

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

MEETING BOOKLET

Time: 1:00 PM
Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Place: Video Teleconference
(GoToMeeting)

Maryland Higher Education Commission

Ian D. MacFarlane, Chair

Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.

Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.

James E. Coleman

Anwer J. Hasan

Vera R. Jackson, Ph.D.

Charles McDaniels, Jr.

Donna M. Mitchell

James B. Sellinger, Sr.

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.

Jordan T. Troutman, Student Commissioner

John W. Yaeger, Ed.D.

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

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Ian D. MacFarlane
Chair

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

Maryland Higher Education Commission Meeting Agenda

TIME: 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday
June 3, 2020

PLACE: Video Teleconference
(GoToMeeting)

	Page	Action Item
Call to Order		
Commission Minutes Approval	1	*
• April 21, 2020		
• April 28, 2020		
Chair’s and Secretary’s Remarks		
Commissioner Committee Updates		
Office of Student Financial Assistance – Ms. Donna Thomas		
Final Approval of COMAR Regulation Changes – Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship Program.....	6	*
Final Approval of COMAR New Program Regulations – Near Completer Grant.....	8	*
Final Approval of COMAR Regulation Changes – Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship.....	11	*
Department of Academic Affairs – Dr. Emily Dow		
Final Approval of COMAR Regulation Changes – Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T.).....	13	*
Student Advisory Council – Maryland Income Tax Proposed Resolutions.....	16	
Office of Research and Policy Analysis – Dr. Barbara Schmertz		
Enrollment Projections – Maryland Public Colleges and Universities.....	18	*
2019 Performance Accountability Report.....	21	*
Adjournment		

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2020
2:30 p.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 via video teleconference (GoToMeeting).

Commission members present:

Ian D. MacFarlane, Chair	Donna M. Mitchell
Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
James E. Coleman	Jordan T. Troutman
Anwer J. Hasan	John W. Yaeger, Ed.D.
Charles McDaniels, Jr.	

Commission member absent:

Vera R. Jackson, Ph.D.	
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Staff members present:

Geoffrey Newman	Dr. Emily Dow
Dr. Barbara Schmertz	Soma Kedia
Jennifer Katz	Trish Gordon McCown
Daniel Schuster	Donna Thomas
Lee Towers	Rhonda Wardlaw

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair MacFarlane** at approximately 2:36 p.m. Eleven of twelve Commission members were present.

Approval of Minutes – Action Item

There was a motion by **Commissioner Hasan** and a second by **Commissioner Coleman** for approval of the January 22, 2020 meeting minutes. New **Commissioners McDaniels, Sellinger, and Seurkamp** abstained from voting, citing the reason that they were not present at the meeting. The motion was approved by the other 8 members.

Chairman’s Remarks

Commissioner Hasan, as former Commission Chairman, gave brief remarks, reflecting on his many years of service. He was appointed in 2007 as a Commissioner, appointed in 2011 as

Chairman, and re-appointed in 2015 to serve in the same role. His term will come to an end in June of this year. He thanked the staff and Commissioners for their support and service over the years, and congratulated Chair MacFarlane in his new role.

Chair MacFarlane thanked Commissioner Hasan for his tireless dedication and service. He welcomed the new Commissioners and encouraged them in their future service. Brief introductions were provided of each one. Commissioner Charles McDaniels previously served as Board Chair of the Baltimore County Board of Education and is presently the Principal/Owner of Mica Metal Solutions. Commissioner James Sellinger is currently the Chancellor of Education for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Commissioner Mary Pat Seurkamp served as the President of Notre Dame of Maryland University for 15 years. **Chair MacFarlane** also re-introduced Commissioners Barrolle and Coleman who have been on the Commission for under a year.

Secretary's Remarks

Chair MacFarlane recognized Assistant Secretary Geoffrey Newman who is taking the place of Secretary James Fielder at this meeting. **Assistant Secretary Newman** remarked that the current challenges at MHEC included working with students and institutions to ensure a smooth transition to online learning/teaching. He also reported that through the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, of which the Education Stabilization Fund was a part, students were receiving funds to assist them through these difficult times.

