



FY 2025 Capital Budget Testimony
Presented by SU President Carolyn R. Lepre

It is my pleasure to provide testimony to the Maryland General Assembly for Salisbury University's (SU) Fiscal Year 2025 capital budget request. On behalf of the entire University, we are extremely grateful of the Governor's and General Assembly's ongoing support for SU's capital projects. The continued support you provide our University has positively impacted the lives of countless students across the state and strengthened many of the communities on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Please allow me to thank Governor Moore and every member of the General Assembly for your support of our capital project request for the renovation of Blackwell Hall. With current and future support from the State of Maryland, this project will convert SU's former library into a comprehensive student services center, specifically designed to serve and support the unique needs of each student at SU. Your support to maintain this project in its current place within the Capital Improvement Plan is greatly appreciated.

Additionally, SU requests capital support for the construction of an academic building to house the University's College of Health and Human Services. With your support, this project would see to the creation of a building that replaces an outdated and ill-equipped building – Devilbiss Hall – with a new building that possesses sufficient space for SU to train and educate students pursuing careers in critical workforce needs like nursing, social work, and health sciences. Both the State, and the University, are experiencing a growing demand for health care professionals, and this new capital project would enable SU to better address those needs.

Blackwell Hall Renovation Project Update March 2024

Project Description:

Renovate the 33,191 NASF/67,196 GSF former library and construct a 2,139 NASF/2,773 GSF addition to Blackwell Hall on the campus of Salisbury University. The former library will be renovated to become a Student Services Center. Registrar, Financial Aid, Academic Advising, Career Services, Bursar, Admissions, Counseling Center, and Disabilities Resource Center services will be combined into one building to create a one-stop shop for student services. This will provide for better service while simultaneously freeing up space in other buildings that can be reallocated for much needed classroom, lab, and study space. The project will also replace the outdated mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems to bring the building up to current code; and the building will feature new elevators and restrooms. The FY 2025 budget includes funding to complete design and begin construction of this project.

Project Status:

The Blackwell Hall Renovation Project is currently in the final phase of planning. While the planning is being completed, the contractor is scheduled to begin hazardous material abatement and selective interior demolition in order to expedite the completion of the project so that the facility can be open in time for the 2026-2027 academic year. Full scale construction is expected to begin this summer pending Board of Public Works approval expected in June.

College of Health and Human Services Building Project Update March 2024

Project Description:

Construct an academic building on the Salisbury University main campus to house the School of Health Sciences, School of Nursing, School of Social Work, Center for Healthy Communities, and Medical Simulation Center. The project will consolidate academic departments dispersed across several different buildings and will allow the 55-year-old, outdated Devilbiss Hall to be demolished. Additionally, the proposed project will allow academic spaces in the Maggs Center to be renovated. The existing facilities have insufficient clinical space and need modern instructional space to meet accreditation requirements. The proposed College of Health and Human Services building will include state-of-the-art health sciences labs and simulation spaces as well as general classrooms and faculty offices.

Project Status:

The College of Health and Human Services Building is currently in the programming phase. Programs Part I and Part II have been submitted to the Department of Budget and Management's Office of Capital Budgeting for review.