



## FACT SHEET

### **Overview:**

The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) is an innovative model for delivering top-quality university degree programs. USG is not one university; instead it is a collaboration of eight leading public universities in Maryland offering more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Montgomery County. USG's mission is to provide high-quality, cost-effective access to education for the burgeoning number of students seeking undergraduate and graduate degrees in sought-after fields such as business, nursing and healthcare-related fields, education and technology.

### **College Pathway:**

USG offers high-demand upper-level undergraduate and graduate degree programs. It caters to transfer students and works closely with community colleges to enable students to transfer seamlessly to USG in a degree program offered by its eight partner universities.

### **Collaborating Universities:**

Bowie State University (BSU)

University of Baltimore (UB)

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)

Towson University (TU)

University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB)

University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)

University of Maryland University College (UMUC)

### **Student Enrollment:**

- 2,600 students are projected to enroll in classes during the 2007-2008 year, including approximately 1,700 undergraduate and 900 graduate students.
- Applications rose 40% for 2007-2008 over 2006-2007; admissions also rose 40%.
- USG is offering 14 new degree and certificate programs in 2007-2008.

### **Student Profile:**

#### ***Undergraduate Students*** (daytime students in 2006-07):

- 83% resided in Montgomery County, with 53% living in Rockville, Germantown, Gaithersburg and Silver Spring;
- 72% attended Montgomery College, 8% attended another University System of Maryland campus, 7% attended another community college and 7% attended an out-of-state institution;
- 71 % attended school full-time, taking 12 or more credits per semester; and
- The median age was 23.

#### ***Graduate Students*** (2006-07):

- 29% attended an out-of-state university for their undergraduate degree, 24% attended a University System of Maryland campus;
- 94% lived in Maryland, with 66% residing in Montgomery County and another 14% in Frederick and Prince George's counties;
- 89% worked, with 84% working full-time;
- 16% attended school full-time; and
- The median age was 31.

**Student Satisfaction:**

- 93% of daytime undergraduate students returned in 2006 after attending USG in 2005;
- 90% said they were satisfied with the USG experience; and
- Students like USG's smaller class size, location and parking.

**Student Services USG Offers:**

- Career counseling and job placement counseling;
- Academic assistance including one-on-one tutoring, supplemental instruction, writing assistance, effective study strategies, and programmatic workshops and student mentoring;
- Counseling on financial aid, admissions, scheduling and billing;
- Computer labs; and
- Workshops, speaker series, clubs, and social activities.

**Affordability:**

Financial resources continue to be the biggest challenge for transfer college students:

- 54% of daytime undergraduate students receive financial aid;
- 92% of those were offered student loans. The average loan award was \$8,858; and
- Of total aid, 67% was in loans, 20% in grants, 11% in scholarships and 1% in federal college work study.

**Top Fields of Study:**

- Business from the Smith School of Business at UMCP;
- Nursing/health care from UMB, UB, UMUC;
- Technology from UMUC;
- K-12 Education from TU, BSU, and UMCP; and
- Social Work from UMBC and UMB.

**History:**

USG was established in 2000 to respond to the education and workforce needs of the state's fastest-growing area, Montgomery County and surrounding communities. Located along the flourishing I-270 Corridor, it is home to biomedical, technological, regulatory and business enterprises. The county had long desired a university campus. In 1984 the county presented land to the University System of Maryland for the life sciences campus. Additionally, the University of Maryland University College offered evening and weekend credit and non-credit classes aimed at adult learners; it was not enough. Education demand grew throughout the 80s and 90s. The University of Maryland, College Park campus was reaching capacity while estimates called for the number of college-ready freshman in the state to keep growing through 2010 and stay steady for the next decade. Enrollment in community colleges in Howard, Frederick and Montgomery counties was projected to rise by 60 percent between 2000 and 2010. Meanwhile, Montgomery County expected growth the number of college-ready students through 2020. USM chose an innovative solution in creating partnerships with its top public colleges to provide degree programs closer to these students and employers.

**Montgomery County:**

The County has the highest percentage of residents with advanced degrees of any major metropolitan area or county in the nation. More than 50% of residents have bachelor's degrees and 17% have graduate or professional degrees. The Montgomery County Public Schools serve 137,798 students and produce among the most National Merit finalists in the nation annually. All 25 high schools are listed annually in the *Newsweek* ranking of top high schools. Montgomery College was listed as one of the nation's top ten community colleges in a May 2007 article in the *New York Times*.