



**Distance Learning at  
Maryland Colleges and Universities,  
Academic Year 2003-04**

**September 2005**

**MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**George F. Pappas, Chairman**

**Donald J. Slowinski, Sr., Vice Chairman**

**Joann A. Boughman**

**Anne Osborn Emery**

**Alicia Coro Hoffman**

**Iлона Modly Hogan**

**Kevin M. O'Keefe**

**Emmett Paige, Jr.**

**Sherman L. Ragland, II**

**Nelson J. Sabatini**

**Mario F. VillaSanta**

**Colleen Welch**

**Calvin W. Burnett  
Secretary of Higher Education**

**Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor**

**Michael S. Steele  
Lt. Governor**

## *Introduction*

This report discusses distance learning (DL) activities of Maryland colleges and universities during academic year 2003-2004, as reported by the institutions. This data was collected in fall 2004 as a part of the regular postsecondary education data collection of the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Out-of-state institutions operating in the State were not included. "Distance learning," as used here, refers to education or training delivered *off-campus* via electronic technologies, including video, audio, and computer-based instruction. It does not include courses conducted exclusively via traditional print-based correspondence or courses in which the instructor travels to the remote site to deliver instruction in person for all class meetings.

Since the first survey of distance learning covering calendar year 1997, immense changes have occurred in the use of information technology in Maryland's colleges and universities. Much of this has been due to the coordination, encouragement, and leadership provided by the founders of the *Maryland Community College Teleconsortium* (MCCT) and *MarylandOnline* (MOL). These two organizations (merged into an expanded MOL in 1999) have developed statewide guidelines, provided statewide faculty technology training, and improved the student services available to distance learners in Maryland. In addition, since 1997, University of Maryland University College (UMUC) has completed its transformation into the nation's leading virtual institution. Additionally, UMUC provided the administrative home for the birth and development of *MarylandOnline*.

Finally, it is important to note that distance learning is not for everyone. Certain institutions have made a clear policy decision that the provision of distance learning is not appropriate to their mission. In other cases, faculty members have decided that their discipline does not lend itself to distance learning.

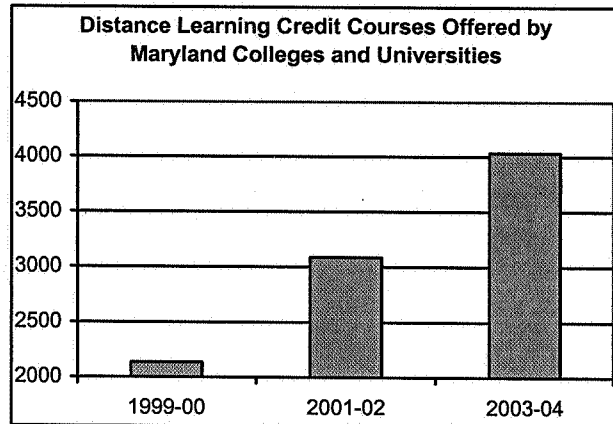
Principal Author: Laura Filipp

## *I. Credit-Bearing Activity Measures*

### **Credit Courses Offered by Distance Learning**

During 2003-2004, 65 percent of Maryland degree-granting institutions offered courses in DL format. Over the past five years, the number of DL courses offered by Maryland colleges and universities increased by 89 percent, from 2,135 to 4,035.

Every segment experienced solid growth over this period. The fastest growing segment was the community colleges, at which DL credit offerings more than doubled since 1999. The number of DL credit courses rose by 70 percent at the public four-year campuses, due largely to UMUC.



**Table 1. Trends in DL Credit Courses by Segment, 1999-2003**

	1999-00	2001-02	2003-04	Percent change: 1999-2003
Community Colleges	1,013	1,662	2,219	119.1%
4-year publics				
UMUC	536	782	947	76.7%
Other 4-year publics	252	335	392	55.6%
Total 4-year publics	788	1,117	1,339	69.9%
Independents	334	308	477	42.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,135</b>	<b>3,087</b>	<b>4,035</b>	<b>89.0%</b>

In 2003-2004, over half (55 percent) of Maryland's DL credit courses were taught at community colleges. UMUC was responsible for 24 percent, other 4-year publics, 10 percent, and independents, 12 percent.

