
Coppin State University Capability Statement

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1.) Institutional Overview

At a Glance

- **Name:** Coppin State University
- **Location:** Baltimore, Maryland
- **Founded:** 1900
- **Enrollment:** 3,300
- **Classification:** Comprehensive, Public HBCU
- **Graduate Programs:** 14 Programs; 16 Certificates

Primary IAA Program Contact

- **Name:** Ronald C. Williams, PhD
- **Title:** Interim Dean, Graduate Studies and Research
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Strategic Alignment with State Priorities

- Coppin State University is committed to advancing Maryland's priorities in inclusion, social mobility, innovation, economic development, and community impact. Through its faculty, research centers, exceptional capabilities and talented student body and alumni, Coppin State University is well-positioned to support State agencies with high-quality services delivered under Interagency Agreements (IAAs).

2.) Core Capability Domains

Coppin State University offers contract-ready services across the following:

- Financial, Compliance, and Performance Support
- Workforce Development, Job Placement, and Human Capital Services
- Health, Behavioral Health, and Public Health Analytics
- Data, Cybersecurity, and Digital Transformation
- Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Legal Systems Support
- Education, Child Development, and Special Populations
- Policy Analysis, Civic Engagement, and Government Effectiveness
- Community, Non-Profit, and Social Impact Capacity Building
- Arts, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy
- STEM, Environmental, and Applied Science Support

3.) Representative Services and Offerings

Under these domains, Coppin State University can provide services such as:

- **Financial, Compliance, and Performance Support**
 - Financial process analysis and internal controls assessment
 - Program budgeting support and cost-benefit analyses
 - Performance measurement frameworks and KPI dashboards
 - Audit preparation, compliance documentation, and SEFA support
 - Data integrity and reporting validation for state and federal programs
- **Workforce Development, Job Placement, and Human Capital Services**
 - Workforce readiness assessments and vocational evaluations
 - Job placement pipelines tied to state workforce priorities
 - Career pathway design for underserved populations
 - Return-to-work and disability employment support models
 - Program evaluation for workforce and training initiatives
- **Health, Behavioral Health, and Public Health Analytics**
 - Community health needs assessments
 - Population health data analysis and reporting
 - Health informatics system optimization and training
 - Behavioral health program design and evaluation
 - Public health workforce training and simulation
- **Training, Professional Development, and Capacity Building**
 - Customized Workforce Training Programs
 - Leadership and Supervisory Development
 - Certification and Credentialing Pathways
 - Train-the-Trainer and Capacity Transfer Programs
 - Entrepreneurship and Small Business Capacity Building
- **Data, Cybersecurity, and Digital Transformation**
 - Cyber risk assessments and security awareness training
 - Data governance frameworks and analytics support
 - Secure system design consultations
 - Workforce upskilling in cybersecurity and data analytics
 - Applied research on emerging digital threats and safeguards
- **Criminal Justice, Public Safety, and Legal Systems Support**
 - Program evaluation for justice and correctional initiatives
 - Recidivism analysis and predictive modeling
 - Community-based violence prevention research
 - Policy impact studies and equity assessments
 - Training support for justice-involved workforce professionals
- **Education, Child Development, and Special Populations**
 - Early childhood program design and evaluation

- Special education training and inclusive practices support
- Teacher workforce development and certification pipelines
- Family engagement and wraparound service models
- Applied research on learning outcomes and interventions
- **Policy Analysis, Civic Engagement, and Government Effectiveness**
 - Policy analysis and legislative impact briefs
 - Community engagement strategy design
 - Urban systems and housing research
 - Equity-focused policy evaluation
 - Applied student research for state task forces
- **Community, Non-Profit, and Social Impact Capacity Building**
 - Non-profit management training and governance support
 - Grant readiness and program sustainability planning
 - Community needs assessments
 - Social impact measurement and reporting
 - Cross-sector partnership facilitation
- **Arts, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy**
 - Cultural tourism and creative economy studies
 - Arts-based community revitalization initiatives
 - Event management and entertainment analytics
 - Workforce pipelines for hospitality and gaming sectors
 - Cultural preservation and public history projects
- **STEM, Environmental, and Applied Science Support**
 - Environmental monitoring and data analysis
 - Laboratory testing and applied research support
 - STEM workforce development and pipeline programs
 - Scientific literacy and community education initiatives
 - Emergency response and health preparedness research

