



**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND**

**TRANSFER STUDENTS TO THE
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND:**
Patterns of Enrollment and Success
Updated through FY 2017

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 (UMB)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)
University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)
University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)
University of Maryland University College (UMUC)

**Office of Institutional Research
Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance
University System of Maryland
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Background

The purpose of this report is to provide information about new students who begin at USM as transfers, meaning that they have completed a significant number of credits at other higher education institutions and then transferred into one of our institutions. Transfer students now comprise approximately two-thirds of all new students entering USM institutions each fiscal year. While the majority of this report focuses on transfer students coming from Maryland community colleges, providing data on their demographic characteristics, enrollment status, enrollment trends, and graduation rates from University System of Maryland institutions, basic information about the total number of transfers coming into the USM, including those who transferred across USM institutions, from a non-USM Maryland institution, or from an out-of-state institution, is also included. Most of that information appears in tables in the appendix of this report. Overall, the transfer data confirm these students continue to represent a vital segment of our undergraduate population and are critical for USM to meet its degree production share of the state's 55% degree completion goal.

The information in this report reflects the most recent updates to the transfer data (from FY 2012 through FY 2017). It is also part of a series of reports about the undergraduate student body including *SAT Percentile Distribution of First-Time Undergraduates* Report, the *Retention and Graduation Rates of First-time, Full-time Degree-Seeking Undergraduates* report, and provides context for the USM's Enrollment Projections.

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Transfer Highlights and Trends

- The total number of transfer students entering a USM institution as a new student in FY 2017 was 35,898, up by over 3,000 students compared to FY 2016.
- Of the total number of transfer students entering a USM institution as a new student in FY 2017, UMUC accounted for more than half: 62% or 22,328. UMUC also accounted for 80% of all new USM students who transferred from a non-Maryland institution.
- Maryland community college (MDCC) transfers accounted for 34% of all new USM transfers in 2017, with 12,154 new transfers coming from an MDCC institution (a record high).
- The number of new USM students who are entering as transfers from a Maryland Community Colleges has consistently exceeded 11,000 for six straight years.
- In FY 2017, 82% of the Maryland Community College students who transferred to the USM transferred to just five institutions: UMUC (3,303), Towson (2,552), UMCP (1,986), UMBC (1,311), and Salisbury (786)
- USM's institutional research analytics initiative tracked positive improvements with more MDCC students transferring at the sophomore or junior level increasing the chances of finishing a bachelor's degree within 4 years after transfer
- The overall four-year graduation rate for transfers remained at the high of 56% for USM and 62% if UMUC is excluded
- MDCC Transfers who begin at a regional center continued to have higher 4-year graduation rates (71% at USG and 65% at USMH)

Transfers to USM¹

First-time transfers make up a substantial part (at least two-thirds) of newly enrolled undergraduate students at USM institutions. Nearly 36,000 students transferred into USM institutions in FY 2017 (which includes the summer 2016, fall 2016, winter 2017 and spring 2017 semesters), an increase of over 3,000 transfers from FY 2016. In FY 2017, 12,154 of the students who transferred to a USM institution transferred from a Maryland community college (MDCC). Non-Maryland community college transfers included students transferring from other Maryland institutions as well as out-of-state institutions. In total, the Non-Maryland community college transfers totaled 23,744 students, with 21,258 (90%) of these transferring to the USM from institutions outside Maryland.

Most of the transfer growth and the transfer population was at University of Maryland University College. UMUC, with its unique institutional mission and national reach, primarily serves transfer students and accounted for 84% of the “other/out-of-state” transfers or students transferring credit from non-Maryland institutions to USM. Although MDCC students did not represent the majority of UMUC’s new transfers in FY 2017, they still represented a significant proportion (3,303 of the 22,328), with more MDCC transfers choosing UMUC than any other USM institution.

Unlike UMUC, the other ten USM institutions primarily served and received transfers from Maryland community colleges. The ten residential campuses received a total of 13,570 new transfer students, with 65% (8,851) coming from Maryland community colleges, 7% (1,015) from other USM institutions, 3% (384) from other non-USM institutions inside Maryland, and 24% (3,320) from institutions outside the state.

