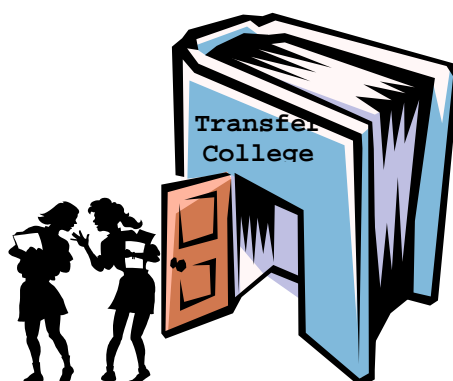


MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Trustee Information Program

Number of Montgomery College Students who Transferred to Colleges within the
University System of Maryland
Fall 1999 to Fall 2005
And
Average GPA First Year After Transfer
AY 2000/2001 to AY 2004/2005



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Number of Students who Transferred to Maryland Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities and the Academic Status at Transfer Institution One Year After Transfer 1999/00 to 2004/05

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Number of Transfers to Maryland Public Colleges

More than 1,900 students (1,958) who were enrolled at Montgomery College (MC) in fall 2004 transferred to Maryland public colleges and universities in fall 2005. Of those who transferred, 1,768 students transferred to four-year public senior colleges and universities, while the other 190 students transferred to other Maryland community colleges. The University of Maryland at College Park continues to be the largest recipient of MC transfers to a senior institution in the Maryland public sector followed by the University College and Baltimore County campuses. There were 472 reverse transfers. These are students who were enrolled at four-year public colleges in Maryland in fall 2004 then transferred to Montgomery College in fall 2005. Of the reverse transfers, 192 (40.7 percent) transferred from the University of Maryland at College Park; 86 (18.2 percent) transferred from the University of Maryland University College and 71 (15 percent) transferred from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

There were 55 fewer transfers in fall 2005 compared to fall 2004. The decrease was noted across all race/ethnic groups with the exception of Asian students and those within the "other" category. Forty-two more Asian students transferred in fall 2005 than in fall 2004, while fewer Black (-41), Hispanic (-31) and White (-9) transferred.

The increase in the number of Asian students increased their proportional representation of the transfer cohort by three percentage points (19.3 percent in fall 2004 to 22.2 percent in fall 2005). Black student representation dropped (20.1 percent in fall 2004 to 18.4 percent in fall 2005). The proportion of Hispanic student transfers declined to 9.2 percent from 10.6 percent; and White students increased from 45.4 percent to 46.2 percent.

More than 60 percent of former MC students who transferred to Maryland senior colleges and universities in fall 2005 attended on a full-time basis. Asian students and students in the "other" category were consistently more likely to transfer on a full-time basis than other student groups.

GPA One Year After Transfer

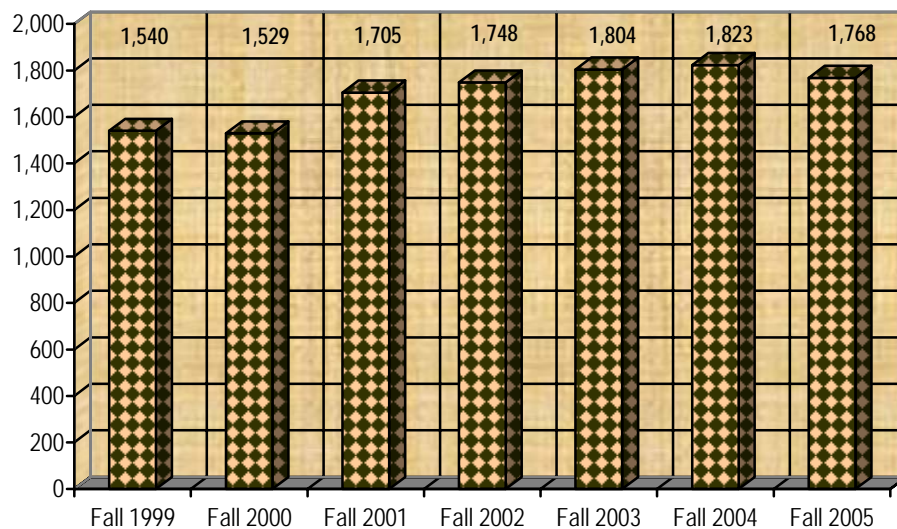
After spending one academic year at Maryland senior colleges and universities, the academic performance as assessed by the GPA was calculated for community college transfer students. The data showed that former MC students achieved an overall GPA of 2.63 in academic year 2004/05, which consistently places them in an average to better than average range of academic standing. The performance of former MC students exceeded the performance of community college students statewide (2.56). The most recent GPA data for MC transfers ranged from 1.07 or "D" at Bowie State University to 3.39 or "B" at St. Mary's. The most recent cohort of MC transfer students performed less well at nine of the 13 transfer institutions compared to the GPAs for the 2003/04 group. Overall, however, the data consistently suggest that students transfer from MC with the necessary academic credentials to meet the challenges they face at Maryland's senior public colleges and universities.

