“Strive for clarity, but accept and understand ambiguity.”

That phrase captures one way in which an educated person approaches the world and its challenges. Students who graduate from the University of Maryland have been exposed to the tools that allow them to put that perspective to work. Imparting such a perspective may be an ambitious project for undergraduate education, but to aim for anything less would be unworthy of a great university’s goals for its students. In 1988, Promises to Keep, a plan for undergraduate education at Maryland, articulated those goals so eloquently we repeat them here.

Undergraduate education at Maryland “aims to provide students with a sense of identity and purpose, a concern for others, a sense of responsibility for the quality of life around them, a continuing eagerness for knowledge and understanding, and a foundation for a lifetime of personal enrichment.”

As we learn with and from one another, we try to “develop humane values,” “celebrate tolerance and fairness,” “contribute to the social conscience,” “monitor and assess private and collective assumptions” and “recognize the glory, tragedy, and humor of the human condition.” Your years at the University of Maryland can provide you with all the tools you need to accomplish these goals. Students here are “educated to be able to read with perception and pleasure, write and speak with clarity and verve, handle numbers and computation proficiently, reason mathematically, generate clear questions and find probable arguments, reach substantiated conclusions, and accept ambiguity.”

And we also hope you enjoy the journey.
In 1859, on the site now occupied by Morrill Hall, Charles Benedict Calvert, a wealthy planter and later a congressman from Riverdale, established the Maryland Agricultural College. Its purpose was to educate the sons of Maryland farmers and to cultivate the free flow of ideas. After the Civil War, the college became one of the nation's first land-grant colleges under the Morrill Act of 1867, and by 1900 had begun to bring prosperity to the state through its agricultural outreach programs. As it did so, it changed the state and was itself transformed.

By the early 20th century, the college had expanded its offerings into engineering, business and the liberal arts. Women were admitted as students in 1912; by 1929, they numbered more than 300, had graduated from every college in what now was a university, and had become active participants in all aspects of campus life. Shortly before World War I, graduate programs began. In 1920, the college merged with the long-established professional schools in Baltimore, and the Maryland Agricultural College changed its name to the University of Maryland.

Along with much of American society, the university was further transformed by World War II. The university revised its curriculum to provide a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences and reshaped its offerings in advanced studies to create a series of "majors" that would serve the emerging needs of industry, government and society for highly educated citizens. However, like the state of which it was a part, the University of Maryland was segregated by race, and barred African-Americans from attending. Beginning in the post-war period, Maryland's black citizens asserted their right to attend the state's premier public university with ever greater force and power.

In 1950 a successful lawsuit required the university to allow a young black man, Parren Mitchell of Baltimore, to attend graduate classes at College Park. In the following year, Hiram Whittle, another Baltimorean, became the first African-American undergraduate student admitted to this institution. Still, it was not until the 1954 landmark Supreme Court ruling in Brown vs Board of Education that the University of Maryland Board of Regents agreed to accept all qualified students without regard to race. Today this institution is a multicultural, international university, ranking 12th among all non-historically black institutions in the number of African Americans earning bachelor's degrees.

The evolution of the University of Maryland mirrored the pattern of social change in other ways as well. In the 1960s, students here as elsewhere sought more opportunities for self-expression as they joined in the movement to create an egalitarian society. Their concerns in part led to the expansion of curriculum offerings into new areas, such as Afro-American Studies and Women's Studies. A wider choice of electives encouraged students to explore various disciplines; the Individual Studies Program was developed to accommodate students who wanted to pursue cross-disciplinary studies; teacher evaluations encouraged students to critique the quality of classroom instruction, and periodic reviews of programs and administrators became standard.
From its pre-Civil War roots as the state’s first agricultural college and one of America’s original land grant institutions, the University of Maryland has emerged as a public research university of national stature, highly regarded for its broad base of excellence in teaching and research. The momentum of recent years has poised the university to move into the top ranks of higher education and take leadership in shaping the research university of the 21st century.

In 1988, the University of Maryland, College Park, was designated as the flagship institution for the University System of Maryland. Increased undergraduate opportunities for research and individual study; the development of the College Park Scholars Program and the expansion of the University Honors Program; the creation of CORE, the general studies program; and the establishment of the Center for Teaching Excellence all affirmed the legislature’s designation of flagship.

The qualifications of entering students have risen each year for the past 10 years, and SATs now range from 1120 to 1300 for the mid-50 percent tier of students. In 1998, more than 1,000 of the 4,000 admitted first year students scored above 1300 on their SATs.

Thirteen colleges and schools—the Smith School of Business, the College of Education, the Clark School of Engineering, the College of Journalism, the College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, the College of Library and Information Services and the School of Public Affairs—have been recognized by their peers and in various rankings as among the 25 best in the nation. The breadth of this excellence is a source of pride for students, faculty and staff, and is endorsement for the university’s flagship status among the state’s institutions of higher education.
The university's commitment to quality education in a research environment is key to its academic reputation and the success of its graduates. Opportunities for conducting research abound at the University of Maryland and in the surrounding area, both for faculty to advance their own expertise and bring their insights into the classroom, and for students to begin their exploration of their special interests with practical experience. On campus, special facilities and a number of organized research centers, bureaus, and institutes promote the acquisition and analysis of new knowledge in the arts, sciences and applied fields.

