportunities to get involved on local, regional, and national levels through this organization. If you want more information on how to get involved in RSA, contact Paisley Martin at paisleym@umbc.edu.

**Desk Receptionist** – Every residential community, except Walker Avenue Apartments, has a desk that is staffed by students. In the residence halls, these desks are open 24 hours a day. Desk receptionist positions are paid hourly and they must also attend mandatory training. If you are interested in applying for a desk staff position, applications will be available on the Residential Life website for the 2021-2022 academic year in March 2021.

**Summer Staff** – Every summer, Residential Life hires a number of students as conference managers, conference staff, and maintenance assistants. These students assist with summer conferences that are housed in the residential areas and with getting the buildings ready for the next academic year. If you would like to learn more about these positions please contact Residential Life at 410-455-2591.
About the Position Description and Terms of Employment

The terms of the following agreements are subject to change and are updated regularly. The Position Description and Terms of Employment are provided to give you an overview of the position but are not meant to be indicative of all responsibilities related to the Desk Manager position.

DESK MANAGER POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Desk Manager is a part-time paraprofessional staff member in Residential Life at UMBC and reports directly to the Graduate Assistant for Desks and the Assistant Director of Assignment Services, and ultimately to the Director of Residential Life. This position is considered to be a major student leadership position in the residential life system. The Desk Manager is responsible for the supervision of all community desk operations.

1. SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

   a. Assist in the application, interviewing, and selection processes for desk staff positions.
   b. Provide desk staff with ongoing informal feedback about their behavior and job performance throughout the semester.
   c. Conduct at least one formal evaluation per semester for each staff person, to evaluate job performance and to make recommendations for future employment to professional staff.
   d. Develop a schedule that provides desk coverage per Departmental and supervisory expectations/direction.
   e. Compile and verify payroll information from the time log.
   f. Maintain all forms and supplies required for the daily operation of the desk.
   g. Conduct desk staff meetings at least once every two weeks for scheduling, on-going training and development, and any other desk-related issues.
   h. Monitor the distribution and forwarding of mail to ensure that it is being done in a timely manner that conforms to Departmental and supervisory expectations, as well as applicable laws.
   i. Review printed “Operations” reports to ensure they are accurate and assist in making changes as necessary.
   j. Oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the lobby and desk areas.
   k. Open and close the desk each semester, and at each break period. This requires working before and after established times to ready the desk or to close.
   l. Assist in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of desk staff training prior to the beginning of each semester.
   m. Attend community staff meetings called by Residential Life professional staff and staff development training sessions as required.
   n. Monitor the public relations and information aspects of the desk operation including behavior in the lobby area.
   o. Ensure that desk staff enforce policies related to access to the community and visitation, as appropriate for assigned community, and inform the CD of any concerns.
   p. Post RA duty schedule at desk and train desk staff in use of duty system, including RA call-in procedures.
   q. Maintain the lobby lost and found system.
   r. Assist the Community Director in the coordination and implementation of check-in and check-out.
s. Perform related duties as assigned by the Community Director/Assistant Community Director.

t. Approach students of all racial/ethnic, religions, physical ability level, gender, age, and sexual orientation differences with an attitude of respect, fairness, and equity.

u. Encourage and maintain a community atmosphere where the rights and responsibilities of residents are held in high regard.

v. Help students develop an atmosphere conducive to study, rest and harmonious group living.

w. Encourage and assist residents in adhering to University and residence facilities rules and regulations. The DM is responsible, along with residents, for enforcing University and Residential Life rules and regulations.

x. Interpret, explain and help resolve conflicts related to environmental concerns.

y. Maintain keys/access cards according to departmental expectations and directions.

2. AS A MEMBER OF THE RESIDENTIAL LIFE STAFF

a. Be responsible for providing a high quality of service to residents and guests.

b. Be fair and consistent in following the established rules, regulations, and procedures.

c. Be a good role model for other students.

d. Work within the system to maintain a high-quality desk operation for students.

e. Refer students to appropriate people when they require assistance that you cannot provide.

f. Perform other duties as needed by Residential Life.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

I. AGREEMENT TERM

A. This DM Employment Agreement ("Agreement" or "Employment Agreement"), subject to the conditions and requirements set forth herein, is for the entire employment period beginning August 13, 2020 and ending on May 22, 2021 ("Term") unless ended earlier as provided by this Agreement or extended due to inclement weather or other cause. This Term includes fall training and winter training. If the semester is extended due to inclement weather or any other reason, this Term will be extended and the DM will fulfill their responsibilities until the official close of the semester earning pro rata additional room and board plan remuneration but not additional stipend. DM employment agreements do not renew automatically for the following academic year. The DM must reapply for consideration for rehire for the following year and employment requires a new employment agreement.

