Since its formation in 1988, the University System of Maryland has focused on the vision of national eminence described in the System's founding legislation. This vision has guided us in the pursuit of our broadest goal: to serve Marylanders' educational needs through teaching, research, and public service.

Specific missions are central to our success as a family of thirteen diverse and complementary institutions. They enable us to balance our broad educational mission with our responsibility for prudent allocation of resources. These mission statements reflect our efforts to meet these obligations as we work to build a higher education system marked by quality, access, and accountability.
Our mission statements also provide a comprehensive glimpse of the University System of Maryland. Each of our institutions has brought its unique history and strengths to the formulation of its mission. Each has also reflected on its identity, constituencies, and priorities. These statements were not developed in isolation; each USM institution refined its statement as part of a collegial process involving sister USM institutions, under the guidance of the Board of Regents and with input from the System Office and the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The resulting “family portrait” captures both the institutional diversity that is a USM hallmark and the synergy that is at the heart of the University System of Maryland: the creative interaction that produces a strong and vibrant academic enterprise.