Chair MacFarlane recognized Dr. Emily Dow (MHEC's Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs) who reported on some of MHEC's efforts to assist students and institutions throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of these guidelines to both institutions and students, including updates regarding state scholarships, are posted to our website. We are also working with other state agencies to provide this guidance, as well as address staffing shortages in the healthcare system. Thus far, Maryland is considered to be ahead of many other states, in terms of addressing these issues early in the pandemic.

Commissioner Committee Updates

Chair MacFarlane remarked that updates will be tabled to the next meeting. In the meantime, committees will be restructured to include the new Commissioners. He previously led the Finance and Operations Committee, but has stepped down, due to his new role as Commission Chair.

Department of Finance and Administration – FY 2022 Community College Construction Grant Program: State and Local Cost-Sharing Formula – Information Item

Chair MacFarlane recognized Mr. Daniel Schuster (MHEC's Finance Policy Analyst) who informed the Commissioners that the Community College Construction Grant Program provides State assistance for the construction and improvement of facilities at community colleges. This grant funds the construction of major new facilities, renovation of existing facilities, and improvements to campus infrastructure.

Mr. Schuster further reported that the costs of the program are shared by the State and the locality. The share that the State pays differs every year based on a formula calculated by the Maryland State Department of Education that also takes into account county wealth and student enrollment (in elementary and secondary schools). Based on the cost-sharing formula, the State contributes between 50% and 70% of the eligible costs of a project for single-county-operated community colleges and 75% of the eligible costs of a project for regional community colleges.

Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Institutions of Higher Education Program Review: Secretary Actions for Quarter 4 (October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019) – Information Item

Chair MacFarlane recognized Dr. Dow who provided an overview of the Secretary’s actions concerning new degree programs, new certificate programs, substantial modifications to existing programs, non-substantial modifications to existing programs, actions by out-of-state institutions, one program denied, and institutional program partnerships.

Dr. Dow highlighted that the program denied was the University of Maryland College Park’s proposed Doctorate of Public Health. The next step in this particular situation is to hold a review meeting. However, the deadline for the meeting has been extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Private Career Schools: Secretary Actions for Quarter 4 (October 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019) – Information Item

Chair MacFarlane recognized Dr. Dow who provided an overview of the Secretary’s actions concerning the approval of change of location, approval of change of director, other business approvals, certificate renewals, school approvals withdrawn, Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship approvals/denials, and Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship modifications approved/denied.

Department of Academic Affairs – Proposed COMAR Changes to Add New Definition: First-Time Student with Advanced Standing – Action Item

Chair MacFarlane decided to postpone this item to a future meeting, as the proposed regulations were omitted from the Commission Book.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:29 p.m.

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2020
10:00 a.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 via conference call.

Commission members present:

Ian D. MacFarlane, Chair	Charles McDaniels, Jr.
Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.	Donna M. Mitchell
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
James E. Coleman	Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Anwer J. Hasan	Jordan T. Troutman
Vera R. Jackson, Ph.D.	John W. Yaeger, Ed.D.

Staff members present:

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D.	Soma Kedia
Emily A. A. Dow, Ph.D.	Geoffrey Newman
Jennifer Katz	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair MacFarlane** at approximately 10:05 a.m. A meeting quorum was established with all twelve members present.

Department of Academic Affairs – Proposed COMAR Changes to Add New Definition: First-Time Student with Advanced Standing – Action Item

Chair MacFarlane recognized Dr. Emily Dow (MHEC’s Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs) who explained that a new definition was needed for high school students who have earned college credit while in high school. The proposed regulatory changes provide a new definition (“first-time student with advanced standing”) and includes edits that are inclusive of this growing population. The new definition would be used by institutions to allow these students both to transfer college credit that was earned while in high school and to take advantage of certain opportunities available only to “first-time” students.

Dr. Dow recommended that the Maryland Higher Education Commission approve for publication in the Maryland Register the enclosed regulations regarding the addition of new definitions and relevant changes, and authorize MHEC’s attorneys to approve non-substantive revisions as necessary to conform the proposed regulations to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and of the Division of State Documents. **Commissioner Jackson** made a

motion for approval. **Commissioner Mitchell** seconded the motion. Clarifying questions were asked about the proposed changes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:13 a.m.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Ian D. MacFarlane
Chair

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2020

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Final Approval of COMAR Regulation Changes –
Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship Program

On December 4, 2019, the Commission approved for publication in the Maryland Register amendments to regulations for the Richard W. Collins III Leadership With Honor Scholarship Program. The enclosed regulations were published in the Maryland Register on January 31, 2020. The public comment period for the regulations ended on March 2, 2020, and no public comments were received.