4.) Representative Past Performance and Experience

- **CEO Accelerator – MD Office of Social Equity**
 - **Scope:** The School of Graduate Studies and Research will deliver 10 modules of general business instruction in an asynchronous online format. The SGSR will be responsible for design, delivery, recruitment of instructors, maintaining the online platform, six hours per week of availability for learning clarification of content, and delivery of a program assessment report.
 - **Role:** Program Design, Program Development, Program Management

- **Outcomes:** This initiative is expanding equitable access to Maryland’s adult-use cannabis economy by strengthening the business readiness and sustainability of small businesses, with a targeted focus on minority- and women-owned enterprises.
- **Making the Future: A New Assessment Framework for Local Production – Open Works Baltimore**
 - **Scope:** Advance a new, research based, transdisciplinary assessment framework for local production and makerspaces that integrates economic impact analysis with social and technological network methodologies to better capture community, workforce, and innovation outcomes.
 - **Role:** Coppin State University serves as the academic anchor by leading the research design, mixed-methods analysis, policy framing, and stakeholder engagement in partnership with Open Works and statewide makerspace collaborators.
 - **Outcomes:** Evidence-based insights that informed public investment in Maryland makerspaces, strengthened policy advocacy for local production, and positioned CSU as a thought leader in equitable economic development and impact assessment.
- **Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant – Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**
 - **Focus Area:** Nursing Education & Workforce Development, Health Equity & Diversity in the Health Professions, Student Success, Retention & Completion, Community-Based Health Workforce Impact, Faculty–Student Engagement & Experiential Learning
 - **Relevance to State Work:** This grant directly advances State priorities by strengthening a diverse, well-prepared nursing workforce that improves health equity, expands access to quality care in underserved communities, and supports Maryland’s long-term healthcare capacity and resilience.
- **The Johns Hopkins University – A Comparison of the Firearm-Related Intimate Partner Homicide in Texas and Maryland**
 - **Focus Area:** The work examines firearm-related intimate partner homicide, using a comparative analysis of Texas and Maryland to identify patterns, risk factors, and policy-relevant differences in firearm access, domestic violence dynamics, and legal frameworks.
 - **Relevance to State Work:** This research directly aligns with Maryland’s priorities in public safety, gun violence prevention, domestic violence reduction, and data-informed policy development, providing comparative evidence to inform prevention strategies, legislative action, and cross-agency interventions aimed at reducing lethal violence.

5.) Research Centers, Labs, and Institutional Assets

Coppin State University brings specialized research and operational capacity through:

- **The Center for Inclusive Excellence (CIE):** The Center for Inclusive Excellence (CIE) builds capacities for inclusive excellence in education and the workplace. Breaking through traditional uni-sector approaches to solving community-wide challenges of gaps in academic achievements and career outcomes, the CIE initiatives are designed with multi-sector partners and with multiple pathways to increase educational access, improve professional effectiveness, and accelerate career advancement. The Center’s research and development focuses on academic innovation and community transformation in high-need rural and urban communities across Maryland. The research portfolio consists of grants funded by private, state, and federal agencies, including multiple high-visibility and highly competitive awards granted by the United States Department of Education (USDoED).
- **Center for Nanotechnology:** The Center for Nanotechnology at Coppin State University, established in 2007, is a research-intensive hub bringing together faculty and students to conduct collaborative, interdisciplinary research to strengthen the regional STEM pipeline and foster scientific exchange. Supported by funding from industry, state, and federal partners, core research areas include clean energy generation and storage, photovoltaic materials and device design, biomedical imaging contrast agents, and advanced materials characterization.
- **Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship:** The Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship (CSE) is the epicenter of entrepreneurship research, teaching, and practice at Coppin State University, advancing innovative, equity-centered approaches to business and economic development. CSE champions transdisciplinary collaboration across academic disciplines and industries to strengthen entrepreneurial capacity, foster ingenuity, and generate scalable economic impact. Its programming serves West Baltimore communities, regional K–12 students and graduates, and Coppin State University students and stakeholders, with a shared mission of preparing change agents to address complex urban and global challenges.
- **Center for Organic Synthesis:** The Center for Organic Synthesis was founded in 2011 by Dr. Hany F. Sobhi, Professor of Organic and Clinical Chemistry. The primary objective of the center is to develop strategies to synthesize, purify, and full spectroscopic characterization of small bioorganic molecules that can be used for clinical diagnosis (biomarkers), and to understand the pathogenic mechanisms underlying the clinical manifestations of diseases, that lead to potential new drugs, and/or suggested therapeutic strategy.