Although there are many non-MDCC transfers, the focus of the following sections will be the Maryland community college transfers. USM institutions have cultivated strong relationships with the community colleges in Maryland, and together they have created well-defined articulation pathways to ease transfer between institutions. These pathways include the 2+2 programs tied to USM’s regional centers.

Maryland Community College Transfer Trends in FY 2017

In fiscal year 2017, a record high number of 12,154 new students transferred from a Maryland community college to a USM institution up 5.3% from 11,544 in FY 2016. Despite overall enrollment decreases in the Maryland community college sector, the MDCC transfer pipeline to USM remains strong with more than 11,000 transfers in each of the past six years.

The five USM institutions enrolling the largest share of new Maryland community college transfers were: UMUC (3,303), Towson (2,552), UMCP (1,986), UMBC (1,311), and Salisbury (786).

¹ For cohorts up through FY 2013, first-time transfers were defined as students transferring for the first time from a higher education institution with 12 or more credits and reported in the TSS (Transfer Student System) files. Beginning with FY 2014, however, first-time transfer status was based on how institutions identify the students in their most recent EIS (Enrollment Information System) files.

Together, these five institutions enrolled 82% of all Maryland community college transfers to the USM in FY 2017.

African-American students made up 27% of the transfer students from Maryland community colleges entering USM institutions in FY 2017, with 82% of the African-American transfers enrolling at one of the USM's non-Historically Black Institutions. The 18% (n=604) of African-American transfer students who enrolled in an HBI in FY 2017 did represent something of a reversal in recent USM trends, which had witnessed a decreasingly smaller proportion and number of African-American student transfers enrolling at USM HBIs —in FY 2014, 21% (n=566) of the African-American MDCC transfer enrolled in a USM HBI, followed by 18% (n=557) in FY 2015 and 16% (n=472) in FY 2016. Hispanic students comprised 9% of the Maryland community college, and easily represented the fastest growing segment of the USM community college transfer population, growing 147% since FY 2007. The proportion of community college transfers who are white continues to decline and represented less than half (45%) of the community college transfers entering a USM institution. White transfers have steadily decreased as a proportion of the community college student body since FY 2000, when they represented 61%.

Most (71%) of the Maryland community college students transferring to the USM in FY 2017 came from just six of the state's 16 public two-year institutions. All six were located within or close to the Baltimore-Washington Region (See Table 5). Of the Maryland community college students who transferred to USM in FY 2017, 18% entered programs in business and management, 7% in the social sciences, 14% in computer & information science, 5% in education, 7% in the health professions, and 3% in the biological sciences. Seven percent of these students had an undeclared major at transfer (See Table 7). The academic programs receiving most of the transfers in FY 2017 were consistent with past trends in transfer demand, with the demand for health professions and computer & information science up slightly.

Fall Attendance Patterns and Student Level

The attendance status of transfer students (i.e., full-time or part-time) and the number of credits completed at the time of transfer significantly influence graduation rates for transfer students. Of the community college students who transferred to a USM institution in FY 2017, 64% attended on a full-time basis. The largest proportion of Maryland community college students entered as either sophomores or juniors (the 82% of transfers entering at the sophomore/junior level remains a high point). In general, the trend of having a greater percentage of MDCC transfer students entering with more credits is a positive one because it helps contribute to decreased time to degree, increased efficiency, and increased success rates. Additionally, students who attend full-time and transfer in high numbers of credit hours are more likely to complete within 4 years because fewer credits are required. However, achievement gaps may still remain given that a larger proportion of African-American students transfer before their sophomore year and fewer attend full-time.

Graduation Rates

Of those Maryland community college transfers who enrolled at a USM institution in FY 2014, 56% graduated within four years. This was a slight improvement over the 55% rate for the FY 2013 cohort.

