

# **MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

## **MEETING BOOKLET**

Time: 1:00 PM  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022

Place: Video Teleconference  
(Google Meet)

# Maryland Higher Education Commission

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair

Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.

Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.

Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.

James E. Coleman

Barbara Kerr Howe

Charles McDaniels, Jr.

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

James B. Sellinger, Sr.

Ray Serrano, Ph.D.

Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.

Haleemat Y. Adekoya, Student Commissioner

**James D. Fielder, Ph.D.**  
**Secretary**

**Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.**  
**Governor**

**Boyd K. Rutherford**  
**Lt. Governor**



**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Boyd K. Rutherford**  
Lt. Governor

**Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph. D.**  
Chair

**James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.**  
Secretary

## Maryland Higher Education Commission Meeting Agenda

**TIME:** 1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
May 25, 2022

**PLACE:** Video Teleconference  
(Google Meet)

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<b>Adjournment</b>		

*The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.*

**Maryland Higher Education Commission**  
Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 via video teleconference (Google Meet).

**Commission members present:**

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair	Charles McDaniels, Jr.
Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	Ray Serrano, Ph.D.
Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.	Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
James E. Coleman	Haleemat Y. Adekoya, Student Commissioner

**Staff members present:**

James D. Fielder, Ph.D.	Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.
Rhonda Wardlaw	Jennifer Katz
Soma Kedia	Trish Gordon McCown
Lee Towers	Donna Thomas
Everette Jackson	Jacqueline Colkley

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Seurkamp** at approximately 1:00 p.m. A meeting quorum was established with all ten (10) members present.

**Chair's Remarks**

**Chair Seurkamp** welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. She gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

**Secretary's Remarks**

**Secretary Fielder** reported that he attended a hearing of the Senate Executive Nominations Committee in Annapolis on March 14 during which Dr. Karen Salmon and Judge Barbara Kerr Howe appeared. MHEC is also currently in the midst of recruitment efforts for 5 new Academic Affairs staff members.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Commission Minutes Approval**

**Commissioner Sellinger** motioned to approve the February 23, 2022 meeting minutes. **Commissioner Serrano** seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Commissioner Committee Updates**

**Education Policy Committee: Commissioner Boyd** reported that the Committee met recently (on March 14) to review the transfer regulations. The meeting was very informative and helpful to understanding what the new regulations would entail.

**Outreach, Grants, and Financial Assistance Committee: Commissioner Coleman** did not have an update to share. However, the Committee will be meeting next month.

**Finance and Operations Committee: Secretary Fielder** reported that all of their budget hearings (during the legislative session) have concluded, and MHEC continues to fill staff vacancies in the agency.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Commissioner McDaniels** reported that the Committee met recently in March to review their goals for the year. Committee members were pleased that MHEC was able to incorporate their suggestions into the guidelines for this year's Cultural Diversity Report. They will meet again in April and hope to develop a mission statement for the Committee.

### **Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Financial Assistance Advisory Council (FAAC): 2022 Connecting Students to Financial Aid Report – Information Item**

**Chair Seurkamp** recognized Ms. Donna Thomas, Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance, who asked Mr. Chris Zimmermann (Co-Chair of FAAC and Director of Financial Aid at the College of Southern Maryland) to present this item. Mr. Zimmermann informed the Commission that the Council is required to submit this report to the Maryland General Assembly each year. The report identifies ways to assist county boards with connecting students to financial aid opportunities. This includes determining best practices and compiling relevant materials and toolkits. FAAC conducted a survey of Maryland high schools to inquire about FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and MSFAA (Maryland State Financial Aid Application) outreach. The responses revealed that, despite the efforts of high schools, parental engagement was low, and it was usually a challenge to arrange for financial aid experts to attend outreach events. Various clarifying questions were asked by the Commissioners.

### **Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.02.02 – Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Action Item**

**Chair Seurkamp** recognized Ms. Thomas who presented this item. Under § 18-1501 et seq., of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program (Hoffman LARP) provides State assistance in the repayment of educational loans for the purpose of attracting qualified individuals to fields of employment in government and the nonprofit sector, particularly those in which there are critical manpower shortages in the State and lower salaries than in the private sector. The Hoffman LARP is governed by COMAR 13B.08.02.

