



Mission | Vision | Values

OUR MISSION

To educate and serve the people of Maryland, advance equity, justice, and opportunity, and produce the research and scholarship that improve our lives.

The USM leverages the strength and diversity of our people and institutions to promote lifelong learning, encourage economic innovation and entrepreneurship, and produce research and scholarship that solve our greatest problems.

We instill in students a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice; an understanding of the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing our world; and the will and ability to address them.

Through learner-centered academic programs and support services, we prepare students who have the knowledge, skills, creativity, and confidence to succeed and to lead in a global, digital economy.

OUR VISION

To be a preeminent system of public higher education respected around the world for our leadership in developing learner-centered postsecondary education for all levels and life stages; creating knowledge that solves problems, strengthens communities, and makes meaningful change; and relentlessly pursuing equity, opportunity, and justice for all Marylanders.

The USM produces graduates who are engaged citizens and courageous leaders.

The students we educate and the knowledge we create shape policy, science, technology, business, education, art, and culture—across the state and around the world.

All members of our community absorb and reflect the System's deep and abiding commitment to learning, inclusiveness, and service to others.

We not only build lives, families, and educated citizens; we create a more just and equitable society.

OUR VALUES

Our core values reflect the fundamental principles that guide our work. They serve not just as guideposts for those engaged in the System's day-to-day operations, but as affirmation to those outside the System of what we stand for.

Knowledge

The creation and dissemination of knowledge is central to our mission. We give it priority of place in all that we do.

Service

As a public institution, we exist to serve the citizens of our state. We base our decisions and actions ultimately on the benefits they will gain.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

We are strengthened by the many perspectives, cultures, and traditions that exist within our System. We seek out and engage a diverse range of voices and viewpoints, and we make resources and opportunities equitably available to those we employ and serve.

Civility

Learning cannot thrive in a climate lacking mutual respect and civil engagement. We treat all people with respect and civility, and demonstrate that in our words, our actions, and our demeanor.

Innovation

We cannot meet our mission if our work does not evolve. We support innovative, pathbreaking ideas, programs, and processes, and we reward those who bring them forward.

Collaboration

We are more effective when we work together. We seek out opportunities to collaborate on the development and deployment of programs and services across offices and institutions.

Excellence

Our first duty, per the USM's legislative charter, is to "promote excellence at each campus, in accordance with the skills of the faculty, the needs of the region, and the academic programs offered." We support the unique missions, cultures, and strengths that each of our institutions brings to the System, and we provide each institution the resources, people, and programs necessary for excellence.

Accountability

Achieving and maintaining organizational excellence is not possible without accountability. We take responsibility for our actions at all levels—as individuals, institutions, and a System—and we are transparent in our reporting on them.