The University System of Maryland (USM) is the state’s public higher education system. It comprises 12 institutions, two regional higher education centers, and a system office working together to improve the quality of life in Maryland through excellence and innovation.
Ensuring Access, Affordability, and Completion, USM:

- Enrolled 164,499 students in FY 2016, more than 90 percent of the enrollment in Maryland’s public, four-year institutions.
- Granted 38,292 degrees in FY 2016, including more than 71 percent of all bachelor’s degrees awarded in Maryland.
- Awarded 6,438 undergraduate STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) degrees in FY 2016, enhancing Maryland’s ability to thrive and compete in these high-demand fields.
- Continued to improve affordability. Average undergraduate tuition for full-time, in-state students, once ranked seventh highest, now ranks 23rd nationally.
- Increased need-based, institutional financial aid for students by nearly 110 percent since 2004.
- Saved students nearly $1,000,000 in textbook costs through the Maryland Open Source Textbook initiative, a collaboration between the USM Student Council and USM’s Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation.

Advancing Academic and Research Excellence, USM:

- Boasts nine institutions ranked among the nation’s best in specific categories by U.S. News & World Report: Bowie State University; Frostburg State University; Salisbury University; Towson University; University of Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB); University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC); University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP); and University of Maryland Eastern Shore.
- Celebrates UMCP’s No. 20 ranking among public research universities nationwide and its recognition among the top 50 Best Global Universities by U.S. News & World Report.
- Takes pride in UMBC being ranked among the nation’s top universities for innovation (No. 5) and undergraduate teaching quality (No. 18) nationally by U.S. News & World Report.
- Applauds UMCP’s, UMB’s, and UMBC’s rankings among the top 500 universities worldwide by the Center for World University Rankings.
- Celebrates UMBC’s and UMCP’s rankings among Kiplinger’s Personal Finance “Best Values in Public Colleges.”
- Saved more than $540 million since 2003 through its Effectiveness and Efficiency initiative.
- Maintained favorable debt ratings one of Moody’s top two ratings. (Latest Moody’s survey, July 2015)
- Won 100 Maryland Innovation Initiative grants (UMB, UMBC, UMCP), totaling $10.1 million, in the last four years to assist USM faculty and startups with technology commercialization opportunities.
- Launched USM’s first-ever venture capital fund to provide critical early funding for USM-affiliated start-up companies.
- Contributes a powerful alumni base, with an estimated 70 to 80 percent of its graduates living in and contributing to communities in Maryland.
- Contributes more than a million hours of service each year to the community through cultural programs, legal and medical clinics, partnerships with public schools and the business community, and other initiatives.
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Fueling the State’s Economy and Enhancing Quality of Life, USM:

- Houses 250 tenants and 6,350 jobs in research parks at three institutions (UMB, UMBC, and UMCP).
- Facilitated the creation of 502 companies since 2011.
- Won 100 Maryland Innovation Initiative grants (UMB, UMBC, UMCP), totaling $10.1 million, in the last four years to assist USM faculty and startups with technology commercialization opportunities.
- Saved more than $540 million since 2003 through its Effectiveness and Efficiency initiative.
- Maintained favorable debt ratings one of Moody’s top two ratings. (Latest Moody’s survey, July 2015)
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- Contributes more than a million hours of service each year to the community through cultural programs, legal and medical clinics, partnerships with public schools and the business community, and other initiatives.

Using Resources Wisely, USM:

- Saved more than $540 million since 2003 through its Effectiveness and Efficiency initiative.
- Maintained favorable debt ratings from bond-rating agencies, including a rating of Aa1 from Moody’s Investors Service. USM is one of only 21 public higher education institutions to earn one of Moody’s top two ratings. (Latest Moody’s survey, July 2015)

Note: For information on current rankings of all USM universities, visit www.usmd.edu/newsroom/usmrankings.html.