In 2021, the State enacted the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future—Implementation, 2021 Maryland Laws Ch. 36 (House Bill 1300 (2020)), which amended the requirements for participation in the Hoffman LARP that are set forth in Educ. § 18-1502(c). In particular, the statute was amended to expand eligibility to include public school teachers who teach fine arts subjects and to redefine the pool of eligible schools based on the percentages of students enrolled in free and reduced price lunch programs and the school’s loss of Title I status.

Upon the Commission’s approval, the proposed regulations and regulatory amendments will be submitted to the legislature’s Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), after which they are submitted to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publication in the Maryland Register. After a public comment period, they may be brought back before the Commission for final adoption.

Ms. Thomas recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed regulatory amendments to the eligibility requirements for the Hoffman LARP; and (2) authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD.

**Commissioner Serrano** inquired if there was information on who the applicants were. Ms. Thomas responded that this information was not collected. **Commissioner Serrano** suggested that the application could simply ask one or two demographic questions to determine this data. **Commissioner Boyd** made a motion for approval and **Commissioner Serrano** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.10.03 – Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program – Action Item**

**Chair Seurkamp** recognized Ms. Thomas who presented this item. Under § 18-301 et seq., of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Program of Educational Excellence Awards provides need-based financial assistance to students, including through the provision of Guaranteed Access Grants. The awarding of Guaranteed Access Grants is governed by COMAR 13B.08.10.

In 2021, the Guaranteed Access Grant program was amended to allow students in grade 10 to prequalify for the Guaranteed Access Grant if they meet certain eligibility criteria, which had previously been limited to students in grades 7 through 9. The statute also was amended to establish prequalification eligibility criteria for students in grades 9 and 10.

Upon approval by the Commission, the proposed regulations and regulatory amendments are submitted to the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), after which they are submitted to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publication in the Maryland Register. After a public comment period, they may be brought back before the Commission for final adoption.

Ms. Thomas recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed regulatory amendments to the eligibility requirements for students in grades 9 and 10 to prequalify for the Guaranteed Access Grant; and (2) authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD.

**Commissioner Coleman** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner McDaniels** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department of Finance and Administration – Office of Student Financial Assistance – Approval of Proposed New Regulations for COMAR – Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program – Action Item**

**Chair Seurkamp** recognized Ms. Thomas who presented this item. The Teaching Fellows for Maryland Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to Maryland students who, upon completion of an undergraduate or graduate teacher certification program, pledge to work as public school or public prekindergarten teachers at Maryland schools that have at least 50% of the students in the school eligible for free or reduced price meals (FRPM). The program waives certain eligibility requirements, such as GPA and test scores, for individuals who have been teaching assistants at a public school or public prekindergarten program in the State for at least two years.

The program offers substantial funding to these students: for students at public senior higher education institutions, 100% of the tuition, fees, room, and board for a resident undergraduate or graduate student; and, for students at private nonprofit institutions of higher education that agree to provide matching grants under this program, either 100% of the tuition and fees of a resident undergraduate or graduate at University of Maryland College Park or 50% of the tuition and fees of a resident undergraduate or graduate at the institution, whichever is less, and 100% of the room and board of a resident undergraduate or graduate student at the institution.

In light of Maryland's current teacher shortage and as part of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future—Implementation Act (2021 Maryland Laws Ch. 36), the legislature mandated increasing funding for this program from \$2,000,000 per year to \$4,000,000 for FY2022, \$8,000,000 for FY23, \$12,000,000 for FY24, and, starting in FY25, \$18,000,000 per year.

Upon approval by the Commission, the proposed regulations are submitted to the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), after which they are submitted to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publication in the Maryland

Register. After a public comment period, they may be brought back before the Commission for final adoption.

Ms. Thomas recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed new regulations for the Teaching Fellows of Maryland Scholarship Program; and (2) authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD.

**Commissioner Adekoya** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Serrano** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Department of Academic Affairs – Approval of Proposed New Regulations and Amendments to COMAR – Transfer Between Public Institutions of Higher Education – Action Item**

**Chair Seurkamp** recognized Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, to present this item. Dr. Dow informed the Commission that, since their last meeting when the transfer regulations were first presented to the Commissioners, MHEC has met with various stakeholders to review the draft, including community college registrars and admissions officers. As a result, further edits were made to the draft for consistency, clarification and word usage. These changes were presented to the Education Policy Committee on March 14, 2022. To summarize, the proposed regulations repeal 9 existing MHEC regulations regarding transfer and articulation agreements, add 15 new regulations, and amend 5 existing regulations.

