

Maryland Higher Education Commission

MISSION

The mission of the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is to ensure that the people of Maryland have access to a high-quality, adequately-funded, effectively-managed, and capably-led system of postsecondary education that adheres to the principle and law governing equal educational opportunity and enables its citizens to make positive contributions to society and to thrive in the economy. It accomplishes this mission through the provision of statewide planning, leadership, coordination and advocacy for the State's postsecondary education institutions and their students directly. Stakeholders include the Governor and General Assembly, Maryland business and industry, and the citizenry as a whole.

VISION

A State where all citizens are equally prepared to be productive, socially-engaged, and responsible members of a healthy economy and an open and democratic society in which all citizens make contributions to creating and maintaining that economy and society.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. Ensure institutions and Maryland residents have the information and resources needed to benefit from equal access to postsecondary education.

Obj. 1.1 Maintain or increase the number of State financial aid publications distributed to the public.

Obj. 1.2 Maintain or increase the proportion of on-time Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application submissions relative to the number of high school seniors.

Obj. 1.3 Maintain or increase the number of on-time Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA)/FAFSA application submissions from students age 25 or older.

Obj. 1.4 Maintain or increase FAFSA completion rates in Maryland.

| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of organizations receiving publications for distribution | N/A | N/A | N/A | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Number of publications distributed to organizations receiving publications for distribution | N/A | N/A | N/A | 100 | 200 | 200 | 400 |
| ¹ Ratio of number of on-time FAFSA applications to number of high school graduates | 70% | 74% | 62% | 49% | 44% | 60% | 58% |
| ² Number of on-time FAFSA applications from students age 25 or older | 45,484 | 54,467 | 47,739 | 50,886 | 65,422 | 71,310 | 77,728 |
| ² Number of on-time MSFAA applications from students age 25 and older | N/A | N/A | 92 | 229 | 355 | 387 | 422 |
| Percentage of FAFSA completion by recent high school graduates as of June 30 each year | N/A | 51% | 62% | 49% | 52% | 54% | 54% |
| ¹ Year over year percent change in FAFSA completion as of June 30 each year | N/A | 3% | 5% | -13% | 16% | 16% | 16% |
| ² Number of on-time MSFAA applications from students age 16 to 24 | N/A | N/A | 774 | 1,624 | 1,771 | 1,930 | 2,104 |

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Goal 2. Improve response time to inquiries.

Obj. 2.1 Improve response time to inquiries in the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) and Program Review and Compliance (PRC).

| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of student complaints received through formal process by Academic Affairs | 18 | 15 | 33 | 80 | 76 | 75 | 75 |
| Number of telephone inquiries received by OSFA | 6,000 | 22,174 | 20,827 | 28,457 | 36,875 | 44,267 | 53,142 |
| Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees responding to complaints (Academic Affairs) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Number of FTE employees responding to phone inquiries (OSFA) | 12 | 13 | 9 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Number of student complaints resolved through formal process (Academic Affairs) | 15 | 12 | 13 | 35 | 45 | 40 | 40 |
| Median length of time to answer telephone inquiries received (OSFA) (minutes) | 5 | 4 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Number of FTE employees responding to email inquiries | 12 | 9 | 12 | 15 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Number of supplemental documents received per FTE employee for identified state aid programs | 7,552 | 7,833 | 6,134 | 2,973 | 701 | 920 | 1,251 |
| Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) OSFA employees responding to virtual appointments | 10 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Number of virtual appointments scheduled | 2,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,873 | 2,098 | 2,350 | 2,515 |

Goal 3. Expand informational opportunities for students entering or continuing in postsecondary education to ensure success.

Obj. 3.1 By 2024, increase the number of information-sharing events attended by MHEC staff to 150.

Obj. 3.2 By 2024, expand the number of organizations participating in the information-sharing network to 75.

| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of information events attended by MHEC staff | N/A | 11 | 5 | 11 | 30 | 15 | 20 |
| Number of participating organizations | 47 | 11 | 28 | 50 | 70 | 50 | 50 |
| Number of virtual events attended by MHEC staff | 48 | 10 | 31 | 2 | 11 | 10 | 20 |

Goal 4. Improve MHEC's information/message delivery using multiple social media.

