

INFORMATION REGARDING MARYLAND'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Maryland's higher education system consists of the Maryland Higher Education Commission and 222 higher education institutions. The Maryland Higher Education Commission, an independent agency created in 1988, is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of Maryland's higher education system. An organizational chart of Maryland's higher education system is attached as an [appendix](#).

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Maryland Higher Education Commission is the state of Maryland's higher education coordinating board. The commission is to establish statewide policies for Maryland public and private colleges and universities and for-profit career schools and administer state financial aid programs that affect students on a statewide basis. The commission consists of 12 members, including one student member appointed by the Governor with advice and consent of the Senate. The student member serves a one-year term, and all other members are appointed for five-year terms. The commission has two standing committees--the Finance Policy Committee and the Education Policy Committee. The Secretary of Higher Education serves at the pleasure of the commission and acts as Chief Executive Officer of the agency, including performing various duties assigned by the commission and overseeing the agency's permanent staff of 80 employees.

The commission's responsibilities include:

- State plan for postsecondary education - The commission is responsible for developing and updating a state plan for postsecondary education. The state plan is to describe statewide workforce needs and list goals and strategies for meeting those needs. The state plan is to guide all commission planning and decisions regarding budget recommendations and academic programs.
- Academic programs - The commission reviews requests to implement new academic programs. During the review process, the commission closely examines whether the program is consistent with the institution's educational mission and whether other Maryland colleges or universities offer the program.
- Mission statements - The commission reviews and approves mission statements for the state's public colleges and universities.
- Operating and capital budget recommendations - The commission is required to present to the Governor and the General

Assembly a consolidated operating and capital budget for higher education.

- Student financial aid - The commission administers 23 student financial aid programs.
- Accountability - The commission annually reviews accountability reports from the state's public colleges and universities and prepares a consolidated report for the Governor and General Assembly.
- Aid to community colleges - The commission administers the formula-based aid program that provides state funding to community colleges.
- Aid to independent institutions - The commission administers funding to eligible independent colleges and universities through a funding formula.
- Regional higher education centers - The commission recommends and administers all state operating funding for regional higher education centers not operated by the University System of Maryland.
- Private career schools - The commission serves as the state's regulator of private career schools. No private career school may operate in Maryland without commission approval.

MARYLAND POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

The state of Maryland has 222 higher education institutions, including:

Four-year public colleges and universities (11 institutions in the University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary's College of Maryland)	13
Research institutions (University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and University of Maryland Environmental Science)	2
Community colleges	16
Regional higher education centers	8
Independent institutions	31
Private career schools	152
Total	222

University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland is comprised of 11 universities, two research institutions, two regional higher education centers, and a system office. The system is governed by a 17-member board of regents, including one full-time student. The regents are appointed by the Governor and, with the exception of the student member, each regent is appointed for a five-year term. The regents are responsible for:

- Overseeing the system's academic, administrative, and financial operations.
- Formulating policy.
- Appointing the University System of Maryland chancellor and the presidents of the system's 13 institutions.

The system office of the University System of Maryland, which is led by Dr. William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, is staff to the board of regents. Staff members advocate on behalf of the 13 University System of Maryland institutions, facilitate collaboration and efficiencies among the institutions, and provide information about the system to the public.

Community Colleges

Maryland has 16 community colleges whose core mission is to provide affordable opportunities to all residents who desire and can benefit from higher education. The Maryland community colleges are major providers of academic instruction, career preparation, and workforce development. The community colleges are governed by local boards of trustees.

The community colleges receive funding from the state of Maryland, local appropriations, federal sources, and tuition and fees. The Maryland Higher Education Commission administers the state aid program for community colleges which is a formula-based aid program. The John A. Cade formula provides funding on a per student basis equal to 25 percent of the per student state aid for selected four-year higher education institutions.

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges was established in 1992 as an advocacy organization for Maryland's public community colleges. All 16 of the state's public community colleges are members of the association and support the association through an annual institutional dues assessment. The mission of the association is to develop and to execute a strategic direction for Maryland's community colleges.

Regional Higher Education Centers

Maryland has eight regional higher education centers, including two in the University System of Maryland. The centers are designed to ensure access to baccalaureate and graduate education in both unserved and underserved areas of Maryland at a reasonable cost to students and the state. The centers are also to provide linkages between higher education, local government, and business communities to address workforce needs.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission is responsible for the statewide coordinating of the regional higher education centers. This responsibility includes approving center mission statements and ensuring that courses and programs offered by the centers are within the scope of their approved missions and consistent with their strategic plans. In addition, the commission conducts annual evaluations of centers to ensure that centers continue to fulfill

goals and objectives as specified in the state plan and continue to meet both state and regional needs.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission administers state funding for the six regional higher education centers that are not governed by the University System of Maryland Board of Regents. The two regional higher education centers governed by the University System of Maryland submit their budget requests as part of the total University System of Maryland budget request. The commission reviews each regional higher education center's annual budget request and recommends funding based on:

- The number of full-time equivalent students in 2 + 2 programs and upper division and graduate levels.
- Special funding for the startup of new centers or new initiatives in high need areas.
- Evidence that the center meets mission and strategic plan goals and objectives as set forth by the center.
- Programs provided or to be provided that address the needs of citizens in unserved or underserved areas of the state.
- Programs provided or to be provided that respond to the needs of businesses and industries in the areas in which the center serves.
- State funds do not supplant local or county support identified in the center's five-year strategic plan.

STATE COMPARISONS

The following is a comparison of state statistics, enrollment, tuition, and state and local appropriations for North Dakota and Maryland as reported in *Measuring Up 2006* by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

	North Dakota	Maryland
State statistics		
Population (2005)	636,677	5,600,388
Projected percentage change in population (2005-20)	(1%)	16%
Projected percentage change in number of all high school graduates (2002-17)	(31%)	10%
Enrollment		
Students enrolled by institution type (2004)		
Public four-year institutions	29,540	101,768
Public two-year institutions	9,506	118,949
Private four-year institutions	4,470	28,566
Private two-year institutions	1,258	3,057
Students enrolled by level (2004)		
Undergraduate	44,774	252,340
Graduate	4,327	55,831
Professional	432	4,322
Enrollment status of students		
Full-time	37,878	165,614
Part-time	11,655	146,879

	North Dakota	Maryland
Average tuition (2005-06)		
Public four-year institutions	\$5,047	\$7,058
Public two-year institutions	\$3,081	\$2,832
Private four-year institutions	\$9,247	\$24,094
State and local appropriations for higher education		
Per \$1,000 of personal income (FY 2006)	\$11	\$5
Per capita (FY 2006)	\$338	\$224

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