More specifically, the proposed regulations:

- Add a transfer evaluation and review process to implement the Transfer with Success Act.
- Distinguish the transfer of completed courses from the awarding of credits for transferred courses.
- Create new statewide standards for the substantive evaluation of transfer requests and clarify existing standards.
- More fully integrate transfer planning and articulation agreements into the Commission’s Academic Program Review process.
- Create additional transparency for students.
- Add new terms and definitions and replace outdated terminology.
- Significantly reorganize the existing regulations, using clear, direct language.

Dr. Dow recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed new regulations and regulatory amendments regarding transfer between public institutions of higher education; and (2) authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD.

**Commissioner Boyd** made a motion for approval and **Commissioner Coleman** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

**Commissioner Coleman** made a motion to adjourn and **Commissioner McDaniels** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:52 p.m.



Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.  
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.  
Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 25, 2022  
**TO:** Maryland Higher Education Commissioners  
**FROM:** Julea Seliavski, Chair, Student Advisory Council  
**SUBJECT:** 2021-2022 Student Advisory Council Annual Report

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Presented below is a summative report of the activities of the 2021-2022 Student Advisory Council. Recommended goals for the 2022-2023 cohort are also presented.

### **2021-2022 Student Advisory Council** Annual Report to the Maryland Higher Education Commission

#### **2021-2022 Meeting Dates and Discussion Topics**

September 11, 2021	
September 25, 2021	
October 16, 2021	COVID-19
November 20, 2021	Special Populations
December 4, 2021	HS to College Transition: Finances
January 22, 2022	
January 29, 2022	Student Privacy; Initiatives around People who are Incarcerated
April 23, 2022	
May 14, 2022	Opioid Epidemic: Information and Resources

Due to COVID-19, all meetings were held virtually.

#### **2021-2022 Leadership**

Julea Seliavski (Maryland Institute College of Art), Executive Chair  
Alan Whelan (Frederick Community College), Vice Chairperson  
J. Angel Knight (University of Maryland Global Campus), Secretary  
Emily A. A. Dow (MHEC), Advisor

## 2021-2022 Membership

Allegany College of Maryland	Wesley G. Mason
Anne Arundel Community College	Kyanna Arrington
Baltimore City Community College	Grace Adegoke
Capitol Technology University	Michael McGee
Cecil College	Lillian Jackson
Frederick Community College	Alan Whelan
Frostburg State University	Delanie G Blubaugh
Harford Community College	Shreeyam Mishra
Howard Community College	Maheen Ahmed
Loyola University Maryland	Brette "Braya" Markley
Maryland Institute College of Art	Julea Seliaski
Prince George's Community College	Yasmeen Early
Salisbury University	Jose Cabrera; Luke Zolenski
St. Mary's College of Maryland	Mackenzie Zamora
Stevenson University	Marie-Clare Ofoegbu
University of Baltimore	Frank Vermeiren
University of Maryland Baltimore	Brianna Dubose; Olubunmi Ayodele
University of Maryland Global Campus	Matthew Rose; Angel Knight
University of Maryland, College Park	Kyle Dineen
Wor-Wic Community College	Kamlesh Purohit
Student Commissioner	Haleemat Adekoya (University of Maryland Baltimore County)

## Accomplishments

1. COVID-19: The Council spoke at length regarding their experiences relevant to COVID-19. Each meeting there was devoted time to discuss campus updates related to COVID-19 and council members shared their general experiences. Specific recommendations from the Council to the Commission regarding COVID-19 can be found at the end of this report.
2. Student Voices: A common theme became apparent after several discussions regarding unique and special populations. More specifically, there was a shared concern that student complaints were not being addressed or student concerns were being ignored. Council representatives discussed the variability in campus protocols to issue a complaint and reviewed different student and administrative governance structures. Additionally, council representatives discussed the various federal laws and regulations that provide explicit processes for complaints in specific situations at colleges and universities (e.g., sexual assault, acts of discrimination). The Council recommends that a specific sub-committee be formed for the 2022-2023 cohort to further address this issue and prepare recommendations to the Commission.
3. Initiatives Around People who are Incarcerated: A faculty representative from the University of Baltimore presented to the Council current initiatives that provide higher education opportunities to individuals incarcerated in Maryland.