The proposed regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the attached changes to regulations for the Richard W. Collins III Leadership With Honor Scholarship Program, which were published in the Maryland Register on January 31, 2020.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 11 Richard W. Collins III Leadership With Honor Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), 18-605(e), Annotated Code of Maryland

.02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) – (4) (text unchanged)

(5) “Full-time” means enrollment *at an eligible institution* in:

(a) [at] *At least 12 credits per semester [at an eligible institution] in a certificate or undergraduate degree program; or*

(b) *At least 9 credits per semester in a graduate certificate, graduate degree, or doctoral degree program.*

(6) – (9) (text unchanged)



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2020

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Final Approval of COMAR New Program Regulations–
Near Completer Grant

On December 4, 2019, the Commission approved for publication in the Maryland Register new program regulations for the Near Completer Grant. The enclosed regulations were published in the Maryland Register on January 31, 2020. The public comment period for the regulations ended on March 2, 2020, and no public comments were received.

The proposed regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the attached regulations for the Near Completer Grant, which were published in the Maryland Register on January 31, 2020.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 07 Near Completer Grant Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 11-209, and 18-204(c), Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Program Established.

A. There is Near Completer Grant Program administered by the Office under Education Article, §11-209(d), Annotated Code of Maryland.

B. The purpose of the program is to provide grants to individual students who are near completers as an incentive to obtain an associate's or bachelor's degree.

.02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) "Commission" means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Office.

(3) "Grant" means a Near Completer Grant under this chapter.

(4) "MDCAPS" means the Maryland College Aid Processing System maintained by the Office.

(5) "Near completer" means an individual who has completed some college credits but does not have a college degree and is no longer attending an institution of higher education.

(6) "Non-loan aid" means any student financial aid scholarship or grant applied to the student's tuition and fee charges, excluding Title IV federal work-study.

(7) "Office" means the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(8) "Public senior higher education institution" has the meaning stated in Education Article, §10-101(m), Annotated Code of Maryland.

(9) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Higher Education.

(10) "Senior higher education institution" means an institution of higher education that awards baccalaureate degrees.

.03 Student Eligibility.

A. Subject to the availability of funds in the State budget, the Office annually shall determine student eligibility to receive a grant.

B. A near completer who previously attended a community college is eligible for a grant if the applicant:

(1) Earned at least 45 credit hours and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a scale of 4.0 while previously in college;

(2) Is enrolled at a Maryland community college in an associate's degree program; and

(3) Is a Maryland resident or eligible for in-State tuition in accordance with Education Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland.

C. A near completer who previously attended a senior higher education institution is eligible for a grant if the applicant:

(1) Earned at least 90 credit hours and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a scale of 4.0 while previously in college;

(2) Is enrolled at a Maryland public senior higher education institution in a bachelor's degree program; and

(3) Is a Maryland resident or eligible for in-State tuition in accordance with Education Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland.

D. The number of previously earned credit hours that are accepted for transfer by the community college or public senior higher education institution in which the student is enrolled may not alter a student's eligibility for the grant.

.04 Application Process.

A. A student shall apply annually to the Office, in the form prescribed by the Office, to be eligible for a grant.

B. An applicant shall submit an application, a copy of the applicant's previous college or university transcript, and any other documentation required by the Office.

C. All application materials shall be submitted to the Office by the deadline date established by the office.

.05 Selection of Recipients.

A. Eligible applicants shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date on which all application materials are received by the Office.

- B. Awards shall be issued until the total funds appropriated for the program have been depleted.
- C. Eligible applicants who do not receive an award shall be notified that they have been placed on a waiting list and may receive an award if funds become available.

.06 Amount of Grant.

A. All non-loan aid received by the applicant, except a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship awarded under Education Article, Title 18, Subtitle 36, Annotated Code of Maryland, shall be credited to the applicant's tuition before the calculation of the grant amount.

