

## Special Populations

### International Students—Visa Status and Country of Origin

International Students are not easily categorized, and care should be taken in representing the International Student population at Montgomery College. There are several different ways to define “International Students,” so caution should be exercised in using these data.

Historically, Montgomery College categorizes any student who is not a U.S. Citizen as an International Student (n=7,188 this fall semester). Other agencies and organizations use different criteria; for example, the Institute of International Education defines a foreign student as “anyone who is enrolled in courses at institutions of higher education in the United States who is not a U.S. citizen, an immigrant (permanent resident), resident alien, or a refugee.” This definition (including applicants for such visa-types) would yield an International Student headcount at the College of 2,009. Finally, International Students are often considered those whose visa type is that of a “foreign student”—non-immigrant students on an F-1 visa whose primary purpose for coming to this country is to study at an institution of higher education. For fall 2005, Montgomery College enrolled 851 of these students.

There are 176 countries represented by non-U.S. citizen students enrolled in the fall 2005 semester. Ethiopia, Cameroon, India, South Korea, and El Salvador were the top 5 countries represented.

Fall 2005

<b>Definition of International Student</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>% of All Students</b>
Non-Citizen (not a U.S. citizen)	7,188	32%
Institute of International Education (IIE) ( <i>see definition above</i> )	2,009	9%
Foreign Students (F1 Visa)	851	4%

## **Special Populations** (continued)

### **Disabilities**

Five percent of the fall 2005 students (n=1,103) report having a disability—a decrease from last Fall’s 1,153 students. Of the disabilities that students reported, Learning Disability accounted for 34% and Attention Deficit Disorder constituted 23%. There are 41 blind / visually impaired and 47 deaf / hard of hearing students at the College.

### **New First-Time Freshmen**

There were 4,751 students new to college in the fall 2005 semester – this represents 21% of the students and excludes students who transfer-in to the College from other collegiate institutions.

These new students looked a little different from the total student body by gender (49.9% were female compared to 55.4% overall), residency (86% were County residents versus 90% of all students), and credit load (51% were full-time compared to 38% of all students). Additionally, male students comprise a little over half of the new to college freshmen in fall 2005, an increase from the previous year.

The new students varied by race from the total student body – there were fewer in each category but Hispanic (18% Hispanic compared to 15% collegewide) – and by citizenship (70% of new students and 68% of all students were U.S. citizens).

### **Web-based Distance Learning Students**

This fall 2,051 students (9% of all students) enrolled in at least one web-based distance learning course. Most of them (69%) were also taking more traditional-style classes as well, but there were 635 students taking courses only via the web. There were 8,190 credit hours accounted for by enrollments in web-based courses – 4% of all credit hours of enrollment in the fall 2005 semester.

*[note: these enrollment data do not include courses taught in a “blended” mode – that is, a combination of traditional classroom and web-based instruction ]*

Two-thirds of these students were women, 74% were 21 or older, and most (84%) were students previously enrolled (i.e., “continuing”) at the College.

## **Special Populations** (continued)

### **Credit Student Application Data**

In fall 2004, the College resumed tracking of applications for credit enrollment in an effort to learn more about the prospective student pool. For the first time in the Student Profile, comparison data on application activity is provided.

In fall 2005, there was a 23% increase in the number of applications submitted from the previous fall semester. On-line applications increased 35% over the previous year, while traditional application submittals increased 24%. In both fall terms, a higher portion of the on-line applicants were registered at the end of the first week of classes (2005 – 62% and 2004 – 72%) than those employing the traditional application process (2005 – 56% and 2004 – 71%). Of all the applicants in fall 2005, 3,983 (58%) were registered for classes by the end of the first week – a decline from last fall’s 71%.

About three-in-four applicants this fall were new to college. Applicants with a student type of Adult / Continuing Ed have attended Montgomery College previously as a non-credit student. There were 2,791 recent high school graduates, up 36% from 2,059 the previous year; six-in-ten of the applicants were aged 20 or younger. The largest increase in applicants by race was among Hispanics – a 4.6% increase over last fall.