Top 10 Reasons Faculty Work at the University of Maryland
1. Our students.

In 2015, over 40 percent of our undergraduate population were students of color, and 21 percent came from underrepresented minority (URM) groups - one of the highest rates nationally among research institutions.

In 2014, UMD was ranked in the top 20 by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* for universities awarding bachelor’s and master’s degrees to URM students in several disciplines, including biology, computer and information sciences, and engineering.

Read more about student diversity.
2. Our academic programs.

In 2016, we ranked No. 20 among public universities. We were rated No. 7 for “Best Value” for in-state students, and No. 10 for undergraduate entrepreneurship programs.

Eleven of our academic programs were ranked in the US News and World Report’s Top 25 Graduate Programs.

Read more about academic offerings.
In 2016, our research budget was over $550 million, up 15 percent from the year prior. UMD publishes 4,700 academic articles per year and we’re ranked No. 6 among U.S. public universities for most research articles according to Web of Science.

3. Our research.

Read more about research activities.
4. Our local community & proximity to Washington, D.C.

We’re centrally located to Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Annapolis, with access to three international airports. Our location makes us uniquely positioned to partner with the National Institutes of Health, NASA, the Smithsonian…and many more national and international organizations with significant reach and impact.

We’ve also invested significantly in our community, College Park. There are currently over 30 development projects underway, totaling $2 billion in public-private investments. Projects include a new hotel, new downtown restaurants and living spaces, and four new academic buildings.

Read more about new development in College Park.
5. Our commitment to diversity & inclusion.

We have multiple groups and resources for faculty working with diverse students and who engage in diverse forms of scholarship. From 2012-2016, we’ve been ranked a top LGBT Friendly University by Huffington Post and Campus Pride and in 2015, we were awarded a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award by Insight into Diversity Magazine.

Read more about diversity & inclusion.
We’re part of the Big 10 Academic Alliance, the preeminent model for effective collaboration among research universities.

Launched in 2012, our strategic partnership with University of Maryland, Baltimore County, "MPower", has expanded opportunities for joint technology commercialization, research centers, and cross-educational program offerings.

We’re also partners with the Phillips Collection, the nation’s first museum of modern art, to expand innovation and scholarship at both institutions.

6. Our partnerships.

Photo Credit: John T. Consoli/UMD

Read more about local and national partnerships.
Our Paid Family Leave policy supports faculty before and after the birth or adoption of a child. The policy includes a minimum of eight weeks of paid parental leave, eligibility for modification of duties, extension time for tenure review, and availability of private lactation space. Faculty benefits also includes tuition remission for spouses and dependents, retirement, and health insurance.

The Maryland Family Network’s LOCATE Child Care provides free, referral services with detailed information on all regulated child care in Maryland.

The College Park Homeownership Program provides $15,000, in forgivable loans, to full-time, benefits-eligible University employees to become homeowners in the City of College Park.

Read more about faculty benefits.
According to US News and World Report, Maryland’s public high schools ranked No. 1 in the nation. Our public high schools have high graduation rates and the number of students who drop out is at an all-time low. Some of the best elementary schools in the state are located in neighboring counties Montgomery and Howard, and state aid for K-12 education increased in 2017.

The College Park City Council, in partnership with UMD, recently approved a new childcare facility with 100 spots for UMD faculty and staff. The College Park Academy, a blended-learning, public middle and high school, opened in 2013 in collaboration with the University of Maryland. On campus, the Center for Young Children provides early childhood education programs for children 3-5 years old.

Photo Credit: John T. Consoli/UMD

8. Our Maryland schools.

Read more about schools in our community.
9. Our commitment to innovation and sustainability.

We’re a national leader in campus sustainability. The Princeton Review named our campus a Top 20 Green School in 2015 and the Office of Sustainability launched a Carbon Neutral Air Travel Initiative in 2017 to offset 100 percent of air travel emissions.

Our innovative spirit is also highlighted in our many campus research and teaching centers. For example, The Center for Digital Innovation, Technology, and Strategy in the Smith School of Business connects academics with industry and governmental leaders to study emerging digital technology, while the Teaching & Learning Transformation Center seeks to inspire and support teaching innovations among UMD instructors and assistants.

Read more about campus research centers and institutes.
10. Our Faculty

“As part of the Big 10 Academic Alliance and as the state’s flagship, land-grant institution, we have a commitment to community engagement and to improving the quality of life for the people of Maryland. [In addition to being close to Washington, D.C.] We’re a short drive to the state capital, where I’ve testified for legislation and worked with state officials. We have local, state, regional, and national impact here.”

