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U. of Md. student, Howard Co. resident dies after College Park car crash

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Prince George's County, Maryland, police said a Clarksville resident involved in a collision at the University of Maryland, College Park campus earlier this month has died.

Erik Mechtel, 22, was in the area of Campus Drive and Mowatt Lane at around 5:40 p.m. on Dec. 16 when the crash happened, according to [a news release](#) from the department.

A police investigation revealed that Mechtel was struck by an SUV after it struck a median. The driver of the SUV remained at the scene of the crash and cooperated with the department, according to police.



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Mechtel was hospitalized with serious injuries related to the crash, suffering broken bones before entering a coma, [according to family and community members](#). He died Thursday from his injuries.

The 22-year-old Marylander was a senior, and [undergraduate research assistant with the Joint Quantum Institute Hafezi Group](#), plus a [researcher in the Space Power & Propulsion Lab](#) in the university's Department of Aerospace Engineering. His first published piece of research [was made available back in August](#).

Officers asked anyone with information on this crash to call 301-731-4422 or, if you wish to remain anonymous, contact [PG Crime Solvers](#).

An approximate crash location is seen below.



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**Ivy Lyons**

Ivy Lyons is a digital journalist for WTOP.com. Since 2018, they have worked on Capitol Hill, at NBC News in Washington, and with WJLA in Washington.

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