As the following chart shows, every Maryland community college offered DL credit courses. The most active included Anne Arundel Community College (308 courses),

Prince George's Community College (280 courses), Community College of Baltimore County (277 courses), and the College of Southern Maryland (259 courses). Ten of the 13 public four-year campuses offered DL credit courses. UMUC led by far with 947 DL credit courses, the most for any single institution in the State. Other public four-year institutions offered less than 100. Ten independent colleges and universities offered DL credit courses. Capitol College (282 courses) and Johns Hopkins University (110 courses) represented the overwhelming majority.

Community Colleges		Public 4-Year		Independents	
Allegany	96	Bowie	37	Capitol	282
Anne Arundel	308	Coppin	24	Goucher	46
Baltimore City	142	Frostburg	30	Hood	1
Carroll	88	Towson	6	Johns Hopkins	110
Cecil	4	UB	67	MICA	5
Col Southern Md	259	UMB	96	McDaniel	7
Chesapeake	97	UMBC	38	Mt. St. Mary's	6
CCBC	277	UMCP	86	Natl. Labor	1
Frederick	113	UMES	8	Notre Dame MD	17
Garrett	38	UMUC	947	Villa Julie	2
Hagerstown	37				
Harford	92				
Howard	147				
Montgomery	187				
Prince Georges	280				
Wor-Wic	54				
Total	2,219		1,339		477

### **Credit Enrollment in Distance Learning Courses**

Since 1997, duplicated enrollments in DL courses have been tracked by this survey and are in this report included to show trends over time. But duplicated enrollments only represent the number of registrations—if a student registers for two courses, two enrollments are counted. This year, for the first time, unduplicated enrollments in DL courses have been reported, giving a more accurate picture. Unduplicated enrollments represent the true number of students taking DL courses.

#### Trends in Duplicated Credit Enrollment by Segment

Duplicated enrollments in credit courses offered by DL more than doubled at Maryland colleges and universities during the past five years, from 53,194 to 136,357. There was substantial growth at all of the higher education segments, as the following table shows.

		1999-00	2001-02	2003-04	Percent 5-Year growth
Community Colleges		16,059	29,742	41,573	158.9%
4-year publics	UMUC	31,424	55,749	76,229	142.6%
	Other 4-yr publics	3,367	6,534	9,595	185.0%
	Total 4-year publics	34,791	62,283	85,824	146.7%
Independents		2,344	4,252	8,960	282.3%
Total		53,194	96,277	136,357	156.4%

#### Unduplicated Credit Enrollment

A total of 65,342 students enrolled in credit DL courses at Maryland colleges and universities during 2003-04. Approximately 18 percent of all students statewide took at least one DL course. On the State's public campuses, about one-fifth of undergraduates and almost one-third of graduate students took at least a single DL course. Among the ten independent institutions that offered DL, about five percent of the students were enrolled in at least one course with this format.

	Undergraduate	Graduate
Community Colleges	17%	-
UMUC	87%	86%
Other 4-Year Publics	3%	9%
Four-Year Public Total	23%	32%
Independents	2%	8%

\* Salisbury had no DL courses and is not included. Independents include Capitol, Goucher, Hood, Johns Hopkins, MICA, McDaniel, Mt. St. Mary's, National Labor, Notre Dame of MD, and Villa Julie.

Of the students enrolled in DL credit courses, 54 percent were at a public four-year campus (49 percent—30,789 students—at UMUC alone), 43 percent at a community college, and 4 percent at an independent institution. The following chart shows the breakdown by school.

Community Colleges		Public 4-Year		Independents	
Allegany	1,622	Bowie	751	Capitol	596
Anne Arundel	4,602	Coppin	154	Goucher	174
Carroll	617	Frostburg	406	Hood	2
Cecil	38	Towson	172	Johns Hopkins	1,340
Col Southern MD	2,233	UB	705	MICA	34
Chesapeake	1,715	UMB	1,009	McDaniel	73
CCBC	4,385	UMBC	250	Mt. St. Mary's	64
Balto City	1,703	UMCP	644	Natl. Labor	13
Frederick	1,619	UMES	94	Notre Dame MD	255
Garrett	191	UMUC	30,789	Villa Julie	36
Hagerstown	806				
Harford	1,321				
Howard	1,806				
Montgomery	4,113				
Prince Georges	319				
Wor-Wic	691				
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,781</b>		<b>34,974</b>		<b>2,587</b>

**Student Credit Hours (Credit Courses only)**

Distance learning accounted for 381,755 student credit hours, approximately 8 percent of the total credit hours generated at Maryland postsecondary institutions in 2003-04. At the State's public institutions, about 8 percent of total undergraduate credit hours and 20 percent of graduate credit hours were classified as DL. Among the ten independent institutions that offered it, DL represented about two percent of total credit hours.

