

**UFC Report
September 2025
College of Business (COB)
University of Mary Washington**

New Graduate Programs

The Board of Visitors (BOV), at a special session this summer, approved our new Master of Science in AI in Business—major milestone in our efforts to prepare students for the AI-enabled world. We have embedded two graduate certificates in the new MS: 1) Entrepreneurial Leadership and 2) AI in Business and both have also been approved by the BOV. Working together, we have reduced the typical curriculum launch timeline from two years to six months. Contingent on SCHEV approval, we expect to launch the MS in AI in Business, the two embedded graduate certificates, and a completely streamlined Flex MBA also with two embedded stackable certificates in Fall 2026.

Relocation and Space Planning

Our Economics faculty have now moved into Woodard Hall, reflecting the closer alignment of our programs. With this growth, we have officially outgrown our current space—one of our five student team rooms has been reconfigured into an economics faculty office, and another has been transformed into the new Finance (Bloomberg) Lab. We now have two economics faculty offices on the second floor of Woodard and two on the first floor. While this is a sign of our rapid progress, it also underscores the need to keep planning for expanded facilities in the future as we have run out of all space in Woodard.

The NSA-National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) Designation

Our cybersecurity faculty worked tirelessly this summer to prepare the proposal for CAE-CD Designation application through the National Security Agency. Achieving this validation and designation will place our cyber program among a select group recognized for excellence in cybersecurity education and workforce preparation. In support of this effort, we are building a new Center for Cybersecurity and establishing a Cybersecurity Advisory Board to guide program growth, industry engagement, and student opportunities.

Economics Lab

Our new Economics Lab on the first floor of Woodard will serve as a dedicated home for data analysis, econometric research, and policy modeling. It will allow our students and faculty to

explore economic questions with real-world data in a collaborative and focused environment using Stata.

Expanding Industry Engagement – Advisory Board Fundraising Initiatives

Our Executive Advisory Board fundraising committee, our entrepreneurship and communications manager, and the dean have worked this summer to create tiered corporate sponsorship opportunities for industry partners of the college. Benefits will include hosting “on-campus presence days” where organizations can set up engagement tables and connect directly with students, as well as early access to our top students. This is a creative way to both diversify revenue streams for the College and the University and create real-world opportunities for our students.

Contributing to the University Six-Year Plan

We were happy to contribute to the development of the University’s six-year plan this summer, ensuring the new college has a strong voice in shaping the university’s future priorities—particularly in innovation, industry partnerships, and workforce readiness. As a College, we are committed to supporting the University’s broader strategy and vision for the years ahead, recognizing that our work is one important piece of a much larger puzzle. Our success is deeply connected to the University’s collective progress, and we will continue to align our initiatives with the University’s overarching goals.

Strengthening SBDC and CED Operations

The **Small Business Development Center (SBDC)** and the **Center for Economic Development (CED)** have successfully completed their corrective action plan (CAP) this summer resulting from last academic year’s audit. In the process, we have streamlined a number of internal operations, clarified workflows, and implemented more efficient processes. These changes will help us better serve our clients, strengthen community partnerships, and ensure smoother day-to-day operations moving forward.