Attendance status appeared to impact graduation rates for transfer students significantly. Transfers students attending part-time made up 32% of the entering student cohort (FY 2014). If the four-year graduation rate excluded these part-time students, however, and was calculated for only those transfers who attended full-time, it was slightly below the new first-time, full-time student cohort (65% rate for the FY 2014 full-time Maryland community college transfers comparable to the 70% rate of the fall 2011 full-time new freshmen six-year rate anywhere at USM). Further, there was still a large percentage of transfers entering at the freshmen level with minimal credits.

It is encouraging see higher proportions of full-time and upper-level students entering as transfers because the future time-to-degree ratio for students will be positively affected, which will contribute to increased degree production and other efficiency improvements.

Regional Centers—Universities at Shady Grove and USM-Hagerstown

Another avenue of success for Maryland community college transfers is enrolling in programs at the USM regional centers. The first cohort available to measure the four-year graduation rate was the FY 2009 group of transfers. For the purposes of this analysis, the regional center cohort was defined as any Maryland community college transfer who enrolled in at least one regional center course in the fall semester of the fiscal year of transfer. The graduation rates for these students are found in the Appendix. It is important to note that the students identified in these cohorts are a subset of the total population of Maryland community college transfers who have been identified and discussed earlier in this report. Additionally, it is important to note that the regional center students are included in, and will continue to be included in, the institutional numbers presented in previous sections of this report, as they have been in all previous transfer reports.

The number of Maryland community college transfers at the two regional centers and the graduation rates are encouraging, with over 40% of the cohort graduating within two years for both Hagerstown and Shady Grove (compared to a rate of 16% for transfers at USM campuses overall). The most recent four-year graduation data available for analysis was the FY 2014 cohort of students that began in fall 2013. Based on this cohort, the data showed a four-year graduation rate of 65% for Hagerstown and 71% for Shady Grove. Although the rates were down compared to last year, this finding means that students taking courses at the regional centers are graduating at similar rates as first-time, full-time new freshmen at USM institutions. Thus, the regional centers have increased not just the capacity of the USM but its overall efficiency as well.

APPENDIX

University System of Maryland
 Maryland Community College Transfer Student Four-Year Graduation Rates
 FY 2007 - 2016 Cohorts

Number of Community College Transfers

	Cohort Size	Graduation Rates			
		2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
USM					
FY 2007	8,974	920	3,004	4,299	4,928
FY 2008	8,993	969	3,188	4,575	5,169
FY 2009	9,468	1,134	3,544	4,984	5,609
FY 2010	9,456	1,120	3,488	4,917	5,529
FY 2011	10,029	1,239	3,961	5,467	6,066
FY 2012	11,033	1,483	4,421	6,076	6,764
FY 2013	11,882	1,512	4,766	6,506	7,292
FY 2014	11,182	1,445	4,587	6,276	
FY 2015	11,603	1,622	4,970		
FY 2016	11,544	1,734			
USM w/out UMUC					
FY 2007	6,603	809	2,660	3,791	4,236
FY 2008	6,875	878	2,867	4,045	4,487
FY 2009	7,167	1,004	3,111	4,309	4,778
FY 2010	6,834	983	2,989	4,145	4,623
FY 2011	7,279	1,051	3,370	4,611	5,045
FY 2012	8,036	1,248	3,788	5,139	5,628
FY 2013	9,042	1,267	4,129	5,598	6,193
FY 2014	8,608	1,236	3,963	5,381	
FY 2015	8,528	1,331	4,134		
FY 2016	8,413	1,379			
Bowie					
FY 2007	281	29	84	133	159
FY 2008	302	26	81	127	159
FY 2009	292	16	72	127	154
FY 2010	279	16	76	126	152
FY 2011	238	17	66	110	133
FY 2012	315	26	97	155	188
FY 2013	353	26	97	170	197
FY 2014	310	30	116	161	
FY 2015	419	45	131		
FY 2016	227	18			
Coppin					
FY 2007	214	7	35	60	80
FY 2008	199	18	51	80	103
FY 2009	242	15	40	76	102
FY 2010	199	18	55	73	93
FY 2011	200	35	72	98	106
FY 2012	236	37	79	105	119
FY 2013	238	33	71	99	114
FY 2014	256	38	74	101	
FY 2015	186	26	59		
FY 2016	267	29			