B. If any semester, or session or break period where applicable, is shortened or if either party’s (i.e. University’s or DM’s) performance hereunder is rendered impossible, hazardous, or is otherwise prevented, impaired, or delayed due to sickness, inability to perform, accident, interruption or failure of means of transportation, Act(s) of God, riot, strike, labor difficulty, war (including civil war), embargo, epidemic, pandemic, evacuation, fire, flood, explosion, earthquake, quarantine restriction, any act or order of any civil or military authority, acts of any government, acts of governing authority, and/or any other cause or event, similar or dissimilar, beyond that party’s control ("Force Majeure Event"), then each party’s obligations with respect to this Agreement shall be excused, or suspended if reasonably postponed with appropriate pro rata
reductions, and neither party will have any liability in connection therewith. The University reserves the right to maintain the safety of its staff and of the premises by any means, including, but not limited to, suspending or terminating this Agreement.

C. Both parties (i.e. University and DM) acknowledge and agree that they are entering into this Agreement at a time when COVID-19 has disrupted and caused the termination or cancellation of many contracted services. The parties also acknowledge and agree that, while the COVID-19 response and evolution of impact(s) is current and ongoing, COVID-19 is a Force Majeure event, as defined above, and, with the knowledge that COVID-19 will continue to be a Force Majeure event for purposes of this Agreement, notwithstanding, the parties wish to enter into this Agreement with full knowledge and agreement that this Agreement may be cancelled, terminated, or suspended under the Force Majeure paragraph above. Each party agrees that the cancelling, terminating, or suspending party shall not be responsible for any damages sustained by the other party.

II. REMUNERATION

A. DM remuneration during the Agreement is a single room and the Terrific-12 meal board plan (which cannot be reduced). Room and board plan is provided only when the DM is living in their assigned community and responsible for conducting DM duties.

B. Room and board are provided for DMs during Fall and Winter staff training and during the opening and closing period.

C. The DM’s room/apartment and hall/community assignment will be determined by Residential Life and may be changed in the sole discretion of Residential Life. The DM must reside in the residence hall/apartment complex to which the DM is assigned as a condition of employment unless administratively moved by Residential Life.

D. Accommodation requests that impact room assignment and board meal plan will be addressed on an individual basis.

E. A stipend will be awarded twice each semester. This stipend will total $500.00 per semester. If the DM is hired after the start of the semester, then the stipend will be prorated. These semester stipends are not earned or awarded if the DM is terminated or resigns before completion of duties each semester.

III. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

A. The DM is limited to an academic load of not less than 12 nor more than 19.5 credit hours per semester at UMBC (fall and spring semesters) during the Agreement Term. DMs cannot be enrolled at another institution of higher education, without prior written approval from the supervisor. Exception requests to these academic load limits must be submitted by the DM to Residential Life for review prior to the registration deficiency or overage. Approval of the exception is within Residential Life’s sole discretion.

B. All DMs must maintain at least a cumulative GPA of 2.50 and a minimum 2.25 semester GPA. If the DM fails to maintain these GPA requirements, during the Term of the Agreement, the DM will be either be placed on DM academic probation or have this Employment Agreement terminated.

C. The DM is permitted to be on DM academic probation once at any time during the DM’s Residential Life DM employment career. If the DM fails to meet GPA requirements a second time during their DM employment career, this DM
Employment Agreement will be terminated voiding any further remuneration as provided in Section II.

D. A significant decrease in the DM’s grades or number of registered credits may result in the termination of this DM Employment Agreement voiding any further remuneration as provided in Section II.

E. This DM Employment Agreement will be terminated if the DM’s cumulative GPA falls below a 2.50 voiding any further remuneration as provided in Section II.

F. This DM Employment Agreement will be terminated if the DM is placed on DM academic probation while on performance probation voiding any further remuneration as provided in Section II.

G. All DMs must take Psychology 215 during the first semester it is offered while in the position and receive a positive recommendation from the instructor as well as a grade of “C” or better. Failure to do so will result in termination of this Employment Agreement at the end of the semester and all further remuneration provided in Section II will be void.

H. The DM must be an undergraduate student or in process of completing a dual enrollment BS/MS program for the duration of the Term.

IV. OTHER EMPLOYMENT & ACTIVITIES

A. As a DM and student, the DM must put personal limits on the DM’s time that facilitates acceptable DM employment performance.

1. The DM will complete the Request for Outside Employment and Other Activities Form at the beginning of each semester during the Term (fall and spring semesters).

2. In addition to the DM position, the DM should have no more than 45 hours of commitments per week, including academics, other employment and extracurricular activities.

3. The DM’s supervisor can choose to not approve a Request for Outside Employment and Other Activities Form based on the DM’s prior performance issues or workload/hours commitments.

B. The DM’s primary non-academic responsibility must be the DM position. All other non-academic activities must be requested in writing and approved in advance by the DM’s supervisor. This includes, but is not limited to, involvement in intercollegiate/club athletics, student teaching, applied learning experiences, and organizational leadership positions. Secondary employment of any kind, on or off campus, is strictly limited and must be pre-approved.

C. The DM may not join a fraternity or sorority during the first semester of DM employment.

V. ONGOING STAFF DEVELOPMENT

A. The DM must attend, and fully and successfully complete, training prior to the start of each semester opening or as assigned by their supervisor (see dates in Section I). Any exceptions to full attendance must be requested to the DM’s supervisor at least two weeks prior to the start of the training period and will be approved at the supervisor’s sole discretion.

