



The Universities
AT SHADY GROVE

Top Five Questions Asked by Prospective Students

1) Where does my degree come from/what does it say on my diploma?

The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) is not a university itself, but rather a campus offering select degree programs from nine different Maryland public universities. The admissions requirements, curriculum, and professors are all administered by the home institution. As such, your degree is awarded to you by the university that offers your program, **not USG**, and your diploma will say that university's name, as well. While you may choose to get an associate's degree from a community college, your bachelor's degree only reflects the university from which you obtained it. It will not say USG or your community college name anywhere on it.

2) Is it cheaper to go to USG?

The tuition (the amount you pay for the classes themselves) is the same as if you attended your university's main campus, but students attending programs at USG save by not spending money on room/board/commute and by being able to maintain current employment and family obligations. Students at USG have access to USG-specific scholarships (in addition to scholarships offered by the home institution) and may also pay reduced fees to utilize the campus. Finally, students who select the community college-USG pathway save greatly on the overall cost of a 4-year bachelor's degree, given the less expensive tuition rates at community colleges coupled with the savings of staying close to home for the duration of the degree.

3) Is it easier to get into a program at USG?

Students apply directly to the university offering their program of interest. On the application, they simply indicate Shady Grove as their preferred campus. Admissions decisions are handled by the home institution's admissions office, and the requirements are exactly the same as for those who have selected the main campus as their preferred location. However, due to the fact that fewer students are aware of the USG option and that only transfer students may apply to programs at USG, there are often more open spots for qualified applicants on our campus, and thus the acceptance rates for those who select USG may be somewhat higher.

4) Do I have to/can I go to my university's main campus for services/classes/advising?

While you are still a student of your home university and free to utilize main campus services, everything you need to be successful as a student can be found on USG's campus, including advising, registration and financial aid assistance, career and internship opportunities, academic support, a library, gym, cafeteria, and a robust student life. Your classes, while still taught by professors employed by your home university, will be held on the USG campus (and are often smaller with an average of only 30 students!). The only time you need to go to your main campus is to obtain your diploma if you choose to participate in the formal graduation ceremony.

5) Won't I be missing out on the "college experience" if I don't go to the main campus?

Not at all! While attending a program at USG allows you to save money by living near home, our campus life is still bustling! There are over 50 student organizations, ranging from academic to social to athletic. Our small class sizes and intimate campus allow students from all nine universities to feel part of the same close-knit community, as well as to quickly rise to leadership positions. Annual events like our USG Fest, International Night, Talent Show, and Graduation Celebration further allow students to socialize and share their accomplishments, while the on-campus study rooms, gym, student lounge, and café give students plenty to do in between classes. Students are also encouraged to partake in activities offered at their home campus, thus getting TWO great campus communities.