

Agency Name: Towson University #R30B24
Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget
Response to Department of
Legislative Services Analysis

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Senator Craig Zucker
March 17, 2026

House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
Delegate Malcolm Ruff
March 16, 2026

Towson University Concurs with the Governor's FY 2027 Capital Budget



FIRST FOR MARYLAND

CAPITAL BUDGET TESTIMONY

TO THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Presented by **Mark R. Ginsberg**

President, Towson University

March 2026

A UNIVERSITY ON THE RISE

One of America's top public universities

Wall Street Journal 2026 College Rankings

 **NO. 1**
public university
in Maryland

 **NO. 26**
public university
in the nation

 **NO. 64**
among all U.S.
universities,
public or private

U.S. News & World Report 2026 Best College Rankings

 **NO. 3**
public university
in the North

 **NO. 11**
university in the North,
public or private

Washington Monthly 2026 College Rankings

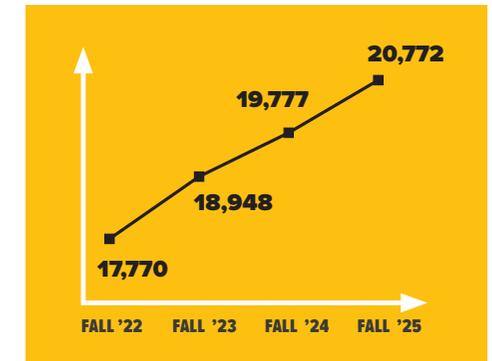
 **NO. 1**
public university
in Maryland

 **NO. 15**
master's university in the U.S.

 **NO. 1**
“Best Bang for Your Buck”
among Maryland’s public
universities

 **TOP 25**
“Best-in-Class” Colleges
in the U.S.

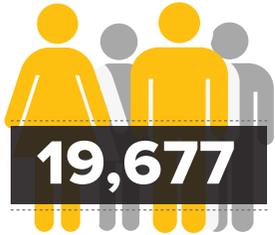
Most first-year applications in university history for each of the last four years



285
doctoral students
currently enrolled
Most in university history

AN ENGINE OF OPPORTUNITY

At TU, life-changing opportunities are for everyone.



TU'S STUDENT BODY

16,361 undergraduate students

3,316 graduate students

19,677

60% identify as a minoritized racial or ethnic group

90% are from Maryland

17% are first-generation college students

39% receive Pell grants

66% receive financial aid

Fall 2025 undergraduate enrollment

REFLECTING MARYLAND

Towson University's student body reflects Maryland's diverse state-wide population.

ETHNICITY	TOWSON UNIVERSITY*	STATE OF MARYLAND**
BLACK	34%	31.4%
ASIAN	6%	6.9%
LATINE/X	11%	11.1%

*Towson University's 2025 fall student enrollment

**Maryland's population via 2020 census

INCLUSIVE SUCCESS

SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

	OVERALL	BLACK	LATINE/X	PELL RECIPIENTS
TOWSON UNIVERSITY	69%	71%	65%	66%
MARYLAND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS*	71%	51%	69%	54%
NATIONAL AVERAGE	64%	46%	58%	53%

*Primary State Control Only, including Morgan State University and Saint Mary's College of Maryland

IPEDS - 2018 cohort data

FUELING MARYLAND'S ECONOMY

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



MORE THAN 120,000

TU alumni live and work in Maryland



LEADERS IN CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION

Recognized as a National Security Agency (NSA) Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations—one of just 22 institutions in the nation to earn the designation



FILLING CRITICAL WORKFORCE NEEDS

TU is the largest provider of educators and undergraduate health professionals in the state.