Graduate follow-up survey responses (79 to 88 percent) show that Montgomery College has played a positive role in preparing students for success as they continue their educational endeavors at Maryland's senior institutions.

**Number of Montgomery College Students who Transferred to
Maryland Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities by Academic Year of Entry
Fall 1999 to Fall 2005**

The number of students that transferred to Maryland four-year public colleges and universities in the fall semester of 2005 declined after four years of successive increases. One thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight students (1,768) transferred to Maryland senior public colleges and universities in fall 2005, which represents a three percent decrease below the figure (1,823) for the previous fall semester. It is noted also that during this transfer period, 190 former Montgomery College students transferred to one of the other Maryland community colleges and 472 students who were enrolled at four-year public colleges in Maryland in fall 2004 transferred to Montgomery College in fall 2005. Of the reverse transfers, 40.7 percent or 192 of those students transferred from the University of Maryland at College Park. Other notable numbers of reverse transfers came from the University of Maryland University College (86) and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (71).

Figure 1: Number of Transfers to Maryland Four-Year Public Colleges



Former Montgomery College students who transferred to public senior Maryland institutions in fall 2005 were as diverse as MC's student body. Table 1 provides a four year trend of the number and proportional representation of transfers by race/ethnicity. In fall 2005, almost 54 percent of the transfers were non-white (22.2 percent Asian, 18.4 percent Black, 9.2 percent Hispanic, four percent unknown). After three years of gains in transfer activity (fall 2001 to fall 2004), the decline in the overall number of transfers can be attributed to the decrease in transfers in all race/ethnic groups with the exception of the Asian student group, which, on the flip side, increased 12 percent or by 42 students. Black (-41) and Hispanic (-31) students took the brunt of the loss with 11.2 and 16 percent respective decreases in transfers compared to fall 2004.

The increase in the number of Asian students also enlarged their proportional representation of the transfer cohort by three percentage points from 19.3 percent in fall 2004 to 22.2 percent in fall 2005. Black student representation dropped to 18.4 percent in fall 2005 compared to 20.1 percent in the prior fall semester. Hispanic students declined to 9.2 percent from 10.6 percent; and White students increased from 45.4 percent to 46.2 percent.

Table 1 also shows that 60.4 percent of the fall 2005 transfers enrolled at the transfer institution on a full-time basis, which is slightly higher than the percentage a year ago (58.6 percent). The data show that Asian students and those students categorized as "Other" were consistently more likely to transfer as full-time students across all four years shown compared to other student groups. The proportion of Black students who transferred on a full-time basis has been relatively stable, within a one percentage point variation, over this four year period. Slight proportional variations were noted for White students, while a wider variation was noted among Hispanic students.