B. A grant shall apply toward the student's tuition in the lesser of:

- (1) The amount of the student's unmet tuition; or
- (2) As applicable, up to one-third of:
 - (a) The in-county tuition charge at a community college; or
 - (b) The resident undergraduate tuition charge at a public senior higher education institution.

C. If a student is not eligible for in-county tuition at a community college but is eligible for in-State tuition at a Maryland public institution of higher education, the award amount calculated under §B of this regulation shall be applied to the recipient's out-of-county tuition charge.

D. The grant may be used only for tuition and may not be used for fees or other charges or expenses related to attending an institution of higher education.

.07 Award Notification and Acceptance.

A. Recipients shall be notified of an award by the Office through MDCAPS prior to the start of the fall semester.

B. Except as set forth in §C of this regulation, a recipient shall log on to MDCAPS in order to accept an award.

C. If the Director determines that extenuating circumstances exist, a recipient may accept an award by providing written notice to the Office.

D. The acceptance deadline date shall be specified in the award notice and shall be no less than 4 weeks after the date the Office sent notice under §A of this regulation.

E. An award recipient who fails to accept the award by the acceptance date specified in the award notice shall become ineligible for the award.

.08 Certification and Payment.

A. The Office shall create a certification roster for each community college and public senior higher education institution.

B. The certification roster shall contain the names of the applicants who have been identified by the Office as eligible for the grant.

C. The institution shall complete the certification for each student by the date established by the Office.

D. The institution shall:

(1) Verify the applicant's eligibility for in-State tuition under Education Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland, and,

(2) By the deadline date established by the Office, report:

- (a) The total amount of tuition being charged; and
- (b) All non-loan aid the applicant is receiving, regardless of whether the non-loan aid has been disbursed.

E. After the institution reports all non-loan aid for each applicant, the institution shall electronically transmit the roster to the Office through MDCAPS.

F. The Office shall make an award payment to the institution for each semester that the student is granted the award.

G. The institution shall certify and request payment for all recipients, on a semester basis, on or before:

- (1) December 15, for the fall semester; and
- (2) May 15, for the spring semester.

H. An institution that fails to certify and request payment for all recipients on a semester basis under §B may not certify recipients for the subsequent semester.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Ian D. MacFarlane
Chair

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2020

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Donna Thomas, Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Final Approval of COMAR Regulation Changes –
Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member
Scholarship

On December 4, 2019, the Commission approved for publication in the Maryland Register amendments to regulations for the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship. The enclosed regulations were published in the Maryland Register on January 31, 2020. The public comment period for the regulations ended on March 2, 2020, and no public comments were received.

The proposed regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the attached regulations for the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship, which were published in the Maryland Register on January 31, 2020.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 03 Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), and 18-603.1, Annotated Code of Maryland

.03 Application Procedures.

A. Students applying for the Riley Scholarship shall submit the following materials to the Office for Student Financial Assistance (OSFA):

[(1)] A completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application, by March 1;

[(2)] (1) A completed online application form, by March 1;

[(3)] (2) Proof of official acceptance into a program of fire service technology, emergency medical technology, fire service management, or public safety administration with a minor or concentration in fire service technology or fire service management; and

[(4)] (3) A notarized statement from an eligible employer confirming active employment or volunteer service.

B. Individuals may submit applications beginning January 1.

C. Each applicant shall agree to provide any information or documentation requested by OSFA for the purpose of administering this program and, if requested, to sign an authorization for the release of information to OSFA for the purpose of administering this program. The applicant's failure or refusal to provide requested information or a signed release may result in a determination of ineligibility, the cancellation of an award, and the denial of a request for the deferment or waiver of a service obligation.



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2020

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Final Approval of COMAR Regulation Changes –
Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T.)

On January 22, 2020, the Commission approved for publication in the Maryland Register amendments to regulations for the Associate of Arts in Teaching (A.A.T.). The enclosed regulations were published in the Maryland Register on April 10, 2020. The public comment period for the regulations ended on May 11, 2020, and no public comments were received.

The proposed regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the attached changes to regulations for the A.A.T., which were published in the Maryland Register on April 10, 2020.

Amendments to COMAR Regarding AAT Requirements

13B.02.03.24

.24 Degree Programs.

A. Degree Levels.

(1) The degree levels described in this regulation are available to institutions in this State, as approved in accordance with COMAR 13B.02.02.10.