Obj. 4.1 Expand use of social media.

| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of social media interactions | 4,572,577 | 2,354,000 | 10,063,317 | 1,303,591 | 1,054,322 | 1,200,000 | 1,300,000 |

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Goal 5. Improve MHEC's responsiveness to statutory obligations.

Obj. 5.1 By 2024, increase the percentage of program reviews completed on time to 100 percent.

Obj. 5.2 By 2024, increase the percentage of statutorily mandated reports submitted on time to 100 percent.

| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Number of complete academic program proposals received from in-state institutions (Program Review) | 674 | 528 | 651 | 548 | 462 | 500 | 550 |
| Number of complete proposals received from new institutions seeking to operate in Maryland (Certificate of Approvals for in-state institutions) (Institution Review) | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Number of complete proposals received from out-of-state institutions seeking to operate in Maryland (Certificate of Approvals for out-of-state institutions) (Institution Review) | 6 | 7 | 16 | 7 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Number of complete academic program proposals received from out-of-state institutions seeking to operate in Maryland (Institution Review) | 107 | 52 | 110 | 57 | 63 | 75 | 75 |
| Number of complete proposals from institutions seeking religious exemption (Institution Review) | 5 | 9 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| Number of registrations from out-of-state institutions for online/distance education to Maryland residents (Institution Review) | 39 | 52 | 47 | 49 | 57 | 50 | 50 |
| Number of complete Private Career School Training Provider Questionnaires received | 85 | 202 | 220 | 162 | 226 | 175 | 175 |
| Percent of Private Career School Training Provider Questionnaires reviewed within four weeks | 78% | 17% | 53% | 20% | 79% | 100% | 100% |
| Number of Private Career School applications received | 10 | 10 | 18 | 2 | 24 | 10 | 10 |
| Percent of Private Career School applications received reviewed within 30 days for completeness | 60% | 100% | 17% | 100% | 46% | 100% | 100% |
| Number of FTE employees conducting program reviews (Program Review) | 3 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Number of complete in-state academic program proposals subject to 60-day deadline (Program Review) | 156 | 145 | 157 | 182 | 115 | 150 | 150 |
| Percent of complete in-state academic program proposals processed in 60 days (Program Review) | N/A | 30% | 38% | 94% | 98% | 100% | 100% |
| Percent of statutorily mandated reports submitted on time | 55% | 21% | 44% | 45% | 0% | 100% | 100% |

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SELLINGER AID, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| ³ Percentage of Sellinger aid used for financial aid at state-aided independent institutions | 89% | 90% | 76% | 85% | 87% | 83% | 85% |
| Guaranteed Access Grants | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 3,092 | 3,246 | 4,843 | 4,694 | 13,295 | 14,226 | 15,222 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$37,461,004 | \$41,924,295 | \$63,815,007 | \$67,309,919 | \$168,612,281 | \$180,415,141 | \$193,044,201 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 642 | 835 | 874 | 2,698 | 6,373 | 6,947 | 7,572 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 8,574 | 12,335 | 21,050 | 28,765 | 51,062 | 90,642 | 160,903 |
| Next Generation Scholars Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards accepted | 98 | 81 | 160 | 191 | 222 | 258 | 300 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$1,375,200 | \$1,144,834 | \$3,070,177 | \$2,968,068 | \$3,638,230 | \$4,459,708 | \$5,466,669 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 27 | 33 | 56 | 81 | 87 | 93 | 100 |
| Educational Assistance Grants | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards accepted | 18,755 | 19,997 | 18,939 | 18,580 | 8,446 | 3,839 | 1,745 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$41,000,457 | \$44,859,076 | \$42,984,622 | \$42,385,729 | \$20,834,064 | \$10,240,669 | \$5,033,646 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 32,148 | 36,675 | 30,932 | 12,147 | 2,906 | 695 | 166 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | 7,776 | 1,860 | 16,354 | 1,647 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 139,639 | 136,860 | 243,747 | 214,414 | 334,504 | 521,855 | 814,137 |
| Senatorial Scholarships | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 6,929 | 7,056 | 9,485 | 7,034 | 6,647 | 6,281 | 5,936 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$4,801,310 | \$6,668,265 | \$9,433,553 | \$7,153,757 | \$6,819,972 | \$6,501,761 | \$6,198,397 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 1,696 | 1,840 | 2,449 | 2,019 | 2,566 | 3,261 | 4,145 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