Percent Graduating

	Graduation Rates			
	2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
USM				
FY 2007	10%	33%	48%	55%
FY 2008	11%	35%	51%	57%
FY 2009	12%	37%	53%	59%
FY 2010	12%	37%	52%	58%
FY 2011	12%	39%	55%	60%
FY 2012	13%	40%	55%	61%
FY 2013	13%	40%	55%	61%
FY 2014	13%	41%	56%	
FY 2015	14%	43%		
FY 2015	15%			
USM w/out UMUC				
FY 2007	12%	40%	57%	64%
FY 2008	13%	42%	59%	65%
FY 2009	14%	43%	60%	67%
FY 2010	14%	44%	61%	68%
FY 2011	14%	46%	63%	69%
FY 2012	16%	47%	64%	70%
FY 2013	14%	46%	62%	
FY 2014	14%	46%		
FY 2015	16%			
FY 2015	16%			
Bowie				
FY 2007	10%	30%	47%	57%
FY 2008	9%	27%	42%	53%
FY 2009	5%	25%	43%	53%
FY 2010	6%	27%	45%	54%
FY 2011	7%	28%	46%	56%
FY 2012	8%	31%	49%	60%
FY 2013	7%	27%	48%	56%
FY 2014	10%	37%	52%	
FY 2015	11%	31%		
FY 2015	8%			
Coppin				
FY 2007	3%	16%	28%	37%
FY 2008	9%	26%	40%	52%
FY 2009	6%	17%	31%	42%
FY 2010	9%	28%	37%	47%
FY 2011	18%	36%	49%	53%
FY 2012	16%	33%	44%	50%
FY 2013	14%	30%	42%	48%
FY 2014	15%	29%	39%	
FY 2015	14%	32%		
FY 2015	11%			

University System of Maryland
Maryland Community College Transfer Student Four-Year Graduation Rates
FY 2007 - 2016 Cohorts

Number of Community College Transfers

	Cohort Size	Graduation Rates			
		2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
Frostburg					
FY 2007	283	41	120	165	181
FY 2008	313	61	150	199	220
FY 2009	323	68	147	198	212
FY 2010	344	61	155	202	218
FY 2011	354	67	177	218	235
FY 2012	379	77	170	228	248
FY 2013	412	92	210	261	280
FY 2014	476	110	232	293	
FY 2015	564	118	291		
FY 2016	525	118			
Salisbury					
FY 2007	601	57	251	371	402
FY 2008	524	76	270	361	387
FY 2009	657	100	319	444	478
FY 2010	632	99	300	430	460
FY 2011	673	92	311	442	485
FY 2012	736	130	366	497	529
FY 2013	841	120	430	548	601
FY 2014	730	108	355	482	
FY 2015	847	135	392		
FY 2016	726	121			
Towson					
FY 2007	1,630	211	706	1,027	1,116
FY 2008	1,729	223	758	1,077	1,179
FY 2009	1,889	274	871	1,188	1,315
FY 2010	1,607	258	775	1,051	1,162
FY 2011	2,017	300	1,001	1,353	1,467
FY 2012	2,430	419	1,200	1,607	1,754
FY 2013	2,848	402	1,277	1,745	1,980
FY 2014	2,142	294	982	1,343	
FY 2015	1,937	300	1,010		
FY 2016	2,311	370			
UB					
FY 2007	872	94	288	389	448
FY 2008	843	85	282	402	456
FY 2009	793	76	290	381	440
FY 2010	753	82	279	382	434
FY 2011	664	55	243	335	368
FY 2012	654	61	247	346	390
FY 2013	690	62	269	372	411
FY 2014	630	67	239	343	
FY 2015	651	65	280		
FY 2016	655	81			