	Undergraduate	Graduate
Community Colleges	7%	-
UMUC	71%	79%
Other 4-Year Publics	< 1%	4%
Four-Year Public Total	9%	20%
Independents	< 1%	4%

\* Salisbury had no DL and is not included. Independents include Capitol, Goucher, Hood, Johns Hopkins, MICA, McDaniel, Mt. St. Mary's, National Labor, Notre Dame of MD, and Villa Julie.

By far, most of the total DL credit hours generated by Maryland postsecondary institutions were classified as undergraduate. UMUC was responsible for 57 percent of the State's total undergraduate DL credit hours and 70 percent of graduate DL credit hours.

	Undergraduate	Graduate
Community Colleges	121,520	-
4-Year Publics		
UMUC	172,937	53,908
Other 4-yr publics	9,880	9,563
Total 4-year publics	182,817	63,471
Independents	884	13,063
<b>Total</b>	<b>305,221</b>	<b>76,534</b>

### **Credit Degree Programs**

Nineteen Maryland colleges and universities offered a total of 101 degree programs primarily or entirely via DL. This is almost twice the number of colleges—and 38 percent more DL degree programs—than reported just two years earlier.

Of the State's community colleges, two-thirds offered degree programs primarily or entirely in DL format. One-half of public four-year colleges and universities offered DL degree programs. Three independent institutions (Capitol College, Goucher College, and Johns Hopkins University) had these arrangements.

Of the DL degree programs offered by Maryland campuses in 2003-04, half were at the associate's level; 30 percent at the master's level. Two-thirds of all degree programs available at the bachelor or graduate level by DL in Maryland were offered by UMUC.

	Community Colleges	UMUC	Other Public 4-years	Independents	Total Degree Programs
Associate	50				50
Bachelor's		17	2		19
Master's		17	3	10	30
Doctorate			2		2
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>101</b>

### **Primary Mode of Delivery: Credit Courses**

The most popular mode of distance education delivery of credit courses in Maryland continues to be asynchronous online instruction. This instruction is entirely computer-based, available through the Internet. In 2003-04, 67 percent of all DL credit courses in the State were delivered via asynchronous online. The following chart ranks instructional



delivery methods in order of usage, showing how the popularity of various approaches has changed since 1997.

	n courses in 2003	rank in 2003	rank in 2001	rank in 1997
Asynchronous online	2,688	1	1	3
Two-way online	568	2	4	4
One-way pre-recorded video	313	3	2	5
Two-way interactive video	247	4	3	2
Other	168	5	-	-
One-way live video	51	6	5	1

## *II. Non-Credit Activity Measures*

### Non-credit Courses Offered by Distance Learning

The number of non-credit DL courses at Maryland colleges and universities more than quadrupled since 1999. Almost all of these courses were offered at community colleges.

		1999-00	2001-02	2003-04	Percent 5-Year growth
Community Colleges		394	776	1,840	367.0%
4-year publics	UMUC	12	12	12	0.0%
	Other 4-yr publics	4	50	0	-100.0%
	Total 4-year publics	16	62	12	-25.0%
Independents		9	0	2	-77.8%
Total		419	838	1,854	342.5%

### Non-Credit Duplicated Enrollment in Distance Learning Courses

The non-credit duplicated enrollment quadrupled in the State in the past five years. Again, most of the growth was at the community colleges.

		1999-00	2001-02	2003-04	Percent 5-Year growth
Community Colleges		2,009	2,769	5,287	163.2%
4-year publics	UMUC	0	2,851	3,084	8.2%
	Other 4-yr publics	68	75	0	-100.0%
	Total 4-year publics	68	2,926	3,084	5.4%
Independents		13	0	27	107.7%
Total		2,090	5,695	8,398	301.8%