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GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 408 | 454 | 626 | 736 | 2,046 | 2,613 | 4,647 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$3,534,393 | \$3,500,000 | \$5,728,354 | \$6,817,036 | \$9,464,369 | \$12,201,428 | \$17,143,270 |
| Delegate Scholarships | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 9,014 | 8,067 | 6,565 | 8,359 | 8,829 | 9,325 | 9,850 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$6,515,617 | \$6,499,543 | \$8,359,532 | \$6,991,577 | \$7,564,891 | \$8,185,217 | \$8,856,410 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 1,696 | 1,432 | 1,150 | 2,069 | 1,592 | 1,225 | 943 |
| Riley Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Scholarship | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 29 | 25 | 21 | 15 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$157,770 | \$153,628 | \$134,809 | \$102,665 | \$55,158 | \$29,634 | \$15,921 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 16 | 29 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 67 | 55 | 99 | 93 | 176 | 333 | 630 |
| Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 406 | 322 | 338 | 289 | 213 | 157 | 116 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$1,025,065 | \$908,013 | \$653,461 | \$336,402 | \$282,850 | \$237,823 | \$199,964 |
| Number of applicants | 2,573 | 549 | 1,871 | 1,822 | 1,986 | 2,165 | 2,360 |
| Tolbert Grant Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 339 | 343 | 303 | 274 | 261 | 249 | 237 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$169,500 | \$171,000 | \$174,500 | \$137,000 | \$130,500 | \$124,308 | \$118,411 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 66 | 47 | 84 | 169 | 56 | 19 | 6 |
| Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 72 | 130 | 103 | 85 | 34 | 14 | 5 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$786,077 | \$837,910 | \$547,999 | \$493,500 | \$180,500 | \$196,745 | \$214,452 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 1 | 14 | 11 | 18 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 285 | 480 | 422 | 103 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Part-Time Grant Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 5,628 | 5,258 | 5,576 | 4,178 | 3,802 | 3,460 | 3,148 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$5,068,505 | \$4,874,170 | \$4,743,750 | \$3,950,815 | \$2,594,807 | \$1,704,211 | \$1,119,288 |
| Number of applicants | 35,077 | 35,699 | 26,562 | 26,244 | 28,606 | 31,181 | 33,987 |
| Workforce Shortage Students Assistance Grants | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 327 | 337 | 508 | 304 | 272 | 243 | 218 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$1,070,000 | \$1,058,500 | \$1,670,000 | \$936,500 | \$843,015 | \$758,862 | \$683,110 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 222 | 201 | 185 | 146 | 265 | 481 | 873 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | 244 | 268 | 324 | 148 | 76 | 39 | 20 |
| Number of applicants | 1,160 | 1,035 | 1,452 | 1,261 | 4,803 | 5,235 | 5,706 |
| Veterans of Afghan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarships | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 131 | 132 | 196 | 108 | 87 | 70 | 56 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$709,959 | \$688,898 | \$1,021,759 | \$613,959 | \$521,566 | \$443,077 | \$376,400 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 58 | 78 | 69 | 63 | 70 | 78 | 86 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | 45 | 58 | 126 | 170 | 190 | 212 | 237 |
| Number of applicants | 246 | 237 | 436 | 553 | 536 | 520 | 534 |
| 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 179 | 168 | 354 | 267 | 198 | 147 | 109 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$277,000 | \$257,500 | \$513,000 | \$376,500 | \$365,500 | \$354,821 | \$344,455 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 31 | 83 | 104 | 198 | 237 | 284 | 340 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | 264 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 361 | 393 | 428 |
| Number of applicants | 1,150 | 887 | 1,322 | 1,521 | 2,530 | 4,208 | 7,000 |
| Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) for Foster Care Recipients | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$2,777 | \$14,802 | \$10,995 | \$9,259 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP) for Dentists | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 14 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 10 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$312,577 | \$304,663 | \$322,468 | \$356,100 | \$401,790 | \$453,342 | \$511,509 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 14 | 15 | 10 | 3 | 28 | 31 | 34 |
| Campus-Based Educational Assistance Grants | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 995 | 1,038 | 1,060 | 1,045 | 1,039 | 1,033 | 1,027 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$1,858,355 | \$1,838,150 | \$1,879,850 | \$1,581,650 | \$1,576,950 | \$1,572,264 | \$1,567,592 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Award | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 21 | 21 | 55 | 37 | 44 | 52 | 62 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$108,000 | \$126,877 | \$389,610 | \$373,352 | \$519,958 | \$724,133 | \$1,008,481 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 24 | 23 | 28 | 14 | 59 | 249 | 1,048 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 157 | 104 | 163 | 171 | 694 | 2817 | 3071 |
| Richard Collins III Leadership with Honors Award | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 84 | 90 | 117 | 129 | 99 | 76 | 58 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$580,027 | \$875,025 | \$1,050,319 | \$817,176 | \$851,307 | \$886,864 | \$923,905 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 37 | 17 | 22 | 6 | 26 | 113 | 488 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 91 | 54 | 245 | 243 | 1,036 | 4,417 | 4,815 |
| Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 106 | 105 | 214 | 317 | 534 | 900 | 1,515 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$1,795,182 | \$1,892,052 | \$4,142,632 | \$7,300,254 | \$12,534,588 | \$21,521,977 | \$36,953,387 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 7 | 21 | 23 | 59 | 48 | 39 | 32 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | 0 | 73 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 27 |
| Number of applicants | 259 | 293 | 423 | 481 | 1,417 | 4,174 | 4,550 |
| Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 629 | 698 | 751 | 555 | 676 | 823 | 1,003 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$918,599 | \$871,011 | \$998,652 | \$688,168 | \$892,780 | \$1,158,229 | \$1,502,604 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