Table 1: Number of MC Transfers

Race/ Ethnicity	Fall 2002		Fall 2003		Fall 2004		Fall 2005	
	All 4-Yr Transfers	Full-Time Transfers	All 4-Yr Transfers	Full-Time Transfers	All 4-Yr Transfers	Full-Time Transfers	All 4-Yr Transfers	Full-Time Transfers
Asian	362 (20.7%)	239 (66%)	391 (21.7%)	247 (63.2%)	351 (19.3%)	220 (62.7%)	393 (22.2%)	265 (67.4%)
Black	347 (19.9%)	177 (51%)	362 (20.0%)	187 (51.7%)	366 (20.1%)	189 (51.6%)	325 (18.4%)	169 (52.0%)
Hispanic	162 (9.3%)	78 (48.1%)	169 (9.4%)	99 (58.6%)	194 (10.6%)	105 (54.1%)	163 (9.2%)	92 (56.4%)
White	773 (44.2%)	472 (61.1%)	776 (43.0%)	458 (59.0%)	828 (45.4%)	488 (58.9%)	817 (46.2%)	492 (60.2%)
Other	104 (5.9%)	73 (70.2%)	106 (5.9%)	88 (83.0%)	84 (4.6%)	67 (79.8%)	70 (4.0%)	50 (71.4%)
Total # of Transfers	1,748	1,039 (59.4%)	1,804	1,079 (59.8%)	1,823	1,069 (58.6%)	1,768	1,068 (60.4%)

*The "Other" category includes Native American, Foreign and Other unidentified race/ethnicity.

Transfer Institutions

The University of Maryland at College Park (UMCP) continues to be the single largest recipient of MC transfer students (Table 2), followed by the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), the Baltimore County (UMBC) campus, and Towson University. The decline in the number of transfers in fall 2005 manifested at all receiving institutions with the exception of the UMCP, which experienced a 12.4 percent growth in MC transfers. The most noticeable decline in transfer students was at Towson, which received 23 percent fewer MC students in fall 2005 than in fall 2004. Half of all MC transfers to Maryland 4-year public colleges and universities attended the UMCP compared to 43.2 percent the previous year.

Table 2: Number of MC Transfers by Receiving Institution

	Salisbury	Towson	UMUC	UMCP	UMBC	UMAB	Bowie	Other*
Fall 1999	34	103	363	751	179	30	36	53
Fall 2000	37	105	386	687	191	33	25	65
Fall 2001	49	123	450	700	224	39	32	88
Fall 2002	49	99	390	787	258	62	30	73
Fall 2003	43	105	375	858	235	64	35	89
Fall 2004	59	156	409	787	229	56	30	97
Fall 2005	49	120	340	885	211	41	27	95

*Includes: Coppin, Frostburg, St Mary's, University of Baltimore, Morgan, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Academic Performance at Transfer Institutions One Year After Transfer

How well do former MC students perform at Maryland's four-year public colleges and universities one year after they transfer, as measured by the grade point average (GPA)? A five year history on academic performance is

presented in Table 3. As can be observed in the Table below, MC students who transferred during academic year (AY) 2004/05 achieved an overall GPA of 2.63 one year after transfer. In general, the collective performance of Montgomery College students placed them in the "B/C" range of performance, which has consistently reflected an average to better than average range of academic standing across the five years shown. The performance of former MC students is comparable to and sometimes better than the performance of former students from other Maryland community colleges. In fact, for the most recent cohort, the performance of MC students exceeded the statewide performance (2.56 GPA), which has dropped for the third time in as many years. MC transfers also exceeded the performance of students from three of its four peer institutions: Prince George's Community College (2.14), Community College of Baltimore County (2.57), and Howard Community College (2.55).

An examination of the GPA by transfer institution revealed a performance range as low as 1.07 or "D" at Bowie State University to a high of 3.39 or a solid "B+" at St Mary's College. MC transfers performed less well at nine of the thirteen transfer institutions compared to the performances of MC transfers in the previous year, while performance at the remaining four colleges and universities exceeded the performance of the previous group. Of particular note were the three-year decline in performance for MC transfers at Bowie State University; and conversely, the two-year hike in performance at Morgan State University. The actual GPAs at most of the other transfer institutions fluctuated, though consistently remained in the "B/C" range of academic performance. Overall, the data suggests that students exit MC with the necessary academic foundation to meet the challenges they face at Maryland's senior public colleges and universities. However, the low GPA at Bowie might be cause for concern, especially in light of the fine academic performances there over the previous years. The variation in performance across the different colleges and universities is also noted. Yet, taken as a whole, former MC students are performing at an average to above average level. Responses from the graduate follow-up survey show that Montgomery College has played a positive role in preparing students for those challenges at their transfer institutions (79 to 88 percent).

