The School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences (SANS) has three academic departments: Agriculture, Food and Resource Sciences; Human Ecology; and Natural Sciences.

Undergraduate programs in pre-veterinary medicine, plant and soil science, animal and poultry science, agribusiness, agricultural studies, nutrition, dietetics, fashion merchandising, early child development, family and consumer sciences, biology, chemistry, and environmental science are representative of the School’s varied curricula. Graduate programs, at both the masters and doctoral levels, are offered in marine estuarine and environmental sciences (M.S., Ph.D.) food and agricultural sciences (M.S.), food science and technology (Ph.D.), and toxicology (Ph.D.). Strong research and extension programs are integrated with the school’s academic programming.

DEPARTMENTS:

The Department of Agriculture, Food, and Resource Sciences provides experiential learning opportunities through state-of-the-art research, education, and farm facilities. Consequently, students are prepared for careers in veterinary medicine, animal management and production, agricultural education, plant breeding and biotechnology, greenhouse and nursery management, landscape design, water quality, nutrient management, food and fiber processing, natural resource sciences, food safety, marketing and management, international trade and development, urban forestry, and economic research. The department offers two undergraduate degrees in agribusiness and general agriculture. Graduate degree programs are offered at the master’s level for food and agricultural sciences and at the doctoral level for food science and technology.

The Department of Human Ecology provides exemplary education, outreach, and research programs that are integrative and ecologically focused. Faculty are actively involved in professional organizations, ensuring that the curricula are progressive and applicable. State-of-the-art labs provide hands-on experiences for students in textiles, apparel construction, nutrition and dietetics, and child development. The department offers an undergraduate degree program in human ecology with options in the following areas: child development, dietetics, nutrition, family and consumer sciences, family and consumer sciences education, and fashion merchandising.

The Department of Natural Sciences offers programs for students majoring in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, and environmental science as well as minors in biology, chemistry, and physics. Teaching programs are offered in biology and chemistry, which is certified by the American Chemical Society. The department also offers a two-year pre-pharmacy program, with minor concentrations in biology, chemistry, environmental science, and physics. In cooperation with the
University of Maryland Center for Environmental and Estuarine Studies (CEES), combined four-year bachelor of science/five-year master of science degree programs in marine sciences and environmental chemistry are available. Courses leading to masters and doctoral degrees in toxicology along with a university-wide graduate program in marine-estuarine-environmental sciences are offered as well.

RESEARCH:

UMES is one of two land-grant institutions in the state of Maryland that provide leadership for research in agriculture, food, biomedical sciences, and natural resource conservation and use. The School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences is unique among the academic schools in that it underpins UMES’ land-grant status. Over the years, the SANS research program has established and maintained strong collaborative partnerships with state and federal agencies as well as other academic institutions. These linkages allow the program to be highly responsive to priorities in Maryland and the nation. Support for research comes from several sources: the Evans-Allen Program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture; several state departments, a number of federal agencies, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health; and the private sector.

EXTENSION:

The University of Maryland Extension is a cooperative partnership between the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and the University of Maryland, College Park. A statewide educational organization funded by federal, state, and local governments, Extension provides practical education to help people, businesses, and communities solve problems, develop skills, and build better futures. University of Maryland Extension is in the business of extending research-based knowledge and changing lives.

AFFILIATED UNITS:

**Faculty Technology Development and Support Center (SANS Center)** – provides technology-related support to enhance instruction, research, and outreach programs for the School of Agricultural and Natural Sciences.

**Child and Family Development Center** – is licensed by the Maryland State Department of Education’s Office of Childcare; cares for and educates children from six weeks to five years of age.

**Paul S. Sarbanes Coastal Ecology Center** - is a teaching, research, and public outreach facility that houses initiatives related to the restoration, conservation, and understanding of the water quality, surrounding natural environments, and living resources that characterize the coastal bays.

**Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center** – conducts research congruent with the interests of NOAA Fisheries and prepares students for careers in research, management, and public policy that supports the sustainable harvest and conservation of the nation’s living marine resources.

**Food Science and Technology Center** – assists companies in product development and conducts research leading to the value-added processing of underused raw materials or wastes.