B. The DM is expected to attend regular staff meetings.

C. The DM is expected to attend any special/emergency meetings which may be called by Residential Life or by the supervisor.
D. The DM must attend periodic staff development sessions held during the academic year.
E. The DM must attend at least one formal evaluation session per semester with their supervisor.
F. The DM must meet with their supervisor on a minimum of a biweekly basis for the purpose of mutual and ongoing feedback.

VI. RULES, REGULATIONS AND UNIVERSITY POLICY
A. The DM is expected to abide by all laws, local, state, and federal, and to abide by the rules and regulations of UMBC and Residential Life. The DM is expected to be a role model of behavioral expectations for residents.
B. The DM is considered a Responsible Employee, per UMBC’s Policy on Prohibited Sexual Misconduct, Interpersonal Violence, and Other Related Misconduct, and is required to report disclosures of sexual assault, domestic violence, relationship violence, stalking, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment or discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or pregnancy.
C. The DM has a mandatory obligation to report disclosures of instances of child abuse or neglect, or suspected instances of child abuse or neglect, per University System of Maryland policy.

VII. ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS
A. The DM’s contractual and legal obligations regarding University records, files, information and data:
   1. The DM shall not repeat, transmit, or share non-public information learned as a result of DM employment except as authorized by Residential Life.
   2. The DM shall not remove or make electronic or paper copies of University records except as is necessary to complete tasks authorized by Residential Life.
   3. The DM shall not access any University data or information, including from computer or filing system, unless authorized by Residential Life. The DM shall not misuse any such data or information.
   4. The DM shall not access any images of University community members unless authorized by Residential Life. The DM shall not misuse such images.
   5. The DM must consult with their supervisor or other Residential Life Central Office staff where they are accessing University records and they are unclear regarding their employment obligations or expectations, particularly involving the University records of students, faculty, or staff.
B. The DM shall not access room keys/cards including to enter rooms or offices without authorization. The DM shall not misuse such room keys/cards.
C. As an employee, the DM irrevocably gives Residential Life and UMBC permission to use, reproduce, exhibit, alter, and distribute, in any medium, my likeness and voice collected and stored in photographic, video, audio, digital, electronic, or any other medium for any purpose UMBC deems appropriate, including promotional, recruitment, and advertising purposes. As an employee, the DM’s name will be published in public forums.
D. The DM represents UMBC and Residential Life and is not authorized to post on social media in their capacity as an employee of UMBC or officially on behalf of UMBC.
VIII. CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT COMPLETING FULL-TERM OF THIS AGREEMENT
If the DM resigns or is terminated from this position during the Term of this Agreement but prior to the published end date in Section I, above:
   A. The DM will not receive the stipend, except where they have completed all tasks associated with the end of the semester.
   B. The DM shall forfeit the remainder of their room and board remuneration and will be re-assigned to other housing space, if available, at Residential Life’s sole discretion. If granted housing space, the cost of this space and meal plan will be prorated based on the date of separation and will be charged to the student’s account. If the student does not reside on campus, the student will be subject to termination fees and forfeit their housing deposit.

IX. CONSEQUENCES FOR EMPLOYMENT PERFORMANCE CONCERNS
   A. If prior to the start of the Term, the DM fails to maintain the minimum academic requirements or fails to adhere to a standard of behavior consistent with the DM position, as determined in the sole discretion of the University, this DM Employment Agreement will be cancelled.
   B. A violation of University or Residential Life rules and regulations, and/or unsatisfactory employment performance is grounds for termination of this DM Employment Agreement, although a letter of reprimand or employment probation is available where, in Residential Life’s sole discretion, the DM has demonstrated improved judgement, provided mitigating explanation, and sufficient growth in maturity. The DM may receive a letter of reprimand from the DM’s supervisor or be placed on employment probation by the DM’s supervisor and the Assistant Director of Assignment Services for unsatisfactory performance. If the DM is on employment probation and concerns with their employment performance continue, the DM’s Employment Agreement may be terminated. A violation of the University’s Code of Student Conduct, Undergraduate Student Academic Conduct Policy, or Policy on Prohibited Sexual Misconduct, Interpersonal Violence, and Other Related Misconduct, which results in a minimum of Residential Life or Disciplinary Probation, is grounds for termination of this DM Employment Agreement.
   C. A meeting among the DM, the DM’s supervisor, and the Assistant Director of Assignment Services is typically expected to take place prior to termination. The specific reason(s) for termination will be provided in writing to the DM. The DM will be given an opportunity to be heard regarding any concerns or questions they have regarding the termination decision. The DM’s request to be heard, or written appeal, must be received by the Director of Residential Life within two (2) working days of DM’s receipt of the written notice of termination. The interview, or review of the written appeal, and final decision regarding the termination will rest with the Director of Residential Life. Termination at the end of the Agreement Term will not require the meeting with the supervisor and Assistant Director due to the imminent expiration of the Employment Agreement.
   D. This DM Employment Agreement will terminate or be terminated upon withdrawal, suspension, or expulsion of the DM from the University.