(2) Public community colleges and senior public higher education institutions shall comply with the credit hour standards of COMAR 13B.02.02.16A(1) and B(1).

B. Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.).

(1) An institution may award an Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree for successful completion of not less than 60 and not more than 70 credit hours in vocational-technical occupational skills, including law enforcement, computer technology, and engineering technology.

(2) The program is intended for a student seeking immediate employment opportunities. However, the program does not preclude a student from transferring to a technical bachelor's degree program such as a bachelor's degree in technology or a bachelor's degree in technical or professional studies, or from transferring non-technical courses to a 4-year institution.

C. Associate of Arts (A.A.).

(1) An institution may award an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree for successful completion of not less than 60 and not more than 70 credit hours in the liberal arts (social sciences, humanities, and similar subjects) and in the fine arts (music, art, etc.).

(2) The program is intended for transfer to an equivalent Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program at 4-year institutions.

D. An institution may award an Associate of Art in Teaching (A.A.T.) degree that:

(1) Meets the lower-level degree academic content, outcomes, and requirements for teacher education, similar to the first 2 years of a bachelor's program in teacher education;

;

(2) Requires either:

(a) a 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale, or

(b) a 2.75-2.99 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale and qualifying scores on the basic skills assessment for teacher licensure as established by the State Superintendent of Schools and as approved by the State Board of Education; and

(3) If achieved, transfers up to 70 credit hours, satisfying all lower-division teacher education program outcomes without further review by in-State 4-year public and independent institutions.

E. - K. (text unchanged)



Larry Hogan
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Lt. Governor

Ian D. MacFarlane
Chair

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

MEMORANDUM

To: Maryland Higher Education Commission
From: Student Advisory Council
Re: Maryland Income Tax Proposed Resolutions
Date: June 3, 2020

The Student Advisory Council has recently discussed how education expenses are taxed, both at the federal and state level. The Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center recently published a report that noted that “34% of the full-time Associate’s and Bachelor’s degree-seeking students at Maryland’s colleges had a wage record during the fall 2017 term.”¹ It is likely that this percentage is higher for graduate students.

Under the federal tax law for tax years 2017 and earlier, “a deduction shall be allowed under subsection (a) for qualified tuition and related expenses for any taxable year only to the extent such expenses are in connection with enrollment at an institution of higher education during the taxable year.”²

The tuition and fees deduction election can be made if a taxpayer paid educational expenses on behalf of themselves (except for those married filing single), their spouse, or their dependent(s).³ The tuition and fees deduction is used to reduce federal taxable income by up to \$4,000 for taxpayers who don’t qualify for the American Opportunity or Lifetime Learning Credit.⁴ For students who have filed income tax returns, there is a provision in the Maryland Annotated Code that requires the tuition and fees deducted on the federal income tax return be added back as taxable income on their state income tax return, which directly taxes working students on their tuition and fees paid.⁵

For example, a student that makes \$20,000 a year and elects for the maximum tuition and fees deduction of \$4,000 at the federal level will be required to add that amount back into their Maryland tax return. This would apply to working students and parents that are paying their children’s tuition.

¹ <https://mldscenter.maryland.gov/WageVisibility.html>

² See IRC § 222(a), (d)(3).

³ See IRS Pub. 970 at 37-38 (2016).

⁴ See IRS Pub. 970 at 37, 39 (2016).

⁵ See Md. Code Ann., Tax Gen. § 10-204(h).

For example:

Federal Gross Income:	\$20,000
Tuition and Fees Deduction:	(\$4,000)
Federal Adjusted Gross Income:	\$16,000
Maryland Gross Income:	\$16,000
Tuition and Fees Add-Back:	\$4,000
MD Adjusted Gross Income:	\$20,000

Under Maryland tax law, there is a narrow tax credit for teachers, the Quality Teacher Incentives. There is also the Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit and the College Savings Plans Deduction, neither of which allows for a deduction or credit of tuition and academic fees paid.⁶ Other deductions allowed in Maryland include, but are not limited to, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Poverty Level Credit, Aquaculture Oyster Float Credit, Venison Donation Tax Credit, Community Investment Income Credit, and the Long-Term Care Insurance Credit.⁷

Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the federal tuition and fees deduction is temporarily suspended from 2018 through the end of 2025, meaning that no deduction will be allowed for tuition and fees for the suspended years. This suspension period would allow the Maryland General Assembly time not only to repeal subsection (h) of Section 10-204 of the Tax General Article, but to add tuition and fees paid as a subtraction from Maryland taxable income under Section 10-207. This will allow students to subtract their tuition and fees paid regardless of the Internal Revenue Code, which will arguably help working college students in Maryland retain more funds for basic living expenses and to reach higher levels of economic prosperity.

