



**SAT PERCENTILE DISTRIBUTIONS OF
FIRST-TIME UNDERGRADUATES
FALL 2004 - 2008**

Bowie State University (BSU)
Coppin State University (CSU)
Frostburg State University (FSU)
Salisbury University (SU)
Towson University (TU)
University of Baltimore (UB)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)
University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)

**Office of the Chief Operating Officer and
Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
University System of Maryland Office
January 2009**

SAT Percentile Distributions of First-Time Undergraduates

Fall 2004 - 2008

Background

University System of Maryland institutions report annually SAT scores of first-time, full-time and part-time undergraduates to the Board of Regents and to MHEC. Average verbal, math and combined SAT scores are provided as well as the 25th and 75th percentile combined SAT scores. The percentile scores give decision makers a sense of the score distributions for the middle 50 percent of first-time freshmen. Beginning in spring 2005, the College Board changed the SAT Reasoning Test to include a writing component. While USM institutions report scores on the writing sample, they do not consider the SAT writing sample in the admission process. For this reason, the report will not focus on the writing component of the revised SAT. For further information, contact Gayle Fink, gfink@usmd.edu (301) 445-2737.

Highlights

Maryland Public High School Seniors

- Over 36,300 Maryland public school seniors took the SATs in 2007-2008 – a 3 percent drop (-981) from the year prior.
- The average SAT scores for 2007-08 college bound seniors from Maryland public high schools declined 1 point in critical reading and increased 1 point in mathematics between 2007 and 2008 according to The College Board.
- The average 2008 SAT critical reading score for college bound Maryland seniors was 490 and the average for math was 498.
- USM students' SAT scores were fairly stable between last year's entering class and the 2008 class.

USM Trends

In Fall 2008, a total of 12,071 freshmen enrolled at USM reported SAT scores. Table 1 shows the combined SAT scores at the 25th and 75th percentiles for fall 2004 through fall 2008. The distributions include SAT scores for first-time, full-time, and part-time undergraduates at all USM institutions except UMB and UMUC. Figure 1 depicts ranges for the fall 2008 distributions for each institution. Fifty percent of incoming freshmen received SAT scores in the range between the arrows on the graph.

- Most USM institutions experienced stable or improved combined 25th/75th percentile SAT scores between fall 2007 and fall 2008. As expected, UB's second entering class had a different SAT profile than its first freshmen class..
- Three institutions reported that at least three-quarters of their freshmen class had combined SAT scores greater than 1,000 in fall 2008: Salisbury, UMBC, and UMCP.

SAT Percentile Distributions of First-Time Undergraduates Fall 2004 - 2008

Table 1
Trends in SAT 25th and 75th Percentile Scores
Fall 2004 – Fall 2008

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	25th	75th	25th	75th	25th	75th	25th	75th	25th	75th
UMCP	1180	1340	1210	1360	1190	1370	1210	1360	1190	1360
UMBC	1130	1300	1120	1300	1080	1280	1090	1280	1090	1280
SU	1040	1200	1050	1210	1020	1190	1030	1200	1040	1210
TU	1000	1150	1020	1170	990	1160	1010	1160	990	1150
UB							950	1120	850	1030
FSU	930	1090	910	1090	870	1060	860	1060	870	1060
BSU	810	960	877	989	810	950	800	930	800	950
CSU	780	910	780	910	770	910	790	900	800	890
UMES	740	920	740	900	710	900	730	900	742	900

NOTE: All scores include all first-time, full-time and part-time, degree and non-degree seeking students.
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Source: MHEC Form S-11

Figure 1
University System of Maryland
Fall 2008 SAT Percentiles

