

Students

Retention and Graduation Rates:

- Four-year Average Retention Rate: 82%
- Six-year Graduation Rate: 69.1%*

* As reported to IPEDS on fall 2002 cohort.

Financial Aid (Fall 2008*):

- Undergraduate: 5,081
Total Dollar Amount: \$45,098,079
- Graduate: 392
Total Dollar Amount: \$3,166,068

* As of this report, financial aid data is not yet available for fall 2009.

For fall 2009, incoming students have achieved a GPA of 3.59 (up .06) and an average SAT score of 1691 (up 10 points).

Salisbury University’s student body (fall 2009 cohort) is among the most interesting, diverse, and accomplished group in the history of the University. Incoming students have a GPA of 3.59 (up .06 points from fall 2008) and an average SAT score of 1691 (up 10 points from fall 2008). While peer comparison data for the current year is not yet available, last year’s average GPA and SAT range ranked us second among our peers, and we expect to have similar positioning among our peers with these stronger numbers.

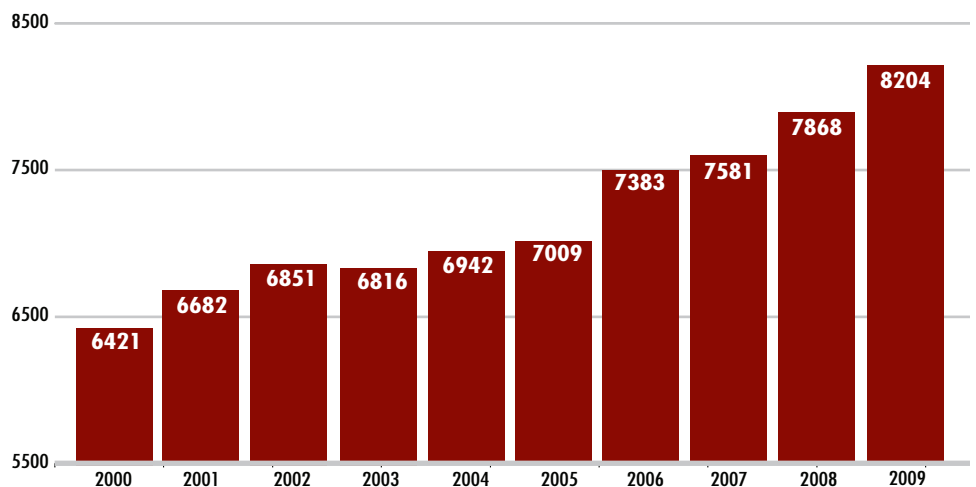
Some 80 years ago, SU was a small teachers college intended primarily for Eastern Shore residents. Since then, SU has attracted an increasingly geographically diverse student body as the national accolades have mounted and our reputation for excellence has grown. Today, 56 percent of our students come from the “Western Shore,” up from 43 percent just a decade before.

Salisbury University is competing for Maryland’s best and brightest students, and we are keeping them. Our four-year average second-year retention rate of 82 percent ranks third among our national performance peers, and our six-year graduation rate of 69.1 percent is the highest of all the comprehensive institutions in the University System. **Significantly, the average African-American graduation rate among our national peers is 42 percent. At 57.1 percent, SU’s graduation rate far exceeds that peer average.**

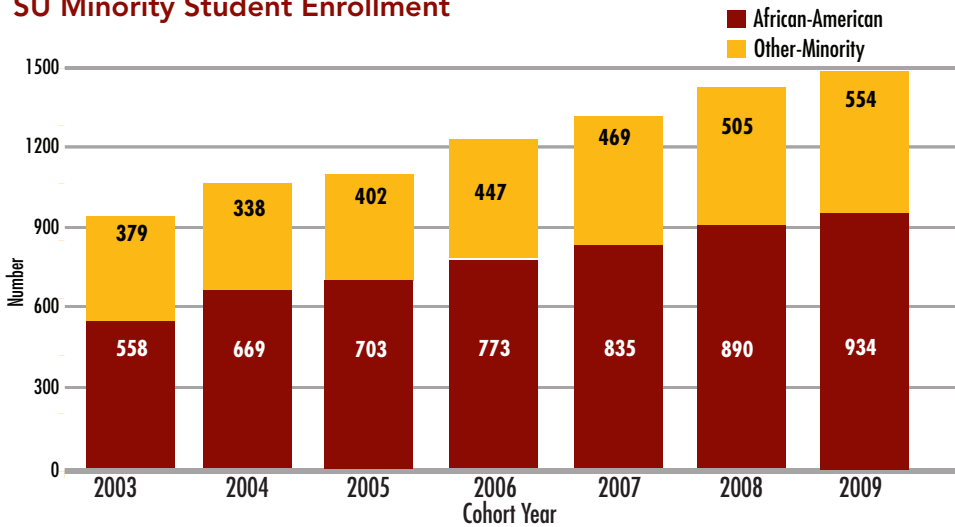
Despite SU’s high retention and graduation rates, our students are feeling the impact of the inadequacy of our operating funds. For the first time in several years, Salisbury’s freshman to sophomore retention rate dropped 2.8 percentage points to 80 percent. We attribute this drop to two factors. First, Salisbury University’s financial aid availability is among the lowest of USM institutions, requiring our students to take on significant debt. And secondly, we have been unable to fund adequately our new Center for Student Achievement. We simply do not have the resources to support and retain those students who have significant academic and/or financial challenges.