The university's enviable location—just nine miles from downtown Washington, D.C., and approximately 30 miles from both Baltimore and Annapolis—enhances the research of its faculty and students by providing access to some of the finest libraries and research centers in the country including the Library of Congress, Folger Shakespeare Library, National Archives, National Library of Medicine and National Agricultural Library. In the Baltimore area are the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Maryland Historical Association Library. The state capital at Annapolis is home to the Maryland Hall of Records. In recent years, several research opportunities have been created specifically for undergraduates. As early as the second semester of freshman year, students are eligible to participate in the Undergraduate Research Assistant Program. As research assistants, students develop close intellectual relationships with faculty mentors and collaborate on faculty research projects. Multidisciplinary Senior Summer Scholarship grants enable students to spend the summer between their junior and senior years working closely with faculty mentors on scholarly research or artistic projects while earning academic credit.

Additional discipline-specific research opportunities are available off-campus. The University of Maryland is leading a cooperative excavation of the ruined city of Caesarea Maritima in Israel, where Pontius Pilate lived while serving as Roman governor of Judea. Students also participate in archeological digs in Historic Annapolis and in ongoing historical restoration and research projects at Cape May, N.J., and Kipling Hall in England. Aided by the Maryland Sea Grant, University of Maryland zoologists and microbiologists study the fisheries of the Chesapeake Bay. Research internships are available through academic departments and experiential learning programs. The sites include federal agencies and private organizations such as the National Zoological Park, Congressional Arts Caucus, Smithsonian Institution, Women's Legal Defense Fund, the National Institutes of Health, National Archives and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Students may work in Annapolis or on Capitol Hill through the Maryland Legislative Internships.
Seven libraries make up the University of Maryland library system: McKeldin (main) Library, Architecture Library, Art Library, Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, Hornbake Library, Performing Arts Library, White Memorial (Chemistry) Library.

Each of these libraries maintains specialized units and collections in its disciplines. Overall, the libraries' holdings include more than 2.7 million volumes, more than five million microform units, more than 27,000 current periodical and newspaper subscriptions, one million government documents, 350,000 maps, and extensive collections of phonorecords, music CDs, films, filmstrips, slides, prints, and music scores. The libraries also feature a Technical Reports Center collection of more than two million items—an outstanding collection.

Over 200 bibliographic and full-text electronic resources are available to University of Maryland students and faculty through the Libraries' home page and through MD SUAS (Maryland University System Access) on the Web at http://www.lib.umd.edu/UMCP/. In addition, electronic resources are available in each of the libraries on campus.
Students at the University of Maryland are part of an academic community that enjoys free access to networked computer resources and facilities that are among the best in the country. Free computer accounts enable users to store class work on a networked server, download classroom support materials and other electronic information from campus networked resources such as inforM, or send electronic mail to faculty, fellow students or friends at other universities. And, for additional help using the computers and software, non-credit, short-term “peer training” is available to students throughout each semester.

The University of Maryland’s Web site offers a window into the dynamic world of the university. Its home page is an immediate connection into the major academic units and news from all facets of this vital community of 40,000 students, faculty and staff. There, you will also find links to an array of publications including an online Undergraduate Catalog (www.umd.edu.ugradcat) and award-winning publications like the student newspaper, the Diamondback (www.umd.edu/Diamondback), and the university’s magazine, College Park (www.umd.edu/CPMAG).
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (AGNR)
Animal Sciences
Agricultural and Resource Economics
Agriculture/Veterinary (combined)
Biological Resources Engineering
Conservation of Soil, Water, and Environment
Crop Science
Dietetics
Environmental Science and Policy
Food Science
General Agricultural Sciences
Horticulture
Landscape Architecture
Natural Resources Management
Nutritional Science
Turf and Urban Agronomy

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE (ARCH)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES (ARHU)
American Studies
Art
Art History and Archaeology
Chinese
Classics
Communication
Dance
English Language and Literature
French Language and Literature
Germanic Studies
History
Italian Language and Literature
Japanese
Jewish Studies
Linguistics
Music/Music Performance
Philosophy
Romance Languages
Russian Area Studies
Russian Language and Literature
Spanish Language and Literature
Theatre
Women's Studies

COLLEGE OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (BSOS)
Afro-American Studies
Anthropology
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Economics
Environmental Science and Policy
Geography
Government and Politics
Hearing and Speech Sciences
Psychology
Sociology

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (BMGT)
Accounting
Business Law
Finance
General Business and Management
Logistics and Transportation
Management and Organization
Marketing
Personnel and Labor Relations
Transportation, Business and Public Policy

COLLEGE OF COMPUTER, MATHEMATICAL, AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES (CMPS)
Astronomy
Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Environmental Science and Policy
Geology
Mathematics
Physics
Physical Sciences

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (EDUC)
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education
Secondary Education
Art
English
Foreign Language
Mathematics
Music
Science
Social Studies
Speech and English
Theatre and English
Special Education

A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING (ENGR)
Aerospace Engineering
Biological Resources Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Computer Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Engineering (B.S. in)
Environmental Science and Policy
Fire Protection Engineering
Materials Science and Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE (HLHP)
Family Studies
Health Education
Kinesiological Sciences
Kinesiology

COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM (JOUR)

COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES (LFSC)
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
Biology
Cell Biology and Molecular Genetics
Environmental Science and Policy

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES (UGST)
College Park Scholars
Division of Letters and Sciences
Individual Studies Program
Law and Health Professions
Pre-Dental Hygiene
Pre-Dentistry
Pre-Law
Pre-Medical Technology
Pre-Medicine
Pre-Nursing
Pre-Optomety
Pre-Osteopathic Medicine
Pre-Pharmacy
Pre-Physical Therapy
Pre-Podiatric Medicine
University Honors Program

CAMPUS-WIDE CERTIFICATES
Afro-American Studies
East Asian Studies
Latin-American Studies
Science, Technology, and Society
Women's Studies

MULTI-COLLEGE PROGRAMS
Computer Engineering (CMPS, ENGR)
Environmental Science and Policy (AGNR, BSOS, CMPS, LFSC)