4. Transfer of College Credit: Council members discussed different transfer articulation templates and the challenges students face when transferring credits from one Maryland college to another. The information provided will help form the transfer guidance document currently being prepared.
5. Opioid Epidemic in Maryland: A representative from the Opioid Operation Command Center provided an overview of the current opioid epidemic in Maryland and recent initiatives, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Planning for Next Year**

The Student Advisory Council offers the following recommendations for committees and discussion topics for next year:

1. Establish a sub-committee to evaluate the effectiveness of current structures in centering student voices and their experiences.
2. Build a liaison effort with the MHEC Faculty Advisory Council.
3. Revisit discussions and consider recommendations regarding services provided for students with disabilities at colleges and universities and the common challenges students with disabilities face.
4. Continue discussions and consider recommendations regarding initiatives for individuals who are or were incarcerated.
5. Consider ways to engage high schools students with Council efforts, particularly in the context of financial aid awareness and initiatives.

### **2022-2023 Meeting Dates**

September 17, 2022  
October 1, 2022  
October 22, 2022  
November 19, 2022  
December 3, 2022  
January 21, 2023  
January 28, 2023  
April 22, 2023  
May 6, 2023

**RECOMMENDATION:** This is for information purposes only.

## Recommendations Regarding COVID-19

Presented by the 2021-2022 Student Advisory Council to the Maryland Higher Education Commission

The Student Advisory Council with Maryland Higher Education Commission writes in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to address concerns raised by students during the past semesters. In this unprecedented time, schools are learning how to navigate higher education while keeping communities safe of the virus. The virus has continued to evolve, including the current concern for the Omicron variant, and we urge our schools to evolve with it. During this time, schools are actively trying to stay open. Statewide issues have been brought to the concern of the Student Advisory Council in the semesters students have received on-campus instruction. In regards to the issues, the Student Advisory Council makes the following recommendations.

Students are unaware of the protocols they should follow if they have been in contact with COVID-19. Students are weary of missing classes due to falling behind in coursework and schools do not have a campus-wide consistency in offering options for the students who must stay home. This concern puts the community at risk and hurts students' academic success. We recognize that schools are running into financial issues as well as issues with running low on classroom space while maintaining social distancing. We recognize these hardships, and in turn offer a variety of potential suggestions that remedy both concerns. We make the following recommendations addressing this concern:

1. Request that all schools that are operating in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic have outlined a clear campus-wide policy for including students in class time when they are required to stay home due to COVID-19. This suggestion is open but not limited to the following options:
  1. Requiring students to have access to zoom into class. This suggestion includes ensuring that classrooms have a TA or designated person to make sure the professor is in clear view of the zoom and that the online student is able to hear all of the instruction;
  2. Suggesting that schools invest in microphones for professors to use in hybrid settings;
  3. For programs and courses that are necessary for in-person learning we request that schools evaluate their classroom spaces, and technology equipment and prioritize the tech and high-flex options for courses that can be held in such a manner; and
  4. Students have reported a lack in training in using the software or equipment provided for high-flex options. We ask that schools offer training sessions for professors to get the proper skills necessary to run a class in a hybrid space.
2. Recommend that schools have a clear stance on flexibility and the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools should urge professors to be flexible in the ways they receive coursework when a student is impacted by COVID-19. Schools should also support professors in any changes they may experience during COVID-19. Schools should also make clear how they will protect students and the community for courses that must be held in person such as labs.

3. Request that schools outline a clear protocol regarding COVID-19 and students for the following circumstances:
  - a. When a vaccinated student is exposed to someone who has tested positive with COVID-19,
  - b. When an unvaccinated student has been exposed to someone who has tested positive with COVID-19, and
  - c. When a student has tested positive with COVID-19 but is asymptomatic.
  
4. In addition to missed classes, there is a high concern for the current protocols established by the CDC as of December, 2021. Students would like schools to operate in a way that keeps all individuals safe, and prioritizes science in the health and safety of the community. The Student Advisory Council recommends the following:
  - a. Recommend that schools consult with epidemiologists prior to making any changes to quarantine protocols.
  - b. Recommend that schools do not recommend students with COVID-19 positive tests to return immediately to campus.

During online school at the start of 2020, many schools offered a variety of assistance in response to the pandemic. An example of this assistance includes mental health resources more regularly and in an online format. Many students have voiced that schools have since removed this assistance now that schools have returned to in-person classes. Unfortunately, the pandemic is still upon us, and the psychological and economic toll of the pandemic is still unfolding. Students deserve to have continued access to the same resources that were given at the start of the pandemic. It is unreasonable to respond to the pandemic as if it is over; it is still upon us, and it is still impacting students and professors. We recommend that schools continue to offer mental health resources online, and other resources that they implemented at the start of the pandemic which may help students better navigate an education during a pandemic.