PRODUCING MARYLAND'S HEALTH CARE HEROES

BACHELOR'S DEGREES CONFERRED IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND RELATED CLINICAL SCIENCES BY MARYLAND INSTITUTIONS

1	Towson University	487
2	University of Maryland - College Park	439
3	University of Maryland - Baltimore	433
4	University of Maryland Global Campus	362
5	Stevenson University	184
6	Salisbury University	158
7	Notre Dame of Maryland University	131
8	Frostburg State University	128
9	Johns Hopkins University	108
10	Coppin State University	86

IPEDS - 2023-24 academic year

TU'S ECONOMIC IMPACT

based on FY2025



\$2.5 BILLION

in economic output



7,698 JOBS

statewide



\$101.9 MILLION

in state tax revenues

CENTRAL PLANT RESTORATION

TU's central plant is a mission-critical facility supporting campus-wide operations. Originally constructed in 1915 and renovated in 1988 and 2009, the facility serves as a core component of the university's infrastructure.

In July 2025, the central plant experienced significant damage as a result of heavy rainfall infiltration during a major storm event. Water intrusion led to an electrical fire and subsequent activation of the fire sprinkler system, necessitating the immediate shutdown and restoration of the facility. As a result, three electrical substations were exposed to water and sustained irreparable damage, requiring full replacement.

This project will restore and modernize the central plant through the replacement of the three damaged substations, upgrades to the associated chiller plant electrical systems and additional repairs and renovations required due to fire and water damage. Improvements will be designed to enhance system redundancy, resiliency and long-term reliability, reducing the risk of future disruptions and strengthening the facility's capacity to withstand extreme weather events.

Upon completion, the project will ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of the central plant, safeguarding critical campus utilities and supporting the university's long-term operational goals.

FY2027 FUNDING

Planning	\$850,000
Construction	\$15,900,000
Equipment	\$200,000
TOTAL COST	\$16,950,000

The FY2027 appropriation fully funds the design, construction and equipping of the central plant renovation.

SMITH HALL RENOVATION

When science disciplines moved to TU's new Science Complex in 2021, Smith Hall was largely mothballed. The adaptive reuse and renovation of Smith Hall will support the relocation of the university's mass communication and electronic media and film departments, helping to address an expected 44% increase in necessary net assignable square feet (NASF) needed to house TU's College of Fine Arts & Communication's projected enrollment growth over the next 10 years.

The project also includes the addition of a geothermal well field, which will accommodate nearly 90% of the heating and cooling loads for the building and provide extensive annual operational savings. With it, TU will become one of the first in the region to integrate geothermal energy.

FY2027 FUNDING

Construction	\$23,736,000
Equipment	\$12,237,000
TOTAL COST	\$35,973,000

The FY2027 appropriation provides the final funding necessary to complete construction and equip the facility, enabling full delivery of the renovated and reconstructed Smith Hall.



THIS PROJECT WILL:

-  Prevent an underutilized building from sitting vacant in the heart of TU's campus, having major safety and financial implications
-  Completely renovate a core campus asset to support student success and improve time to degree
-  Address the university's current 300,000 NASF space need deficit at a cost that is nearly 40% cheaper than constructing a new building

ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION

TU requires an additional electrical substation to support current and future campus development as well as increased research activity as the university pursues R2 Carnegie Classification. This project calls for significant modifications to the existing campus distribution to increase capacity and allow for the retirement of the old switchgear, which is well beyond its recommended lifespan. With TU's current central plant electrical substation at approximately 95% capacity, TU is inching closer to firm electrical capacity, making this facility a critical need for our campus.

Environmental Impact & Sustainability

The new electrical substation will allow TU to incorporate long-term and on-going electric distribution planning to facilitate electrification and decarbonization to comply with state law. As part of Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act passed in 2022 and the Building Energy Performance Standards, TU is required to be fully net zero by 2040. This includes fully decarbonizing the campus and ensuring that our buildings are all electric. In addition, all fossil fuel-based systems on campus (all-natural gas building heating and hot water systems) must be transitioned to all electric systems. This will be very difficult—nearly impossible—without the new substation.

FY2027 FUNDING

Planning	\$2,820,000
Construction	\$10,000,000
TOTAL COST	\$12,820,000

The FY2027 appropriation initiates design and early construction of the new electrical substation. Equipment funding is planned in future fiscal years.