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| Performance Measures | 2021 Act. | 2022 Act. | 2023 Act. | 2024 Act. | 2025 Act. | 2026 Est. | 2027 Est. |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | 2,014 | 1,904 | 3,043 | 2,637 | 3,494 | 4,630 | 6,134 |
| Total dollars awarded | \$6,277,965 | \$5,635,772 | \$9,561,240 | \$7,776,034 | \$9,252,293 | \$11,008,816 | \$13,098,810 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | 2,506 | 2,244 | 1,667 | 2,198 | 42 | 46 | 50 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | 0 | 0 | 4,703 | 8,677 | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Number of applicants | 5,789 | 5,017 | 12,540 | 87,848 | 97,616 | 1,084,710 | 120,531 |
| Number of applicants | 5,789 | 5,017 | 12,540 | 87,848 | 97,616 | 1,084,710 | 120,531 |
| Police Officer Scholarship | | | | | | | |
| Number of applicants | N/A | N/A | 63 | 61 | 179 | 525 | 1,541 |
| Number of awards | N/A | N/A | 5 | 34 | 42 | 52 | 64 |
| Total dollars awarded | N/A | N/A | 7,489 | 118,519 | 143,723 | 174,287 | 211,350 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | N/A | N/A | 1 | 5 | 10 | 20 | 40 |
| Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program (MLARP) Police Officers | | | | | | | |
| Number of supplemental documents received | N/A | N/A | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of applicants | N/A | N/A | 2 | 2 | 94 | 102 | 111 |
| Number of awards | N/A | N/A | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total dollars awarded | N/A | N/A | 15,250 | 33,510 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of applicants on the waiting list | N/A | N/A | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Department of Human Services Pilot Scholarship Program | | | | | | | |
| Number of awards | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 60 | 65 | 71 |
| Total dollars awarded | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 547,166 | 596,411 | 650,088 |
| Number of awards declined or canceled | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 46 | 50 | 55 |
| Number of applicants | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 172 | 187 | 204 |
| ¹ Percent of students receiving Maryland Community College | 2% | 4% | 4% | 3% | 5% | 4% | 4% |

NOTES

¹ Estimated data is an average of the previous 5-year's data

² 2025 data is estimated.

³ Estimated data is an average of the previous 3-year's data