The following data documents SU’s growing student body and diversity and provides a financial aid comparison among Maryland public institutions.

Total Institutional Enrollment



SU Minority Student Enrollment



*Other-Minority includes Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, and Nonresident Alien students.

The number of minority incoming students has more than doubled since President Janet Dudley-Eshbach launched a Diversity Initiative in 2000. Overall minority student enrollment has grown steadily over the past five years.

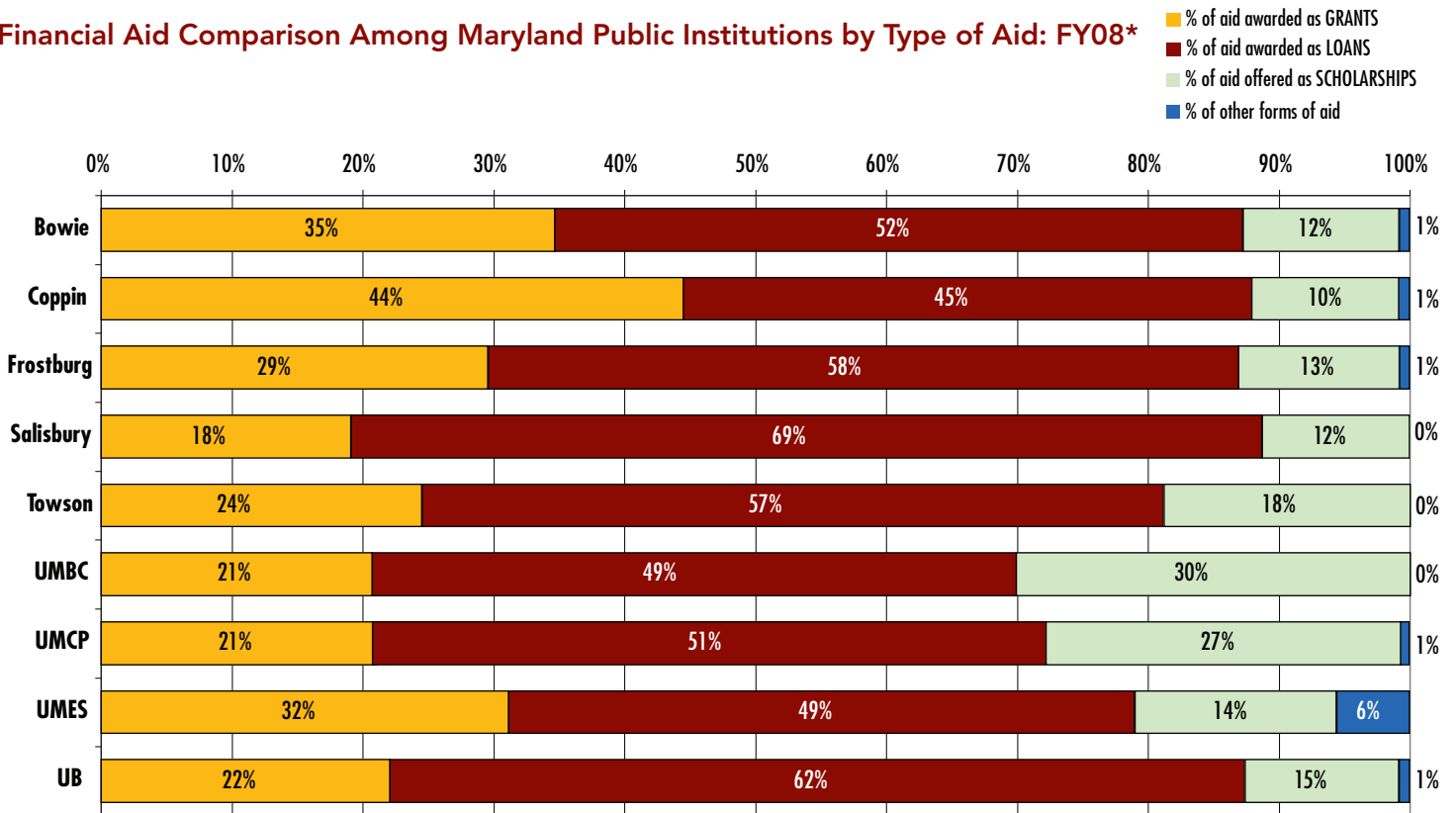
“What needs to happen on this campus is no less than a transformation in terms of inclusiveness, campus climate, and dialogue within our community. With that change will come a greater awareness of ourselves as human beings within a complex and ever-changing world.”

