

**House Bill 330  
Higher Education - Undergraduate Degree Requirement –  
United States History Course  
House Appropriations Committee  
February 1, 2022**

**Oppose**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 330 mandating 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 with 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 the arts, cultural perspectives, humanistic foundations, mathematics, natural sciences, and 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, whether it be graduate or professional school and or to enter the workforce. LEAD blends together a thoughtful and purposeful academic experience with professional skill development, weaving together credit-bearing courses and hands-on opportunities.

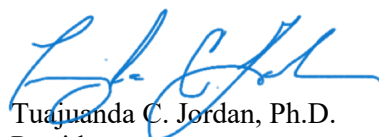
Adding a requirement for each student to take a United States history course would require the removal of a component of the core. To do so may weaken the student's overall educational experience, or if a student decides that the eliminated component is important for their post-graduate plans, the length of time to degree.

Additionally, adding this course requirement to the curriculum would add an additional 16 course sections each year, which would necessitate the hiring of four additional faculty members within the history department, adding approximately \$400K of new expenses each year.

Finally, many of our citizens do not go on to attend a post – secondary institution. Thus, any mandate of this nature is best directed to the K-12 sector to ensure that all Marylanders have equal opportunity to learn the history of the United States.

For these reasons, St. Mary's College opposes House Bill 330.

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



Tuajuanda C. Jordan, Ph.D.  
President

