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Origins of Salisbury State University began in 1922, when the General Assembly established a commission to determine a location on the Eastern Shore for a two-year teachers' college. A site was selected and the institution opened as the State Normal School at Salisbury in September 1925. The School was renamed as the State Teachers College at Salisbury in 1935, and as Salisbury State College in 1963. The College became Salisbury State University in 1988 (Chapter 366, Acts of 1988). That same year, the University became part of the University of Maryland System (Chapter 246, Acts of 1988).

Nationally accredited, Salisbury State University is a four-year liberal arts university. It offers 36 undergraduate and graduate degree programs to over 5,900 students. University courses include four-year undergraduate programs in liberal arts and sciences; and in the professional fields of business administration, education, medical technology, nursing, respiratory therapy, and social work. In addition, the University's graduate division offers master's degree programs in business administration, education, English, history, nursing, and psychology.