

House Bill 1151

**Environment - Higher Education - Undergraduate Degree Requirement –
United States History Course
House Appropriations Committee
March 5, 2020**

Unfavorable

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson, and Members of the Committee,

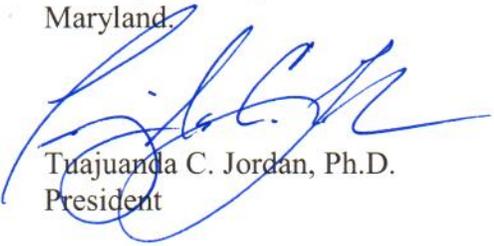
Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 1151 which would mandate each public institution of higher education to require an undergraduate student to pass a United States history course to earn an undergraduate degree.

St. Mary's College has developed a highly regarded core curriculum that provides students a liberal arts foundation to understanding the world. In order to reinforce breadth and diversity of experience, the core curriculum includes first-year seminars, international languages, and courses from each of the following six areas: 1) Arts, 2) Cultural Perspectives, 3) Humanistic Foundations, 4) Mathematics, 5) Natural Sciences, and 6) Social Sciences. The purpose of these requirements is to introduce students to academic disciplines central to the liberal arts.

In addition, the core curriculum includes our LEAD program, Learning through Experiential and Applied Discovery. LEAD is an all-encompassing, integrative pathway intended to prepare students for life after college – graduate/professional school and the workforce. LEAD blends together a thoughtful and purposeful academic experience with professional skill development, weaving together credit-bearing courses and hands-on opportunities.

Adding a requirement for every student to take a United States history course would require the removal of another component of the core. To do so may weaken the student's overall educational experience or, if a student decides that the eliminated component is important for their post-graduate plans, length of time to degree. For these reasons, St. Mary's College opposes House Bill 1151.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued support of St. Mary's College of Maryland.


Tuajuanda C. Jordan, Ph.D.
President



The
**NATIONAL
PUBLIC
HONORS**
College