Recommendation: Advocate for Maryland higher education students to cease being taxed on income that was applied toward tuition and educational expenses in Maryland.

In addition to the topic above, the Student Advisory Council has discussed increasing awareness of free tax preparation programs for college students. We have discussed promoting the CASH Campaign of Maryland, a non-profit organization that provides free tax preparation to households with an annual income \$55,000 or less, as a resource for college students and the community as a whole.

Recommendation: Increase awareness of the CASH Campaign of Maryland to college students prior to and during the tax season.

⁶ <https://www.marylandtaxes.gov/tax-credits.php>

⁷ *Id.*



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Ian D. MacFarlane
Chair

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 3, 2020

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commission

FROM: Barbara Schmertz, Ph.D.

SUBJECT: Enrollment Projections - Maryland Public Colleges and Universities

The Maryland Higher Education Commission has prepared enrollment projections for Maryland public colleges and universities through Fall 2029. 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-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, funding priorities, and retention and graduation rates. 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 credit enrollments at the community colleges and public four-year institutions. A third method was applied to produce the projections of noncredit continuing education enrollments at the community colleges. All three models involve the application of a linear regression analysis to demographic and economic factors.

These projections do not incorporate any data tied to COVID-19 and the resulting disruptions the pandemic has caused colleges in relation to enrollment of new and returning students. The data used were collected between December 2019 and February 2020 and reflect projected and actual data that, similarly, would not incorporate the effects of COVID-19.

Assessing the one-year accuracy of the model reveals several overestimation patterns. Last year, the enrollment projections forecast a Fall 2019 credit enrollment at the community colleges of 115,275 and the actual enrollment in Fall 2019 was 113,288, a difference of 1,987 (or 2%). In addition, the projections estimated that the credit enrollment at the public four-year institutions in Fall 2019 would be 189,962 and the actual enrollment in Fall 2019 was 181,490, a difference of 8472 or 5%. Similarly, last year's statewide FTE and FTDE figures forecast projections that were approximately 3% higher than the actual data.

Assessing the projection's 10-year accuracy is more complex. An analysis using the projections from the 2010-2019 Enrollment Projections Report (published in 2010) projected 357,615 in total headcount credit enrollment, which is 62,837 (17.5%) higher than the actual data for Fall 2019. The primary driver of these differences is an overestimation of the community college enrollment (170,178 estimated versus 113,288 actual). The public four-year projections (187,437 estimated versus 181,490 actual) was much more accurate. Similar patterns play out for the FTE and FTDE figures, with the 2010 report greatly over-projecting the community college counts and much more accurately projecting the public-four year FTE and FTDE counts. Likely the overestimation of the community college data was due, in part, by the surge of enrollment at the community colleges, which began in 2008 and peaked in 2011 .

Highlights of the Enrollment Projections

- Total headcount credit enrollment at Maryland public institutions is projected to be 314,570 in Fall 2020, an increase of 7% (19,792 students) over Fall 2019 actual enrollment.
- The projections estimated that Fall 2019 enrollment would be 305,237, which was 10,459 (3.4%) more students than actual Fall 2019 enrollment.
- Total headcount credit enrollment at Maryland public colleges and universities is projected to be 339,942 in Fall 2029, an increase of 15% (45,164 students) over Fall 2019. Total enrollment at community colleges is expected to be 143,167, an increase of 26% (29,879 students) from Fall 2019 to Fall 2029, and enrollment at public four-year colleges and universities is projected to be 196,775, an increase of 8% (15,285 students) during the same period.
- Statewide, undergraduate enrollment is projected to grow by 41,983 students by 2029, an increase of 17%, reaching a total of 295,608.
- Over 10 years, MHEC projects that the number of full-time undergraduate students at community colleges will grow at a higher rate than the number of part-time students. Full-time enrollment at community colleges is expected to increase to 48,298, an increase of 12,393 or 35%, while part-time student enrollments are expected to grow to 94,869, an increase of 17,486 students or 23%.
- The 10-year projections for public four-year institutions, full-time undergraduate enrollment is projected to increase by 9% (to 100,975 students, an increase of 8,547 students) while part-time undergraduate enrollment is expected to grow by 7% (to 51,466 students, an increase of 3,557 students).
- Over 10 years, graduate and professional student enrollment is expected to grow to 44,334 students, an increase of 3,181 (8%). The number of full-time graduate students is projected to grow by 10% (1,926 students) to 20,283, and the number of part-time students is expected to increase by 6% (1,255 students) to 24,051.