THIS PROJECT WILL:



Reduce the deferred maintenance on campus by \$7 million



Increase the power capacity available to serve campus and meet future needs



Alleviate strain on an electrical power supply station that has supported recent campus development



Reduce TU's carbon footprint and CO2 emissions, as well as energy costs, by up to \$500,000 per year

STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING

TU intends to construct a new Student Services Building, which will serve as the front door to the university—officially welcoming prospective students and visitors to campus for their first visit. The new space, designed to address current and future growth needs, will relocate and house multiple university departments that are currently spread out across campus. It will create a one-stop shop for key administrative student services, including Enrollment Services, Tutoring & Learning Services, Academic Advising, Accessibility & Disability Support Services, English Language Center, Military & Veterans Center and the International Initiatives Office.

The building will showcase TU’s impact as one of America’s top public universities, serving as the central hub for campus tours, informational sessions and meetings with prospective families. In addition to housing student services, the building will be home to the university welcome center and alumni functions, providing students comprehensive support from the first visit to campus throughout the rest of their life as a proud alum.

THIS PROJECT WILL:

-  Reduce the deferred maintenance on campus by \$23 million
-  Increase enrollment by providing a strong first impression to prospective students and families
-  Serve prospective students, continuing students and alumni to create a seamless and supportive campus experience
-  Combine key student services into one central location to create a vibrant hub for engagement at every stage of the student journey
-  Create a welcoming space for alumni to stay connected and give back to the university

FUNDING PLAN

FY2029	\$3,522,000 Planning
FY2030	\$2,348,000 Planning

The Student Services Building project is fully planned as a future GO-bond-funded capital investment totaling \$92.8 million. Initial planning funds are scheduled to begin in FY2029, with additional planning funds to be scheduled in subsequent years to complete design and pre-construction activities. Construction funding, previously anticipated to begin in FY2031, has been delayed to out-years, reflecting a revised project timeline.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

TU seeks to create a modernized facility for the College of Business & Economics, which is currently housed in Stephens Hall—one of the university’s original buildings constructed in 1915. Interest for CBE programs is on the rise, with business administration being TU’s top undergraduate major during the 2025–26 academic year. An enhanced facility is needed based on existing space deficiencies and projected growth.

LINTHICUM HALL RENOVATION

Linthicum Hall was constructed in 1968 and has never undergone major renovation. The dated facility currently holds \$30 million of deferred maintenance, which will be eliminated with this renovation. Renovation, rather than demolition, allows TU to address space deficits at a fraction of the cost and time needed for new construction. This project will replace the building’s mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, upgrade restrooms and correct existing ADA deficiencies.