Table 3: GPA by Transfer Institution

# of AY 2004/05 Transfers	4-Year Transfer Institutions	AY 1999-00	AY 2000-01	AY 2001-02	AY 2002-03	AY 2003-04	AY 2004-05
	Statewide Average	2.71	2.70	2.73	2.70	2.69	2.56
1,856	MC Average	2.72	2.68	2.76	2.69	2.70	2.63
77	Bowie	2.84	2.70	3.02	2.83	2.68	1.07
6	Coppin	2.19	1.50	3.09	2.76	2.19	2.84
18	Frostburg	1.83	2.31	2.64	2.36	2.58	2.42
20	Morgan State	2.52	3.17	2.40	2.39	2.66	2.88
36	Salisbury	2.45	2.58	2.28	2.45	2.48	2.41
9	St Mary's	2.15	2.96	3.08	3.01	3.43	3.39
148	Towson	2.53	2.49	2.63	2.75	2.97	2.90
-	University of Baltimore	3.08	3.28	2.93	2.96	-	-
19	UM at Baltimore	3.25	3.21	3.09	2.21	2.08	1.84
224	UM Baltimore County	2.55	2.52	2.57	2.50	2.60	2.50
692	UM College Park	2.62	2.64	2.72	2.68	2.63	2.66
39	UM Eastern Shore	3.16	2.87	2.93	3.09	2.54	3.01
568	UM University College	3.17	2.82	2.95	2.85	2.82	2.81

Discussion and Implications

There are a couple areas of the data that deserve a bit of attention.

Many students who were enrolled at four-year colleges and universities in fall 2004 transferred to Montgomery College (reverse transfers) in the fall of 2005. The complex question is why? There are a multitude of probable explanations: financial, economic, academic, environmental. For example, some students discover that four years of education at traditional colleges and universities is not for them, especially when the major goal is the need for employment. The rapid rise in the cost of education at four-year colleges may lead students (and parents) to conclude that attending Montgomery College is economically more feasible. The high school to a four-year university transition might be overwhelming for some students. Students also are more mobile and often seek flexibility in course offerings and modalities that community colleges have to offer and as such result in complex enrollment patterns.

Reverse transfers have counseling and programmatic implications. The challenge is to develop a means to better understand the needs of reverse transfers and use the acquired knowledge to help community college students to be better prepared for transfer experience at four-year colleges and universities.

The number of transfer students declined in fall 2005 compared to the previous year's data – this is particularly true for Black and Hispanic students. The reason for the decline is not apparent. However, economic and academic factors might play equal roles in the decline. In other words, are students staying longer at the community college to achieve their educational goals, as well as to decrease the potential cost of a four-year education?

The decline in the GPA one year after transfer at nine of the thirteen receiving institutions of the most recent cohort group that transferred to Maryland senior colleges and universities raises questions as well, especially at Bowie State College. (It is noted that the GPA data for Bowie is questionable and some efforts are in place to examine its accuracy.) Could the decline in the GPA be related to the ease of transition from the community college to senior colleges and universities? Could the student's academic expectations not align with the academic experience at the senior colleges? Are some students overwhelmed by the academic environmental experiences (i.e. class sizes, teacher/student interactions) or side-tracked by other experiences on the various campuses? Another area to consider would be a disconnect in the specific learning outcomes for Montgomery College courses and what students need for success in the next higher level courses at the transfer institution.

One avenue for further study might be to analyze student performance (GPA) at Montgomery College compared to their subsequent performance at senior institutions to explore what relationships exist. In addition, two indicators (12a and 12b) in the annual Performance Accountability Report are relevant to these GPA data at four-year institutions. Indicator 12 relates to the performance of former MC students at transfer institutions: (12a) *Percent with cumulative GPA after first year of 2.0 or above* and (12b) *Mean GPA after first year*. The College has set the 2011 benchmarks at 83 percent and 2.75 respectively. These latest data suggest attaining those targets probably will warrant additional effort.