*From Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach's
Diversity Initiative letter, 2001*

SALISBURY

Salisbury University has significantly less funding to dedicate to financial aid as compared to the USM institutions with which we compete for students.

Financial Aid Comparison Among Maryland Public Institutions by Type of Aid: FY08*



Source: Financial Aid data is from MHEC's FAIS Reports

* As of this report, financial aid data is not yet available for fall 2009.

Student Points of Distinction

- For the second year in a row, SU's Bernstein Achievement Award for Excellence has gone international. Master of Business Administration student Benjamin Bottura of Crespieres, France, captured the \$5,000 top prize with his business plan for La Cuisine—a French “cooking restaurant” in Washington, D.C.
- Two virtual digital camera companies run by students from SU's Franklin P. Perdue School of Business were ranked among the Top 100 in the world in an international competition. More than 1,600 companies, managed by teams from 92 colleges and universities, were involved in the global business (GLO-BUS) simulation. SU seniors participated as part of a business strategy capstone course in the Management and Marketing Department.
- SU's Relay For Life was among the American Cancer Society's Top 100 fundraising events nationwide this year. SU was the 14th highest ranked in the South Atlantic Division, along with such campuses as Virginia Tech, Georgetown, University of Delaware, Clemson and University of Maryland. Raising more than \$70,000 for ACS, some 100 teams of 1,000 SU students, faculty, staff, families, and community members participated in the annual Relay in May. Since 2002, SU has raised more than \$620,000 for the society. SU has twice been named one of only 20 “Leaders of Hope” by Colleges Against Cancer, an American Cancer Society program that unites college students, faculty, and staff from more than 300 campuses in the fight against cancer. SU also was named CAC's “Rookie of the Year” Relay chapter, and SU's CAC chapter won a 2008 Outstanding Advocacy Award, one of only six honors given nationwide.
- Art student Will Sykora was honored by Salisbury's Mayor and City Council for his contribution to the city's sculpture collection. Sykora designed the outdoor sculpture, made of weathered steel. Sponsored by the Richard Henson Foundation, the original design is based on an award-winning 1941 photograph by Hans Goehhoff.
- Senior Lindsay Manuel was honored by the Wicomico County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism as its 2009 Betty K. Gardner Tourism Person of the Year. Manuel, the youngest person to ever receive the award, was honored for her volunteer work. She was the third member of the SU community to have won the award in the past four years, along with SU Athletics Director Mike Vienna and Media Relations Director Richard Culver.
- In January, the first six recipients of the Henry H. “Buddy” Hanna Memorial Award headed to Annapolis to work for the Maryland General Assembly. The students worked during the session assisting legislators and State officials in tracking bills, meeting constituents, attending caucuses, and writing speeches. Ranging from \$500-\$2,000, the scholarship is available to SU students—especially those from Salisbury and the Eastern Shore—with a minimum 3.0 GPA who are working as legislative interns and need help with travel expenses.
- For the third time in two years, an SU student was awarded the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for study abroad. Junior Kirsten Tannen, a communication arts major and history and Spanish minor, was one of only 800 American undergraduates nationwide to receive the award. Tannen used the scholarship to study Latin American communications during SU's Intersession in Ecuador Program.

SALISBURY