Towson University proposed campus in 2030

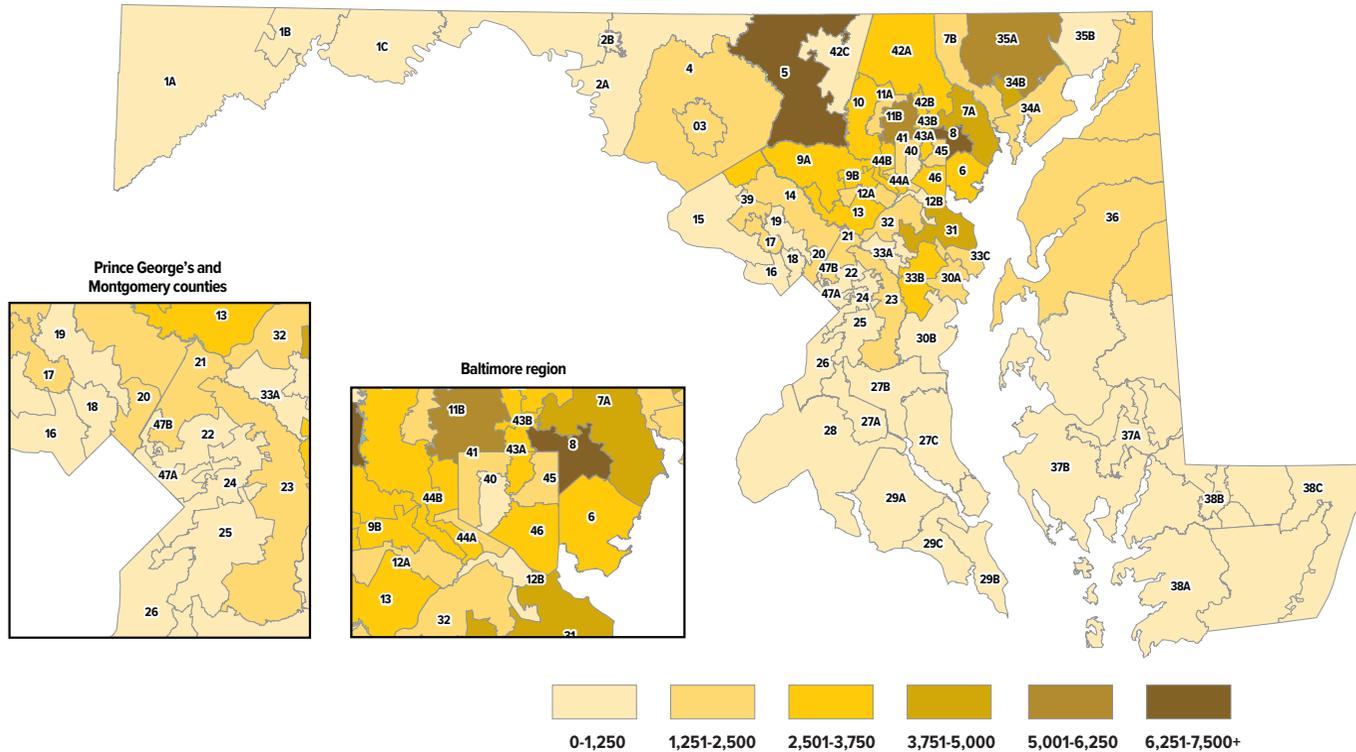
CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

With ambitious plans for TU’s future, a modernized campus is essential to enhance student success, support world-class faculty and staff and expand the university’s impact across the region. TU has embarked on comprehensive planning to develop the university’s next Campus Master Plan, which will include two subplans: the Sustainability & Climate Action Plan (SCAP) and Energy and Decarbonization Plan. Together, these plans contribute to TU’s shared vision of a sustainable, efficient and vibrant campus.

[TOWSON.EDU/MASTERPLAN](https://www.towson.edu/masterplan)

ALUMNI THROUGHOUT MARYLAND

More than 120,000 Towson Tigers live in Maryland.



1A.....	89	12B.....	147	28.....	1291	38A.....	154
1B.....	175	13.....	3001	29A.....	679	38B.....	254
1C.....	136	14.....	1637	29B.....	451	38C.....	783
2A.....	911	15.....	965	29C.....	451	39.....	1515
2B.....	347	16.....	740	30A.....	1099	40.....	1264
3.....	2381	17.....	1616	30B.....	837	41.....	1330
4.....	1972	18.....	608	31.....	4474	42A.....	3227
5.....	6705	19.....	1137	32.....	2304	42B.....	1545
6.....	2697	20.....	1398	33A.....	694	42C.....	1397
7A.....	4504	21.....	1439	33B.....	602	43A.....	2709
7B.....	2065	22.....	709	33C.....	1300	43B.....	3251
8.....	6893	23.....	1441	34A.....	2207	44A.....	1923
9A.....	3053	24.....	1050	34B.....	4773	44B.....	1174
9B.....	1606	25.....	903	35A.....	5652	45.....	1766
10.....	2948	26.....	623	35B.....	850	46.....	2824
11A.....	1919	27A.....	232	36.....	1801	47A.....	228
11B.....	6233	27B.....	775	37A.....	238	47B.....	103
12A.....	1980	27C.....	658	37B.....	734		



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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