

CHARGE

USM Task Force on Mathematics Requirement for Undergraduate Admissions

Context: To improve mathematics education, MSDE joined a 23-state initiative called the Launch Years led by UT Austin's Dana Center. [The Launch Years](#) "supports the scaling of mathematics pathways from high school through postsecondary education and into the workplace, aligned to students' goals and aspirations."¹ The [Maryland Launch Years Task Force](#) is co-chaired by Ryan Shifler (SU, Asso. Prof., Asso. Dean), Lyndsey Brightful (MSDE Dir. of Mathematics), Dr. Robert Richardson (MSDE, Coordinator of Mathematics), and Brittany Miller (HS Math Specialist, Washington Co. Public Schools). It includes other USM mathematics education and mathematics faculty, as well as K12 and community college representatives. The Launch Years effort is aligned with the Blueprint.

Under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, students will be assessed in 10th grade to determine if they meet the College and Career Readiness (CCR) standard and are on target to be college- and career-ready by graduation. Curricular changes are being made in K12 related to CCR expectations. The current secondary mathematics education structure is Algebra I – Geometry – Algebra II + 1 more course (before or after Algebra II). There is already a plan approved for this structure to be changed to Integrated Algebra I, Integrated Algebra II, and then two courses that will be in a pathway tied to the student's interests (business, STEM, etc.). Geometry will not be a stand-alone course. Consequently, the USM undergraduate admissions policy will no longer align with K12 math.

Charge: The task force is asked to recommend language to amend the [USM undergraduate admissions policy](#) with mathematics requirements that may be met by Maryland public high school students under the new curriculum, which will no longer have Geometry courses. The recommendation should be accompanied by a brief report indicating the rationale for the change.

Anticipated Timeline:

Members identified in August 2025 and first meeting is in September 2025
Have a recommendation for provosts to review by the November AAAC meeting
Finalize the recommendation and a brief report for provosts' approval by February AAAC
Disseminate the recommendation through shared governance
Bring to the Education Policy and Student Life and Safety Committee no later than May so the policy may be voted on at the June 2026 Board of Regents meeting
Effective Date – students entering high school in fall 2027 (or start date for Integrated Algebra I)

Membership:

10 mathematics faculty members - one from each USM institution except UMCES and UMB
2 mathematics education faculty from USM (there are 3 on the Launch Years Task Force now)
2 USM provosts or their delegates
2 USM enrollment management representatives
Co-chairs of MSDE Launch Years Task Force (as available)
2 community college representatives (potentially from Statewide Math Group)
Staff from USMO: Jennifer Lynch, Candace Caraco, Dewayne Morgan (also on the Launch Years TF)

¹ <https://www.utdanacenter.org/twenty-states-join-launch-years-initiative>