In addition to the above recommendations, the Student Advisory Council recommends that schools address the concerns for vaccines and masks. The politicization of masking and vaccination has hurt the country at large. We show a deep concern and understanding that this politicization is not at the fault of those believing it, but rather a fault of larger issues. Schools should be encouraged to show grace for those with medical exemptions. People with pre-existing conditions should not be left behind in their learning. Individuals should not be forced to choose between education or their safety. We request that schools initiate certain educational plans to help disseminate information that is clear, concise and respectful about the importance of vaccinations and masks. This suggestion recommends that schools make epidemiologist meetings open to the general population and encourage sharing amongst other schools who may not be able to afford full-time epidemiologists as consultants.

We would also like to recognize the history of medical trauma of people who are marginalized. The medical field has historically caused harm to marginalized groups. We ask that schools offer safe spaces that help marginalized people make autonomous decisions in vaccinations. Safe spaces include providing marginalized groups the opportunity to sit down with specialists to discuss their concerns. It includes addressing the generational trauma associated with medical mandates, and providing a space for students to participate in healing.

This also means that schools should consider generational trauma as a valid reasoning for being unable to receive the vaccine.

The Student Advisory Council thanks you in advance for considering the above requests. We understand that we are navigating an unprecedented time and thank you for working with students in ensuring that higher education may feel accessible and safe for all.



Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.  
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.  
Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 25, 2022

**TO:** Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

**FROM:** Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary of Academic Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Final Adoption of Amendment to COMAR –  
Denial of Application for Religious Exemption

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On January 26, 2022, the Commission approved for publication in the Maryland Register a proposed amendment to the regulations governing exemptions for religious educational institutions from the requirement to obtain a Certificate of Approval from the Commission. The purpose of the amendment was to add a deadline of 20 days to request a hearing after an application for exemption is denied.

The proposed amendment was published in the Maryland Register on March 11, 2022. The public comment period for the proposal ended on April 11, 2022, and no public comments were received. The amendment became eligible for final adoption on April 26, 2022.

The enclosed proposed amendment is ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendment will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed amendment to the procedures for denial of a religious exemption.

# Title 13B

## MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

### Subtitle 02 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

#### 13B.02.04 Exemption Procedures for Religious Educational Institutions

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(o) and (u), 11-201, and 11-202.1, Annotated Code of Maryland

##### Notice of Proposed Action

[22-070-P]

The Maryland Higher Education Commission proposes to amend Regulation **.05** under **COMAR 13B.02.05 Exemption Procedures for Religious Educational Institutions**. This action was considered at a public meeting of the Commission held on January 26, 2022.

##### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to add a deadline for requesting a hearing regarding a denial of an application for religious exemption.

##### Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

##### Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

##### Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

##### Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

##### Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N. Liberty St., 10th Fl., Baltimore, MD 21202, or call 410-767-3041, or email to [emily.dow@maryland.gov](mailto:emily.dow@maryland.gov). Comments will be accepted through April 11, 2022. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

#### **.05 Denial of Exemption.**

##### A. Hearing.

(1) [An] *No later than 20 days after receipt of written notification of the denial, an institution denied an exemption under this chapter may request a hearing before the Commission.*

(2)—(5) (text unchanged)

B. (text unchanged)

JAMES D. FIELDER, JR., Ph.D.  
Secretary of Higher Education



Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.  
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.  
Secretary

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 19, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commission

FROM: Barbara Schmertz

STAFF: Yuxin Lin

SUBJECT: Maryland Higher Education Commission Maryland Public Colleges and Universities Enrollment Projections 2022 to 2031

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has prepared enrollment projections for Maryland public colleges and universities through Fall 2031. The projections include headcount projections for each institution, with separate analyses for full- and part-time undergraduates and, as applicable, full- and part-time graduate/professional students. Full-time equivalent (FTE) and full-time day equivalent (FTDE) projections were calculated by applying a mathematical formula to the headcount figures. Projections have also been developed for state-funding-eligible FTE noncredit continuing education enrollments at the community colleges.

These projections provide perspective to higher education policy discussions at the state level, including facilities planning, tuition and fees issues, articulation, and funding priorities. The Department of Budget and Management and the General Assembly use the Commission's forecasts as the State's official enrollment projections.

