

THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

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1 THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

1.1 THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

Formed in 1988, The University System of Maryland¹ consists of the campuses and research and service units formerly governed by the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland and the six state universities and colleges formerly under the aegis of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities and Colleges. The new System is governed by the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland. In addition to the eleven degree-granting campuses--the [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 \(UMUC\)](#), [Bowie State University](#), [Coppin State University](#), [Frostburg State University](#), [Salisbury University](#), [Towson University](#), and the [University of Baltimore](#)--a large research and public service components are part of the University System of Maryland: the [University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute \(MBI\)](#) and the [University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science \(CES\)](#). Maryland has charged the System with ensuring distinctive and complementary missions for all campuses and with promoting academic excellence and economic development.

The [University System of Maryland](#) Web site provides links to an [overview of the USM](#), the [Board of Regents](#), and the [USM institutions](#) (11 colleges and universities, one research center, and two systemwide regional education centers, the [Universities at Shady Grove](#) and the [University System of Maryland at Hagerstown](#)). Among the links at the USM overview are descriptive information about the System, the USM Strategic Plan, and a timeline tracing the history of the USM institutions from 1807 through the present. Information targeted for [students and alumni](#) covers topics such as transcripts, majors at USM institutions, course transfer among the USM institutions, financial aid, libraries, the common academic calendar, distance education, and institutional maps. Of particular interest to faculty is information about the Board of Regents, its members, the schedule, agenda, and minutes of meetings, and the [Board of Regents' policies and procedures](#), many of which are cited or excerpted in this *Handbook*. Recent [news releases](#) from the USM and its institutions are available. Other information of interest includes reports and statistics, USM councils and workshops, resources for schools and business, employment opportunities, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and USM directories.

1.2 HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

The University System of Maryland traces its origins to the founding of its earliest member institution, the University of Maryland at Baltimore (UMAB) in 1807. In that year a College of Medicine, the fifth medical school in the United States, was established in Baltimore. In 1812 the state legislature authorized the College of Medicine to annex a faculty of divinity, a faculty of law, and a faculty of arts and sciences. Together these four colleges became the University of Maryland. The professional schools of Medicine, Law, Dentistry, and Pharmacy were among the first half-dozen of their kind established in America.

The College Park campus (UMCP), the System's largest, was originally chartered in 1856 as the Maryland Agricultural College. It became a land grant institution in 1865.

In 1920 the Maryland Agricultural College at College Park was consolidated with the University of Maryland in Baltimore. The merged institution continued under the name of the

¹University System of Maryland, 3300 Metzert Road, Adelphi, MD 20783. Telephone: 301-445-2740.

University of Maryland, with its largest campus at College Park, and most of its professional schools in Baltimore. Three more campuses were subsequently added to the University of Maryland: the worldwide University College (UMUC), established in 1947; the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) which had its origin in 1886 and became a division of the University in 1948; and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). On its opening in 1966, UMBC, the System's newest campus, joined the University of Maryland's oldest campus (UMAB) to represent the University's public teaching and research mission in the state's largest metropolitan region.

In 1949 Maryland became the first university in the country to offer a fully accredited degree program for armed services personnel and their dependents stationed overseas. It has since grown into the largest such program in the world.

In 1988 the five-campus University of Maryland combined with the following six State universities and colleges: Bowie State College (founded in 1865); Coppin State College (1900); Frostburg State College (1898); Salisbury State College (1925); Towson State University (1865); and the University of Baltimore (1925). The eleven-campus System constitutes one of the largest academic and research institutions in the United States.

1.3 GOVERNANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

1.3.1 The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)²

Created in 1988 as part of the reorganization of higher education in Maryland, the [Maryland Higher Education Commission](#) serves as a coordinating board responsible for the approval of campus missions and academic programs, for state planning on higher education and for advising the General Assembly and the Governor on policy issues for postsecondary education. Eleven of MHEC's twelve members are appointed to five-year terms by the Governor with Senate advice and consent. The chair of the Commission's Student Advisory Council serves as a nonvoting twelfth member. MHEC's executive officer is also the Secretary of Higher Education in the Governor's Cabinet.

1.3.2 The Board of Regents

The University System of Maryland is governed by the seventeen-member Board of Regents. With Senate advice and consent, the Governor appoints sixteen of the Board's members. Fifteen serve five-year terms and one, a student member, is appointed for a one-year term. The Secretary of Agriculture serves as an ex-officio voting member.

1.3.3 The Chancellor and the University System of Maryland Headquarters (USMH)

The Chancellor serves as Chief of Staff of the Board of Regents and as Chief Executive Officer of the University System of Maryland.

The [University System's Headquarters](#) directs and coordinates the eleven-campus system and the research and public service component. Located in Adelphi (which is near both the College Park campus and University College)³, USMH includes the offices of the Chancellor and six Vice Chancellors: the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, the Chief Operating Officer and the

²Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N. Liberty Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Telephone: 410-767-3301 or 1-800-974-0203.

³University System of Maryland Headquarters, 3300 Metzert Road, Adelphi, MD 20783. Telephone: 301-445-2740.

Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, the Vice Chancellor for Advancement, The Vice Chancellor for Communications, the Vice Chancellor for Environmental Sustainability, and the Vice Chancellor for Government Relations.

The administration of each campus is the responsibility of a President who reports to the Chancellor.

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