

Call for Nominations: University System of Maryland (USM) Wilson H. Elkins Professorship and Elkins Professorship for Academic Transformation

These two opportunities for Academic Year 2026-2027 are open to UMBC faculty at the rank of Associate Professor and Professor. Review the program information below and at the USM **Wilson H. Elkins Professorship** website, which includes links to both opportunities, at <https://www.usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/elkins.html>.

Elkins Professors will exhibit, at a minimum, all the following qualifications:

- A solid record of achievement in a recognized academic or professional discipline
- Evidence of significant achievement outside traditional disciplines but linked in scholarly and professional ways to the work of the USM
- Demonstrated ability and continuing desire to lead and inspire undergraduate and graduate students in a range of learning situations
- Demonstrated ability and intent to participate in programs and activities outside the USM

Both opportunities require an institutional nomination from a Dean or Provost supporting the faculty member's candidacy, necessitating an **Internal Competition at the College level** (detailed information with timeline is below).

Qualified CAHSS faculty may prepare and submit a **pre-proposal**, following the Internal Competition instructions **below**, to the CAHSS Dean's Office (via Box link) by **April 20, 2026**. Following a review of the pre-proposals, the advancers (1 per professorship) will be notified to prepare **complete proposals** by **April 24, 2026**. The College-level nominated proposals will be submitted to the Provost's Office by **May 10, 2026** for review and final selection, and then forwarded to the Office of the President. The UMBC nominated proposals must be routed in Quali for approval by the Office of Sponsored Programs prior to submission to USM. The deadline for nomination submissions is **May 22, 2026**.

Contact CARAT with questions: Marc Ruppel (mruppel@umbc.edu) or Rachel Brubaker (rbruba1@umbc.edu).

Elkins Funding Opportunities

1. Wilson H. Elkins Professorship (traditional)

The Wilson H. Elkins Professorship, which began in 1978 at the University of Maryland, College Park, was established to perpetuate the name and contributions of Wilson H. Elkins, a former Rhodes Scholar who led the University of Maryland to new levels of distinction as its president from 1954 to 1978. When the University System of Maryland began in 1988, Dr. Elkins agreed that the professorship bearing his name should extend to the entire USM family. Information about the Professorship and a listing of recent Elkins Professors are available on the University System of Maryland website at <https://www.usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/elkins.html>. The professorship last for one academic year and includes an award of up to \$40,000.

Income from the endowment for the Elkins Professorship is intended to support compelling projects, with a focus on research, scholarship, or community engagement, that will allow the Elkins Professor to make an important contribution to the teaching, research, or public service mission of the institution and the entire USM. Direct involvement with undergraduate and/or graduate students and outreach to other institutions within the System are hallmarks of the Elkins Professors.

Complete information can be found in the Call for Nominations Announcement for **Wilson H. Elkins Professorships**:

<https://www.usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/ElkinsMemo-TraditionalFY2027.pdf>

2. Elkins Professorship for Academic Transformation

The Elkins Professorship for Academic Transformation is a prestigious fellowship awarded to faculty within the University System of Maryland. For AY 2026-27, the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation seeks nominations for faculty in support of innovative projects on the use of Generative AI to advance academic transformation. Specifically, three awards of up to \$10,000 each will be granted under this professorship to faculty focused on the use of Generative AI to enhance teaching and learning.

The applicant should have a substantial track record of contributions to the education of students (such as innovations, teaching awards, participation in important initiatives to improve student learning). Work may be carried out in collaboration with colleagues from one's own academic department or other academic departments, IT, Teaching and Learning, Instructional Design, Accessibility, Advising, Student Support Services, or other relevant units. Letters of support are expected from all partner units.

Complete information can be found in the **Call for Nominations: Elkins Professorships for Academic Transformation**:

<https://www.usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/ElkinsMemo-AcademicTransformationFY2027.pdf>

CAHSS Internal Competition

An internal competition will be held by the CAHSS Dean's Office to select one proposal for each opportunity for consideration by the Provost. Interested faculty should prepare pre-proposal materials, combined in one PDF file, with the file name, 'last name_first name_Elkins Traditional' OR 'last name_first name_Elkins Transformation.'

All materials must have a header with the name of the opportunity name and the applicant's name, department and rank.

Upload your file to [box upload link](#) no later than **April 20, 2026**.

Pre-proposal (single PDF file, single-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins):

1. A one page narrative description of "how the nominee exemplifies the excellent an endowed professorship signifies"
2. A 1–2-page description of the proposed work to be undertaken
3. A budget of the projected project costs (refer to the Call for Nomination for information on the allowable costs for the opportunity)
4. A brief CV (up to 2 pages)
5. A one-page letter of recommendation from your department Chair

Faculty advancers will be notified by Associate Dean Alan Yeakley by **April 24, 2026**. Advancers will work with CARAT to prepare a complete proposal, following the USM guidelines. The Dean's Office will forward the CAHSS proposals to the Office of the Provost by **May 10, 2026**. The Provost will review and select the UMBC nominee/s and forward the nominated proposals to the Office of the President for **submission to USM by May 22, 2026**.

NOTE: The UMBC nominated proposals must be routed for approval in the Quali system prior to submission to USM. Applicants must be PI Eligible at the time of routing. The PI Eligibility process entails successful completion of PIRATE training, CITI Research Security Training - combined, and a PI Eligibility form. Contact CARAT (carat@umbc.edu) with questions and for assistance. Routing will take 5 business days.

Proposals should adhere to best practices in digital accessibility, such as the use of heading structure and meaningful alternative text for images. The [USM Digital Accessibility Checklist](#) is a helpful guide: <https://www.usmd.edu/digital-accessibility/USM-Digital-Accessibility-Checklist.pdf>. Also, consult the UMBC Accessible Documents & Presentations webpage: <https://accessibility.umbc.edu/digital-accessibility/accessible-documents-presentations/>.