Percent Graduating

	Graduation Rates			
	2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
Frostburg				
FY 2007	14%	42%	58%	64%
FY 2008	19%	48%	64%	70%
FY 2009	21%	46%	61%	66%
FY 2010	18%	45%	59%	63%
FY 2011	19%	50%	62%	66%
FY 2012	20%	45%	60%	65%
FY 2013	22%	51%	63%	68%
FY 2014	23%	49%	62%	
FY 2015	21%	52%		
FY 2016	22%			
Salisbury				
FY 2007	9%	42%	62%	67%
FY 2008	15%	52%	69%	74%
FY 2009	15%	49%	68%	73%
FY 2010	16%	47%	68%	73%
FY 2011	14%	46%	66%	72%
FY 2012	18%	50%	68%	72%
FY 2013	14%	51%	65%	71%
FY 2014	15%	49%	66%	
FY 2015	16%	46%		
FY 2016	17%			
Towson				
FY 2007	13%	43%	63%	68%
FY 2008	13%	44%	62%	68%
FY 2009	15%	46%	63%	70%
FY 2010	16%	48%	65%	72%
FY 2011	15%	50%	67%	73%
FY 2012	17%	49%	66%	72%
FY 2013	14%	45%	61%	70%
FY 2014	14%	46%	63%	
FY 2015	15%	52%		
FY 2016	16%			
UB				
FY 2007	11%	33%	45%	51%
FY 2008	10%	33%	48%	54%
FY 2009	10%	37%	48%	55%
FY 2010	11%	37%	51%	58%
FY 2011	8%	37%	50%	55%
FY 2012	9%	38%	53%	60%
FY 2013	9%	39%	54%	60%
FY 2014	11%	38%	54%	
FY 2015	10%	43%		
FY 2016	12%			

University System of Maryland
Maryland Community College Transfer Student Four-Year Graduation Rates
FY 2007 - 2016 Cohorts

Number of Community College Transfers

	Cohort Size	Graduation Rates			
		2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
UMB					
FY 2007	156	67	125	127	130
FY 2008	164	60	130	137	137
FY 2009	162	63	115	128	129
FY 2010	164	77	129	135	137
FY 2011	128	51	93	94	95
FY 2012	137	48	106	111	116
FY 2013	177	73	117	138	138
FY 2014	298	30	158	173	
FY 2015	280	107	226		
FY 2016	297	129			
UMBC					
FY 2007	961	69	307	453	558
FY 2008	1,052	89	329	524	603
FY 2009	1,059	83	350	548	627
FY 2010	1,181	83	365	596	706
FY 2011	1,267	102	441	663	771
FY 2012	1,368	117	495	750	860
FY 2013	1,418	109	499	762	870
FY 2014	1,351	121	494	750	
FY 2015	1,350	113	508		
FY 2016	1,380	118			
UMCP					
FY 2007	1,557	229	731	1,046	1,136
FY 2008	1,652	232	784	1,088	1,188
FY 2009	1,658	300	873	1,175	1,273
FY 2010	1,578	280	830	1,117	1,219
FY 2011	1,665	314	931	1,252	1,335
FY 2012	1,695	319	990	1,291	1,363
FY 2013	1,930	322	1,097	1,425	1,513
FY 2014	2,234	425	1,260	1,652	
FY 2015	2,142	406	1,192		
FY 2016	1,911	387			
UMES					
FY 2007	48	5	13	20	26
FY 2008	97	8	32	50	55
FY 2009	92	9	34	44	48
FY 2010	97	9	25	33	42
FY 2011	73	18	35	46	50
FY 2012	86	14	38	49	61
FY 2013	135	28	62	78	89
FY 2014	181	13	53	83	
FY 2015	152	16	45		
FY 2016	114	8			

