



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

umbc.edu

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget

Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

House Appropriations Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Delegate Mark S. Chang, Chair

March 10, 2025

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Senator Craig J. Zucker, Chair

March 11, 2025



UMBC



UMBC CAPITAL BUDGET

2025 Legislative Hearings

Presented by

Valerie Sheares Ashby

President

University of Maryland, Baltimore County



The public mission of higher education is more important than ever, and it is an honor to work every day to advance this mission. It is an even greater joy to do so in the state of Maryland, where education is valued and understood for the good it brings to individuals, to society, and to our world.

Truly, Marylanders are the beneficiaries of our state's long history of support for higher education. They benefit from access to educational opportunities that advance their careers and change trajectories for entire families. They benefit from research that is saving lives and improving health, protecting natural resources in the state, and driving technological innovation in every sector. And they benefit from the vitality of the state that is strengthened by higher education's contributions to workforce and economic development, to arts and culture, and to civic engagement.

I am now in my third year as president of UMBC, a proud member of the University System of Maryland, and an institution known for being bold, innovative, and clear-eyed in pursuit of inclusive excellence. We are who we are because Maryland has long shared our belief in the value of our mission. As I look to who we will be in the future, and to the ways in which we can and will advance the state of Maryland and the lives of all Marylanders, I am inspired and deeply grateful for your support, your partnership, and your belief in UMBC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'V Sheares'.

Valerie Sheares Ashby
President, UMBC



By the Numbers

Who We Are

We pride ourselves on making education inclusive for all. This is a snapshot of our student body at our Baltimore County and Shady Grove campuses:

13,906

Total Enrollment*
* As of Fall 2024

29.9%

First-Generation Students

10,767

Undergraduate

30.5%

Transfer Students

3,139

Graduate

92.6%

In-State Students

90+

Countries Represented

Our Impact

Our students graduate ready to make a difference in Maryland and beyond.

78%

of those employed
obtained jobs in Maryland,
directly impacting
our economy

90,000+

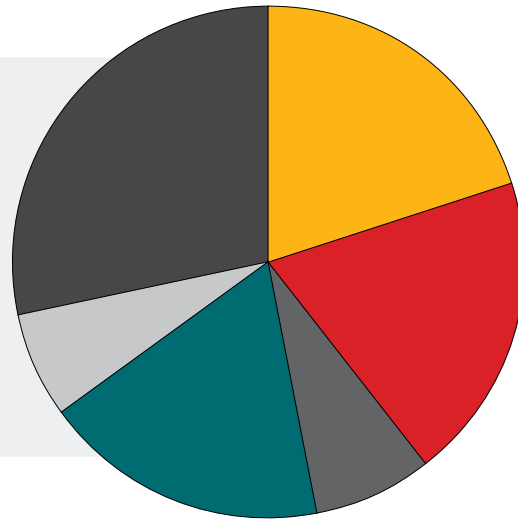
proud Retriever alumni

72%

stay in Maryland

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

- African American 20.2%
- Asian American 19.3%
- Hispanic 7.7%
- International 17.8%
- Other 6.8%
- White 28.2%



Student Services Building

To enhance the hub of student-centered activity at the heart of campus, a new Student Services Building (SSB) will centralize critical student support resources directly adjacent to student housing, the Albin O. Kuhn Library, the Center for Well-Being, and The Commons.

Providing students all-inclusive, ready access to vital services such as proactive advising, financial aid, transfer pathways, and career-readiness, in the SSB will help every student thrive.

Retrievers—no matter their pathway to higher education—will be uplifted along their journey to find their place in Maryland’s workforce, make an impact, and give back.

The SSB addresses urgent space needs and centers the student experience—and the building will be much more than a building: It will be a cornerstone of UMBC’s growing legacy of inclusive excellence.

Investing in Maryland’s Future

- **Increase** students’ satisfaction with service delivery and persistence along their path to graduation.
- **Increase** student retention and enhance recruitment.
- **Equip** students to navigate transfer pathways, first-generation and working student challenges, and neurodiverse learning opportunities.
- **Create** visibility for mentorship, experiential learning, career readiness, job placement, research opportunities, and other workforce pathways.
- **Innovate** ways for student veterans and other adult learners to gain access to new career opportunities.
- **Provide** alumni ways to give back, mentor students, develop talent, and hire other Retrievers into Maryland’s workforce.

Governor’s FY 2026 Five-Year Capital Plan

• FY 2029	\$4,910,000 (design)
• FY 2030	\$6,002,000 (design)
• OUT YEARS	\$161,088,000
• TOTAL COST	\$172,000,000
• GSF	120,000
• OPENING	Fall 2032



Janet and Walter Sondheim Hall Renovation

The building renewal of Janet and Walter Sondheim Hall will make urgently needed modernizations to this 50-year-old facility, and provide a suitable home for a 21st century research enterprise supporting UMBC's R1 status.

Sondheim Hall is home to teaching and research that promotes the health and well-being of people and communities throughout Maryland. Real work with real impact is being conducted in labs just steps away from classrooms. Psychologists, human geographers, ecologists, data scientists, policy analysts, and students of all majors are pursuing academic scholarship that requires accessible, welcoming, and collaborative spaces that are currently lacking in the building.

The Sondheim Hall project is emblematic of UMBC's commitment to expanding opportunities in graduate and undergraduate research. In FY2023, research conducted in Sondheim Hall represented more than 10% of UMBC R&D expenditures reported to the National Science Foundation.



Investing in Maryland's Future

- Develops spaces optimized to support student engagement with research and welcoming to community partners.
- Avoidance of \$60+ M in capital expenditures by not constructing a comparable new building.
- Extends the useful life of Sondheim another 50 years.

Governor's FY 2026 Five-Year Capital Plan

• FY 2028	\$3,724,000 (design)
• FY 2029	\$2,897,000 (design)
• FY 2030	\$66,689,000 (design, construction, and equipment)
• OUT YEARS	\$27,242,000
• TOTAL COST	\$100,552,000
• GSF	98,144
• OPENING	Spring 2031

Sherman Hall Renovation

Sherman Hall represents the heart of UMBC's investments in STEM education with a special emphasis (through both the Sherman and Meyerhoff Scholars Programs) on supporting high-needs areas that have a legacy of being underserved.

The ongoing renewal of Sherman Hall is underway with Phase I opening in fall 2025 and Phase II in spring 2027.

We thank the state for its support of the Sherman Hall renewal.



Above and right: Construction Progress



Investing in Maryland's Future

- Avoidance of future costly repairs.
- Avoidance of \$65 M in capital expenditures by not constructing a comparable new building.
- Extends the useful life of Sherman Hall another 50 years.

Governor's FY 2026 Five-Year Capital Plan:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| • Prior Allocations | \$63,990,000 |
| • FY 2026 | \$21,211,000
(construction and equipment) |
| • FY 2027 | \$9,087,000
(construction) |
| • TOTAL COST | \$94,288,000 |
| • GSF | 122,545 |
| • OPENING | Spring 2027 |





Office of the President

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

umbc.edu



UMBC