These assets enable Coppin State University to deliver high-quality, research-based services under Interagency Agreements.

6.) Innovation and Future Focus

Coppin State University is actively investing in the capabilities Maryland agencies will need over the next 10–20 years.

- **Current Innovation Priorities**

- Enhance Teaching and Research Excellence — Expand innovative pedagogy, interdisciplinary research, and translational scholarship that advances knowledge and improves the human condition.
- Promote Academic and Career Readiness — Foster a culture of innovation, inclusivity, and technology-enhanced learning to prepare students for emerging workforce demands.
- Strengthen Institutional Attractiveness and Innovation — Build a dynamic environment that supports entrepreneurial thinking, professional growth, and community-engaged solutions.
- Cultivate Community Partnerships — Innovate through strategic collaborations with civic, corporate, and government organizations to expand educational opportunities and socioeconomic impact.
- Elevate the University’s Profile through Strategic Innovation — Showcase academic excellence, research breakthroughs, and meaningful outcomes that position Coppin as a recognized leader in urban higher education and innovation.
- **Emerging and Planned Specialized Capabilities (10-20 Year Horizon)**
 - Expand Transdisciplinary Research & Innovation Centers - CSU will develop and expand mission-aligned centers, institutes, and labs that integrate teaching, research, and applied practice
 - Enhance Faculty & Graduate Research Capacity in State-Aligned Domains - CSU will increase faculty and graduate research capacity in domains closely aligned with Maryland and regional priorities, including:
 - Grow Applied Learning & Talent Pipelines for Public-Sector Impact - CSU will scale applied learning pipelines that directly support State and local agency needs through:
 - Develop Equity-Centered Economic & Workforce Innovation – CSU will build on its anchor-institution role, CSU will strengthen capabilities in:
 - Engage in Co-Creation with Government, Industry & Community Partners - CSU will deepen its role as a solutions-oriented partner.
- **Future Value to State Agencies**
 - A reliable, mission-aligned research partner capable of conducting applied research, evaluation, and data analytics that reflect the lived realities of urban and underserved communities
 - Access to ready-to-deploy talent pipelines—undergraduate, graduate, and credentialed professionals trained through applied learning, internships, fellowships, and project-based work directly aligned to agency missions, reducing recruitment costs and onboarding time.

- Equity-informed frameworks, tools, and evaluations that help design, assess, and refine programs to meet statutory equity goals, federal compliance requirements, and public accountability standards—especially in health, education, workforce, and economic development.
- Faculty-led, transdisciplinary teams that integrate policy, data, technology, health, education, and community engagement expertise
- Centers, labs, data platforms, and digital learning environments that function as shared research and training infrastructure for the State
- Embedded community access and credibility in West Baltimore and beyond
- Surge capacity in the form of rapid training deployment, data analysis, evaluation, or technical assistance, in response to emerging policy mandates, federal funding opportunities, public health needs, or legislative timelines.
- CSU’s ability to translate research into usable products such as policy briefs, dashboards, training modules, implementation guides, and performance reports

7.) Geographic and Community Outreach

Coppin State University has deep ties to communities across Maryland, including:

- **Primary Service Region(s):** Baltimore City and counties
- **Community Partners:** Baltimore City, Open Works, MD Office of Social Equity, and several additional public, private, and community organizations and academic institutions.
- **Focus:** Advancing Equity through Workforce and Credential Pathways; Supporting Small Businesses and Inclusive Entrepreneurship; Improving Health Outcomes in Underserved Communities; and Strengthening Community-Based Innovation and Local Production

The community footprint provides State agencies with a partner that understands local context and can engage stakeholders effectively.

