



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE  
*Office of the President*

**Fiscal Year 2022 Capital Budget  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Budget Analysis**

**Senate Committee: Budget and Taxation  
Senate Subcommittee: Capital Budget  
Senator Douglas Peters, Chair  
Hearing Date: March 9, 2021**

**House Committee: Appropriations  
House Subcommittee: Capital Budget  
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair  
Hearing Date: March 9, 2021**

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) would like to express our sincere gratitude to Governor Hogan and the Maryland Legislature for their commitment to funding the construction of the first phase of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions building (SPHP) and the Campus Flood Mitigation project.

The University greatly appreciates the fiscal year 2022, \$18 million and subsequent future funding for the construction of the SPHP building. This facility is essential for UMES to meet the pharmacy program accreditation standards and to improve UMES' competitiveness for enrollment in the University's other health care programs.

UMES is proud of the inception of our newest health care discipline, the Physician Assistant (PA) Program, which began in Fall 2020. The PA Program will initially operate from the newly constructed first phase of the SPHP building. Physician Assistants (PAs) are highly trained healthcare professionals licensed to provide medical care services with the supervision of a doctor of medicine (MD) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO). This health profession program is expected to confer 102 degrees by 2025, which will increase the number of health professionals and improve access to quality health care in the State of Maryland.

The start of the PA program is an achieved goal of the UMES strategic plan to address the workforce demand for medical professionals, especially those with a rural emphasis. UMES fully expects to start new and grow the current medical programs, of which both phase 1 and phase 2 of the new SPHP buildings will facilitate those goals.

The School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPHP) endeavors to develop leaders who improve health in all populations. The School also prepares its graduates to lead change in health care via interprofessional education, research, and service on the Eastern Shore, in the nation, and the world. To this end, the new SPHP building will serve to meet the spatial needs of the School, enhance the delivery of its curricula, improve its research

infrastructure, and help meet the health care needs of the Eastern Shore of Maryland and the Delmarva region.

Currently, the pharmacy program operates out of five different buildings. The first phase of the new building will primarily provide space for this program. There are also a few designated spaces for the remaining health professions programs. Phase II of the new building will provide office, classroom, research, and specialized lab space for the kinesiology, physician assistant, physical therapy, and rehabilitation programs.



The classrooms and class laboratories will allow the faculty to use various forms of pedagogy to enhance the learning process. They will be technologically advanced and will meet the unique needs of this faculty. Classrooms and labs will also be designed to foster the kind of interdisciplinary training that our students will encounter in real world health care settings.

The state-of-the-art research facilities will advance the University's research agenda as a recently designated Carnegie Doctoral University with high research activity. They will also enhance the School's capacity to collaborate with the pharmaceutical industry and conduct translational and health disparities research. The research labs will enable collaboration within the School and across the University thereby improving our competitiveness for grant funding. Over the past several years, the faculty have been awarded six patents for their research in prostate cancer and epilepsy. Further, these facilities will allow the faculty and students to engage with the community in such efforts as: health fairs and health training events.

All of the counties on the Eastern Shore of Maryland are designated as Medically Underserved Areas and/or Health Professions Shortage Areas. The new building will allow the University to expand its programs to train more practitioners in an effort to meet the health care needs of the region and contribute to the nation's goal of achieving health equity for all. The assembly and conference meeting spaces will expand the University's commitment to the community by providing health and wellness activities and opportunities for continuing education training and certificate programs for health care providers in the region.

The SPHP building construction is 35% complete as of mid-February 2021. Most of the structural steel and concrete work is done, with the exception of any hardscape. Structure activities like masonry, windows and curtain wall, miscellaneous metal, roofing and wall framing are underway. Mechanical, electrical and plumbing rough-ins are all proceeding. COVID19 and wet weather conditions this past month has caused about 3 weeks of delay on the schedule, but the University is working with the contractor to recover that time.

The project team is making the required equipment adjustments to connect the School of Pharmacy to the new natural gas service line that is expected to reach the UMES campus late this summer. The anticipated SPHP construction completion is April 2022.



UMES is grateful for the funding we are receiving to address the campus flooding issues. The campus flood Mitigation design is near completion for the elements of the scope that are simple to implement, which are fortifying the basement infrastructures with flood mitigation equipment, renovations, and updates to utilities, sewer and storm systems.



Construction will be implemented in phases due to the type of work and different permit requirements. Phase I consists of improvements to prevent and mitigate the impact of flooding on affected campus facilities. Construction is anticipated to start in June 2021 and be completed in January 2022. Phase II consists of replacing the sanitary sewer along the Manokin River damaged by past floods.

Construction for this phase will start in October 2021 and be completed in May/June 2022.



Again, thank you so much for the recommendations to continue the funding for the construction of Phase I of the new School of Pharmacy and Health Professions building and for the ongoing support with the flood mitigation projects. UMES greatly appreciates the consideration and funding confirmations. UMES invites each of you to join us for the hard hat ceremony for the new facility on April 30, 2021.