

Celebrating Our Excellence

Fall is special. Fall feels like college. And at the University System of Maryland, it feels like fall.

It wasn't quite like that last year, certainly not the year before. But now when I visit our campuses, classrooms are alive with discussion, labs are busy coaxing discovery, thick groups of students—on campus and in the community—are putting their learning to work and living our service mission.

The fire we faced together has tested us and made us stronger. And proof of that strength keeps coming.



Students Are Choosing the USM

For the ninth-straight year, enrollment across the USM tops 160,000 students, with undergraduates making up 80 percent of the total. Without question, the pandemic affected students' college-going plans, but with the worst of it behind us, we expect enrollment to climb by roughly 10,000 students over the next 10 years.

We continue our long and proud tradition of serving Maryland learners. Eight in 10 undergraduates Systemwide call Maryland home. But we're popular among out-of-state students, too—especially those from New York, Virginia, New Jersey, and California. About half of our undergraduates are students who've transferred into the System from somewhere else—and that includes Maryland's 16 community colleges.

While we're happy that students are choosing the USM, we're even happier that those students reflect the great diversity of Maryland. Students of color comprise more than half of our enrollment, and nearly four in 10 students are from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. This diversity is no accident. It's the result of purpose-driven, intentional work to build an inclusive University System, and to make sure the exceptional education we offer is within everyone's reach.



USM Students Choose Excellence

And by all accounts, the education we offer *is* exceptional. On a cascade of national rankings released in recent months, our [USM universities claimed top spots](#) not only for selectivity and teaching and faculty prominence, but for how affordable we are; for the value we place on public service; for how well we promote social mobility; for our success in graduating students, and our graduates' success in landing good jobs; for the education we provide our military service members and veterans.

The *U.S. News and World Report* undergraduate rankings are filled with USM excellence. The magazine ranks the University of Maryland, College Park 19th among all U.S. public universities, and puts several of its majors in the top 10. At the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), the bachelor of science in nursing ranks 9th in the nation—3rd among public universities.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) ranks 9th in undergraduate teaching and 10th in most innovative schools, followed by the University of Maryland Global Campus, which clinched the 16th spot for innovation.

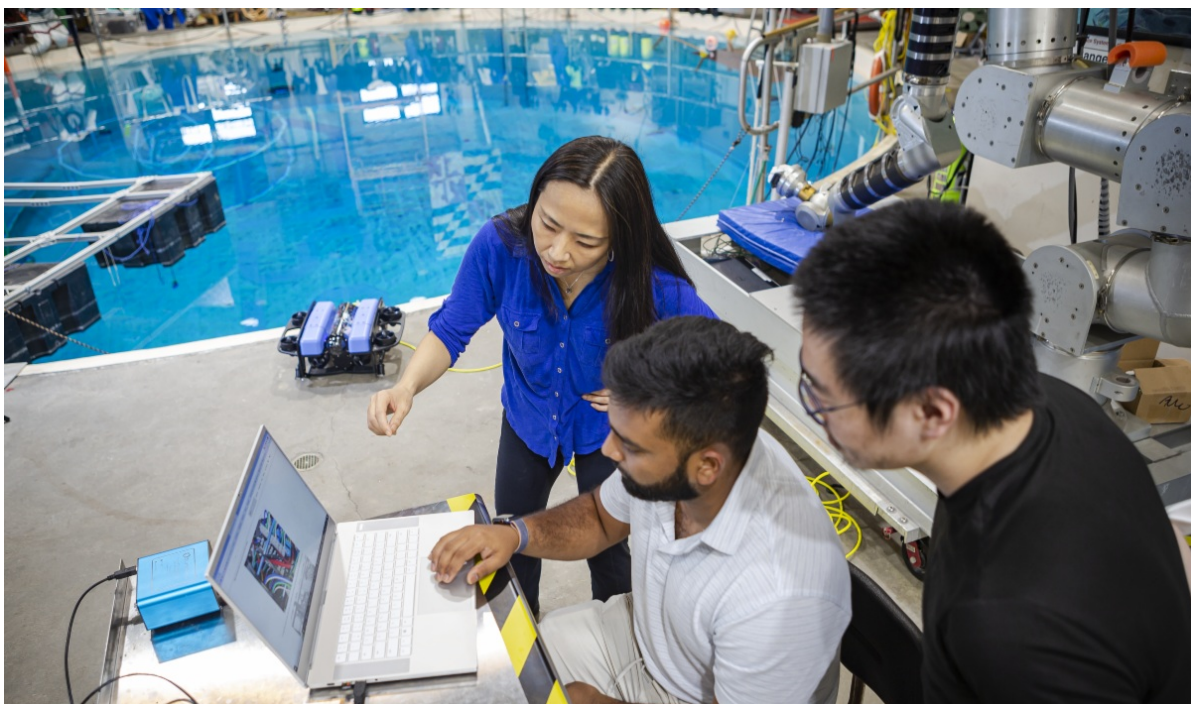
In the rankings of Regional Public Universities in the North, Frostburg State University made the top 40; the University of Baltimore (UBalt), the top 30; Salisbury University (SU), the top 20; and Towson University (TU), the top 10. In HBCU rankings, Coppin State University made the top 40; Bowie State University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, the top 20.

BEST FOR VETERANS **NURSING** **RECOGNIZED AMONG THE BEST**
 computer science **SOCIAL MOBILITY** most innovative aerospace engineering
 regional universities **PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES** undergraduate teaching **HBCUs**
 CYBERSECURITY **best value** Biomedical Engineering
 public master's **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING** **MARKETING** research activity
 Business Schools

Far beyond the *U.S. News* rankings, our excellence is showing. America's Top Colleges, put out by *Forbes*, measures affordability, quality, graduation success, and post-grad earnings. The magazine lists five USM schools among its best: UMBC, TU, SU, UBalt, and College Park (a top 40 pick).

The *Princeton Review* places three USM schools among the nation's best: SU, UMBC, and College Park. And *Washington Monthly*—which measures quality by social mobility, public service, and research—includes every eligible USM school in its best-value list for the Northeast.

Our research enterprise has won the spotlight, too. The National Science Foundation ranks the combined R&D expenditures of UMB and College Park in the top 10 among U.S. public universities, with \$1.1 billion in activity. And the National Academy of Inventors ranks the USM 20th worldwide for patents awarded in 2021—98 in all—our highest ranking ever.



USM Excellence Is Affordable

For those who maintain that all this excellence must come at a hefty cost, I point to the College Board's *2022 Trends in College Pricing* released last month, which makes clear [our commitment to affordability](#), our commitment to Maryland's students and families.

For in-state students attending a Maryland public university, average tuition and fees come to \$10,560, just below the national average. This in-state cost puts Maryland right in the middle—25th most expensive—among all 50 states. That's considerably better than our neighbors—Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware—whose tuition and fees for resident students are pricier than Maryland's.



Here's an even better affordability metric: Just about half of all USM undergraduates complete their degree without any tuition debt whatsoever. That's because we've put a premium on financial aid. Together, our universities awarded \$180 million in aid last year to nearly 45,000 students with financial need. In less than a decade, the amount of university money distributed annually in aid has grown by 50 percent, as has the number of students receiving it.

As with our diversity and our excellence, USM affordability is the result of relentless attention and effort. Our leaders, across the System and the state, prioritize college access—and access doesn't open unless you keep costs down.

Affordability is a pledge we've made to our students and to their families, and it's a pledge we've kept. Because when you're as excellent as we are, you want everyone to experience it.

Sincerely,

Jay A. Perman
Chancellor, University System of Maryland