Percent Graduating

	Graduation Rates			
	2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
UMB				
FY 2007	43%	80%	81%	83%
FY 2008	37%	79%	84%	84%
FY 2009	39%	71%	79%	80%
FY 2010	47%	79%	82%	84%
FY 2011	40%	73%	73%	74%
FY 2012	35%	77%	81%	85%
FY 2013	41%	66%	78%	78%
FY 2014	10%	53%	58%	
FY 2015	38%	81%		
FY 2016	43%			
UMBC				
FY 2007	7%	32%	47%	58%
FY 2008	8%	31%	50%	57%
FY 2009	8%	33%	52%	59%
FY 2010	7%	31%	50%	60%
FY 2011	8%	35%	52%	61%
FY 2012	9%	36%	55%	63%
FY 2013	8%	35%	54%	61%
FY 2014	9%	37%	56%	
FY 2015	8%	38%		
FY 2016	9%			
UMCP				
FY 2007	15%	47%	67%	73%
FY 2008	14%	47%	66%	72%
FY 2009	18%	53%	71%	77%
FY 2010	18%	53%	71%	77%
FY 2011	19%	56%	75%	80%
FY 2012	19%	58%	76%	80%
FY 2013	17%	57%	74%	78%
FY 2014	19%	56%	74%	
FY 2015	19%	56%		
FY 2016	20%			
UMES				
FY 2007	10%	27%	42%	54%
FY 2008	8%	33%	52%	57%
FY 2009	10%	37%	48%	52%
FY 2010	9%	26%	34%	43%
FY 2011	25%	48%	63%	68%
FY 2012	16%	44%	57%	71%
FY 2013	21%	46%	58%	66%
FY 2014	7%	29%	46%	
FY 2015	11%	30%		
FY 2016	7%			

University System of Maryland
Maryland Community College Transfer Student Four-Year Graduation Rates
FY 2007 - 2016 Cohorts

Number of Community College Transfers

	Cohort Size	Graduation Rates			
		2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
UMUC					
FY 2007	2,371	111	344	508	692
FY 2008	2,118	91	321	530	682
FY 2009	2,301	130	433	675	831
FY 2010	2,622	137	499	772	906
FY 2011	2,750	188	591	856	1,021
FY 2012	2,997	235	633	937	1,136
FY 2013	2,840	245	637	907	1,099
FY 2014	2,574	209	624	895	
FY 2015	3,075	291	836		
FY 2016	3,131	355			
Hagerstown*					
FY 2009	50	18	24	31	33
FY 2010	42	18	29	32	33
FY 2011	71	29	46	50	53
FY 2012	76	38	53	57	59
FY 2013	83	35	53	56	
FY 2014	88	33	56	57	
FY 2015	85	41	56		
FY 2016	64	30			
Shady Grove*					
FY 2009	400	184	270	297	314
FY 2010	479	211	321	359	373
FY 2011	438	200	299	326	338
FY 2012	532	245	352	393	409
FY 2013	497	227	332	373	
FY 2014	609	275	407	435	
FY 2015	592	258	411		
FY 2016	568	275			

Percent Graduating

	Graduation Rates			
	2-year	3-year	4-year	5-year
UMUC				
FY 2007	5%	15%	21%	29%
FY 2008	4%	15%	25%	32%
FY 2009	6%	19%	29%	36%
FY 2010	5%	19%	29%	35%
FY 2011	7%	21%	31%	37%
FY 2012	8%	21%	31%	38%
FY 2013	9%	22%	32%	39%
FY 2014	8%	24%	35%	
FY 2015	9%	27%		
FY 2016	11%			
Hagerstown				
FY 2009	36%	48%	62%	66%
FY 2010	43%	69%	76%	79%
FY 2011	41%	65%	70%	75%
FY 2012	50%	70%	75%	78%
FY 2013	42%	64%	67%	
FY 2014	38%	64%	65%	
FY 2015	48%	66%		
FY 2016	47%			
Shady Grove				
FY 2009	46%	68%	74%	79%
FY 2010	44%	67%	75%	78%
FY 2011	46%	68%	74%	77%
FY 2012	46%	66%	74%	77%
FY 2013	46%	67%	75%	
FY 2014	46%	67%	71%	
FY 2015	44%	69%		
FY 2016	48%			

Source: MHECTSS, MHEC EIS, MHEC DIS and USM Fall Regional Center Registration

* Regional Center students are determined from fall registration and are also included in the USM institutional counts