- Full-time equivalent enrollment (FTE) and full-time day equivalent enrollment (FTDE) at community colleges are expected to grow between Fall 2019 and Fall 2029. FTEs are expected to reach 89,805, an increase of 20,101 or 29%, and FTDE enrollment will increase 5% or 11,324 to reach 57, 963.
- At public four-year institutions, FTEs and FTDEs are projected to both grow by 9% from 2019 to 2029; the FTE figures are projected to reach 151,267, while FTDEs are expected to total 94,218. The University of Maryland University College is not included in the FTDE projections.
- State-funded noncredit FTE continuing education enrollment at the community colleges is projected to increase by 4% to 24,534 by FY 2029, an increase of 828 equivalent students compared to FY 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Maryland Higher Education Commission accept the 2020-2029 enrollment projections and approve their distribution to the public, the campuses, and interested state agencies.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Ian D. MacFarlane
Chair

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

DATE: June 3, 2020

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commission

FROM: Barbara Schmertz

SUBJECT: 2019 Performance Accountability Report

In this edition of the Performance Accountability Report (PAR), the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) focuses its analysis on three primary questions of interest to the Commission and the State.¹

- Is the State on track to meet its 55% degree attainment goal by 2025?
- Are educational disparities among underrepresented racial and ethnic groups shrinking?
- Are Maryland's public colleges and universities affordable and are students graduating with less debt?

In short, trends in enrollment, retention, transfer, and completion data provide a strong indication that the State is on track to meet its 55% attainment goal by 2025. Despite this positive trend, academic achievement gaps exist such that there are vast disparities regarding who will benefit most from these educational outcomes. Most striking is the persistent gap in retention, transfer, and graduation rates when comparing African American students to other student populations. There is some evidence that institutional efforts may be shrinking these gaps, but more needs to be done to ensure all students have equitable opportunities to meet their academic goals.

Overall Maryland's colleges and universities are maintaining modest rates of tuition and fee increases and are trying to keep net prices lower for those students who are from lower-income families. Most undergraduates earning an award at Maryland's public colleges and universities have low to modest student debt upon completion, and almost half, in any given year, are funding their education without financial aid or loans.

The issues identified and explored in this year's report are complex and interrelated. As such, they require sustained attention and ongoing discourse. By their nature, these issues are less likely to be solved by simple, efficient, and short-term actions and may demand a greater allocation of strategic resources (e.g. funds, staffing, and infrastructure) to help address them. In the coming year, the Commission staff will continue to use statewide data to help answer questions tied to affordability, student success, and degree completion. In addition, there will be

¹ The contents of the 2019 report precede the current COVID-19 pandemic.

continued discourse with institutions around issues tied to equity and achievement gaps among student populations.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Maryland Higher Education Commission approve the 2019 Performance Accountability Report and ask the Secretary to forward it to the Governor and the General Assembly as required by law.



Larry Hogan
Governor

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Lt. Governor

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Chair

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

Maryland Higher Education Commission 2020 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 22, 2020	July 22, 2020 (if needed)
February 26, 2020	August 26, 2020 (if needed)
March 25, 2020	September 23, 2020 9:30am to 3:30pm
April 22, 2020	October 28, 2020
May 20, 2020 *Please note date change.*	November 18, 2020 *Please note date change.*
June 24, 2020	December 16, 2020 *Please note date change.*

All Commission meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Maryland Higher Education Commission in the 7th Floor Board Room located at 6 N. Liberty Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, unless otherwise noted.

Dates and times are subject to change.

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