The Commission used separate but similar methodologies for projecting (a) credit enrollments at the community colleges and (b) public four-year institutions. A third method was applied to produce the projections of noncredit continuing education enrollments at the community colleges. The projections involve the application of regression models based on a series of assumptions on the factors that may have an impact on enrollment.

These 10-year projections do not add additional variables or weights in the model that are specific to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the sudden shocks due to the temporary change of course delivery mode, or students stopping out or reducing attendance level from full- to part-time. However, the pandemic-driven enrollment declines in 2020 and 2021 are incorporated into the model and lower the enrollment projections to some extent.

MHEC did not perform analysis to prepare the enrollment projection in FY 2021; the drivers of this decision were tied to the possible effects on the reliability of the projections due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the retrospective design of the model.<sup>1</sup>

The figures from the 2022-2031 projections conducted this year are relatively lower than the enrollment projections of 2020-2029 and 2021-2030. This year's lowered projections remedy the possible overestimation of the projections that existed in the past years. For example, in FY 2020, the enrollment projections forecasted a Fall 2022 credit enrollment at the community colleges of 135,971 and the projections this year forecast a Fall 2022 credit headcount enrollment figure of 117,974, a difference of 17,997 students (or 13.2%). The major drivers for the difference are twofold. First, the state's population projections were adjusted to the lower values last year by the Maryland Department of Planning. The Maryland population projections serve as the base of the MHEC enrollment projections. Second, the continued overall enrollment decline in the last two years reduces the predicted values for future enrollment.

However, the projections still overestimate the enrollment for community colleges. The Fall 2021 *actual* enrollment, per the agency's official enrollment collection,<sup>2</sup> is 97,458. This is 20,516 or 21.1% lower than the *projected* Fall 2022 enrollment of 117,974.<sup>3</sup> The overestimation is mainly attributed to the lagged response of the projection model to the persisting decline in the number of community college students. The general upward trend of the projected enrollments is primarily explained by the optimistic population projections for Maryland: it is predicted that the young population (age 15 to 24) will grow from 372,609 to 382,965 in the next ten years.

Unlike the projections for community colleges, projections for the public four-year institutions are more accurate because the in-state enrollments of public four-year institutions are less volatile. One exception is part-time graduate student enrollment – the projected figures for Fall 2022 clearly overestimate the part-time graduate enrollment and do not fully incorporate the long-term decrease in the number of part-time graduate students in Maryland.

In the coming year, MHEC will monitor the data collected by the agency and data used for the model in an effort to plan for the 2023 reporting cycle. We will keep you abreast of any relevant findings.

**RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Maryland Higher Education Commission accept the 2022-2031 enrollment projections and approve their distribution to the public, the campuses, and interested state agencies.**

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<sup>1</sup> For more details about this decision, please see Enrollment Projection 2021-2030 report here <https://mhec.maryland.gov/publications/Documents/Research/AnnualReports/2021-30EnrollProjections.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Enrollment Information System (EIS) is a unit record collection provided by each public and state-aided institution in the state. The collection, which reflects enrollment at the time of census or freeze date, may slightly underreport the actual number of students enrolled in a given fall due to the nature and timing of the collection.

<sup>3</sup> The enrollment of community colleges have been declining since the peak after the Great Recession. Without solid evidence, the downward trend might continue under the long-term impact of COVID-19. Therefore, the actual enrollment of community college in Fall 2022 is probably lower than the level in Fall 2021 and the projected Fall 2022 enrollment.



Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph. D.  
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.  
Secretary

## Maryland Higher Education Commission 2022 Meeting Dates

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is Maryland's higher education coordinating board responsible for the management of statewide financial aid programs and the establishment of statewide policies for public and private colleges and career schools to support students' postsecondary pursuits.

### Meeting Dates and Locations

January 26, 2022	July 27, 2022 (if needed)
February 23, 2022	August 24, 2022 (if needed)
March 23, 2022	September 28, 2022 10:00am to 4:00pm
April 27, 2022	October 26, 2022
May 25, 2022	November 16, 2022 *Please note date change.*
June 22, 2022	December 14, 2022 *Please note date change.*

All Commission meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, with certain exceptions. Meetings in 2022 will be conducted via video teleconference (GoToMeeting), unless otherwise noted.

Dates and times are subject to change.

<http://www.mhec.maryland.gov/About/Pages/Meetings.aspx>