In order to more effectively address enrollment pressures on its institutions, the University System of Maryland is taking steps to expand capacity, enhance the quality of the educational experience students receive, and shorten time to degree. From time to time, highly qualified students who have applied for but cannot be granted fall semester admission to a USM institution because of limited campus capacity may be offered admission as first-time students in the spring semester. It is the policy of the USM to strongly encourage those students admitted to institutions as first-time students in the spring semester to earn at least 12 credits applicable to their proposed undergraduate degree program in the fall semester immediately prior to their matriculation. Students are encouraged to take such coursework at University of Maryland University College or a Maryland community college. Students will be advised by the institution that they will attend in the spring semester about those courses at UMUC or a Maryland community college that are applicable to their program requirements.

Institutions offering spring admission to first-time students must, when tendering the offer, alert the student to this USM policy.

This policy will become effective for offers of admission tendered on or after July 1, 2005.