

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER

Students in Postsecondary education in this country far less frequently than in the past enroll in one institution and proceed linearly through a program of study and complete in two or four years. Students at both four-year and two-year institutions often "swirl" in a non-linear fashion through multiple institutions on their way to achieving their academic goals.

At Montgomery College, where substantial numbers of students enter with plans to transfer to four-year institutions, literally thousands of students who attended the College in one year are somewhere else by the time the next academic year rolls around. The data here reflect our efforts to track those students who were enrolled at the College sometime during the 2007-2008 academic year and were attending another institution sometime between their enrollment here and the end of the Fall, 2008 semester.

Of the 34,207 students who took credit courses at the College in 2007-2008, 9,316 (27%) were attending another institution by the end of the Fall, 2008 semester. To be fair, many of those were only at MC for one or two courses, so we typically don't characterize them as "MC Transfers." Also, many students are attending another two-year institution after they were at MC, so we don't typically characterize them as "MC Transfers." The generally-accepted rubric for counting Transfer students is those who've accumulated 12 or more credits at the community college and then transfer to a four-year institution.

For transfer students defined that way (i.e., earned 12 credits at MC and transferred to a four-year institution after their enrollment at MC), the following briefly summarizes some characteristics:

There were 5,135 Transfers from the students enrolled at MC in the 1007-2008 academic year.

They transferred to 389 separate four-year colleges and universities in 49 states and the District of Columbia (only the state of Wyoming does not have an MC transfer this past year).

Of those 5,135, 823 were MC graduates and 4,312 transferred without an award

Of the 5,135, most had been enrolled in Transfer Programs at the College (n=3,638; 71%), but almost one-third (n=613) had been enrolled in Career Programs prior to transferring. General Studies was the program of study generating the largest number of transfers, followed by Business Administration, and then Arts & Sciences, and then Engineering.

Not surprisingly, the largest number of transfer students stayed in-state -- UMCP, UMUC, UMBC, and Towson were the top four destinations, followed by Salisbury, and then the University of Maryland at Baltimore (UMAB), and then Howard University, Columbia Union College, and then Strayer University rounded-out the top ten receiving institutions. Maryland, D.C., Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, and North Carolina were the states with the largest number of MC transfers.