8.) IAA Engagement Readiness

Coppin State University is prepared to perform work under Interagency Agreements (IAAs) for:

- **Research, Evaluation, and Data Analytics:** Applied research, program evaluation, performance measurement, policy analysis, and data analytics to support evidence-based decision-making, accountability, and continuous improvement across state agencies.
- **Consulting and Advisory Services:** Faculty-led strategic, operational, financial, policy, and systems consulting to help agencies design, implement, and improve programs, operations, and organizational effectiveness.
- **Training and Professional Development:** Workforce development, credentialed training, leadership development, and upskilling programs delivered through in-person, hybrid, and asynchronous online formats for public-sector staff, grantees, and partners.

- Technical Assistance for Programs and Initiatives: Hands-on technical assistance to support program launch, compliance, implementation, monitoring, and sustainability, including grant readiness, financial compliance, workforce pipelines, and technology adoption.
- STEM, Health, and Specialized Applied Services: Discipline-specific applied services drawing on CSU expertise in STEM, health sciences, cybersecurity, public health, education, arts and culture, and community-based initiatives to address specialized agency needs.

9.) Primary Contacts

- **Programmatic Contact (for Scoping Opportunities)**
 - Name: Ronald C. Williams, PhD
 - Title: Interim Dean, Graduate Studies and Research
 - Email: rwilliams@coppin.edu
 - Phone: 410.951.3452
- **Contract/IAA Contact (for Agreement Structure)**
 - Name: Ronald C. Williams, PhD
 - Title: Interim Dean, Graduate Studies and Research
 - Email: rwilliams@coppin.edu
 - Phone: 410.951.3452

10.) Key Personnel (Abbreviated)

- Dr. Jamal Uddin – Director, Center for Nanotechnology
 - Expertise: Nanomaterials and Applied Nanotechnology, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Materials Science, Advanced Spectroscopy, Photochemistry, and Photophysics, STEM Research Leadership, Education, and Workforce Pipeline Development
- Dr. Hany Sobhi – Director, Center for Organic Synthesis
 - Expertise: Synthetic Bioorganic and Organic Chemistry, Clinical Bioanalytical Chemistry and Biomarker Development, Disease Mechanisms, Pharmacology, and Translational Research, Federally Funded Research Leadership and Interagency Collaboration
- Dr. Yi-Ping Huang – Executive Director, Center for Inclusive Excellence
 - Expertise: Inclusive Credential and Workforce Pathway Design, Large-Scale Grant Leadership and Sponsored Programs, Institutional Capacity Building and Academic Transformation, Cross-Sector Partnerships and Network Development
- Dr. Tammira Lucas – Interim Director, Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship
 - Expertise: Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Development, Equity-Centered Business Development and Venture Support, Innovation Infrastructure and Community-Based Economic Development, Venture Growth Strategy and Applied Business Education

- Dr. Johnny Rice – Associate Professor, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
 - Expertise: Violence Prevention, Victim Services, and Trauma-Informed Practice; Criminal Justice Policy, Juvenile Justice, and Community Safety; Public Health Approaches to Justice and Violence; Family Systems, Responsible Fatherhood, and Child Welfare; and Program Administration, Federal Grant Management, and Technical Assistance
- Dr. Lori Harvin – Associate Professor, College of Health Professions
 - Expertise: Nursing Education Leadership & Curriculum Development, Advanced Clinical Practice & Primary Care, Clinical Nursing Education & Teaching Excellence, Doctoral-Level Nursing Practice & Quality Improvement, and Workforce Development, Mentorship & Professional Readiness