Dr. Stephen B. Thomas
Professor, Health Services Administration,
School of Public Health

“I was excited to work with the Philip Merrill College of Journalism. It's rare that an academic unit focusses solely on journalism and I really like the ethos of the College -- it has a global outlook and is dedicated to the best possible journalism for the 21st century. I felt like this really matters, and I want to be part of something that really matters.”

Dr. Sarah Oates
Professor & Senior Scholar, Phillip Merrill College of Journalism
“At the University of Maryland, and especially my home in the College of Information Studies, the value of diversity is truly integrated into every aspect of academic life. We talk explicitly about inclusion based on race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, physical ability, and academic interests. It has created an environment where all people and well-reasoned ideas are welcomed, and where colleagues identify connections in one another’s work and collaborate to bring about acceptance through scholarship.”

Dr. Jennifer Golbeck
Director, Social Intelligence Lab
Associate Professor, College of Information Studies

“University of Maryland is the most racially-diverse flagship university in the United States. Likewise, the surrounding area is just as diverse. As a scholar who studies race and inequality and a person who values diversity, UMD is a prime location.”

Dr. Rashawn Ray
Associate Professor, Sociology, Behavior & Social Sciences College

"I appreciate being at a top public research institution, and I am proud of the university’s commitments to diversity and excellence. The proximity to DC means that we are central to many types of intellectual engagement and I can easily be involved with activities at NSF or the National Academy of Sciences. I knew that I would enjoy my colleagues at the school, but I have been pleased at how many wonderful people I have met from across campus."

Dr. Christine Beckman
Professor, Management and Organization, Smith School of Business & Academic Director, Center of Social Value Creation
"Connecting with diverse faculty across campus has been important not only for collaborative opportunities, but for finding a comfortable place for myself and my scholarship on campus. I have met other scholars with whom I am collaborating on research projects and grants, have formed writing groups, and deep friendships."

Dr. Willow Lung-Amam
Assistant Professor, Urban Studies & Planning, School of Architecture, Planning, & Preservation

"I love working at UMD because it is a university on the rise. UMD thinks outside the box, and has helped us to build a fantastic interdisciplinary community. The students are talented and appreciative, with no sense of entitlement. And being part of the best-educated metro area in the country, with ties to countless (inter)national organizations, makes it possible to make a difference."

Dr. Colin Phillips
Director, Maryland Language Science Center
Professor, Department of Linguistics, College of Arts & Humanities

"I enjoy being part of one of the top public mathematics department in the country and having the opportunity to engage in cross-disciplinary research with colleagues homed in other departments across campus. Besides my research, I am always delighted to teach and mentor students in this diverse campus. I also appreciate the opportunities for career development the University offers."

Dr. Kasso Okoudjou
Professor & Associate Chair, Department of Mathematics, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences
“I love working at UMD, especially in the department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education, because the program area has ranked number one in student counseling and personnel services for more than a decade based on US News and World Report. We have a diverse group of faculty and graduate students who are passionate about research and serving students from diverse backgrounds. I also enjoy the supportive climate in the department and on campus (e.g., through the ADVANCE program).”

Dr. Cixin Wang
Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education, College of Education

“I enjoy mentoring undergraduate and graduate students who come from diverse backgrounds and have differing goals and expectations. I learn from each and hope that I, in turn, help them acquire the knowledge and skills that they need to reach those goals or to identify new ones. In addition, being able to live so near the nation’s capital provides opportunities to collaborate with other scientists at NIH, USDA, and the Smithsonian and to enjoy our nation’s museums and parks.”

Dr. Carol L. Keefer
Professor & Director of Graduate Program, Department of Animal and Avian Science, College of Agricultural and Natural Resources
“I like working at Maryland because across the institution, there’s a culture of striving to be the best at what we do. I also appreciate the culture of embracing diversity. I'm in a great Department, and really enjoy working with my colleagues, our staff and faculty, who are dedicated and supportive, and love working with our students, watching them learn, discover and grow.”

Dr. Alison B. Flatau  
Department Associate Chair & Professor, Department of Aerospace Engineering, A. James Clark School of Engineering

“The University of Maryland is the primary research university in the Washington, D.C. area. These aspects contribute to an environment that, for my work on energy and climate policy, are unique globally. Only a few miles from downtown, we are able to integrate into the policy conversation and engage with diverse actors in government agencies and Capitol Hill, think tanks and NGOs, development banks and more.”

Dr. Nathan E. Hultman  
Associate Professor, School of Public Policy & Director, Center for Global Sustainability