

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Trustee Information Program

Number and Enrollment Status of
Montgomery College Students who Transferred to Colleges
within the University System of Maryland
Fall 2002 to Fall 2007

Office of Institutional Research and Analysis
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**Number and Enrollment Status of Montgomery College Students who Transferred to
Maryland Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities by Academic Year of Entry
Fall 2002 to Fall 2007**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Number of Transfers to Maryland Public Colleges

More than two thousand two hundred students (2,209) who were enrolled at Montgomery College (MC) in fall 2006 transferred to Maryland public colleges and universities in fall 2007. Of those who transferred 2,015 students transferred to four-year public senior colleges and universities, while the other 194 students transferred to other Maryland community colleges. The University of Maryland at College Park continues to be the largest recipient of MC transfers in the Maryland public sector followed by the University College and Baltimore County campuses.

There were 66 more transfers in fall 2007 than in fall 2006. The increase was noted across all race/ethnic groups with the exception of the collective race/ethnic category "other" which includes Native American, Foreign and other unidentified students. The largest single increase in transfers was among Asian students (37 students) who accounted for 56 percent of the increase in transfers in fall 2007.

Almost 61 percent of former MC students who transferred to Maryland senior colleges and universities in fall 2007 attended on a full-time basis. In fall 2007 Asian students and students in the "Other" category were more likely to transfer on a full-time basis than other student groups. Hispanic (51 percent) and African-American (56 percent) were the least likely to enroll at the receiving institution on a full-time basis.

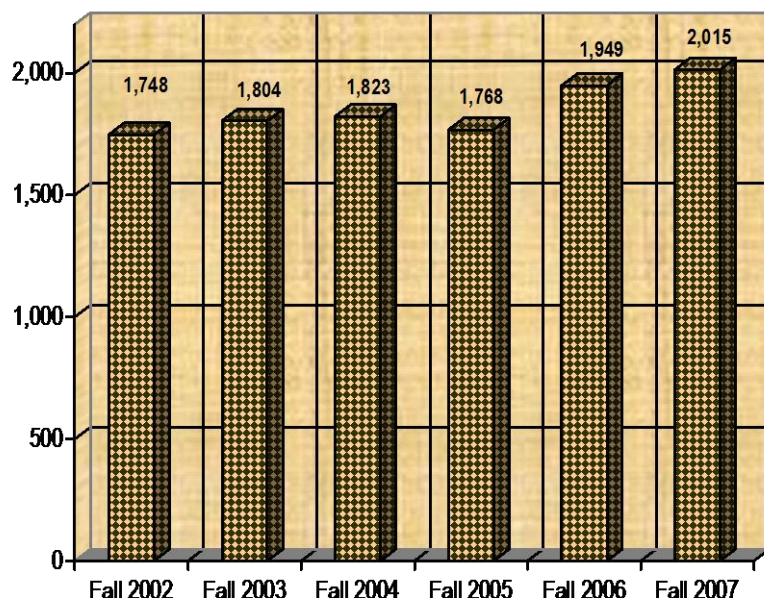
There were 529 reverse transfers. These are students who were enrolled at four-year public colleges in Maryland in fall 2006 then transferred to Montgomery College in fall 2007. Of the reverse transfers, 220(41.6 percent) transferred from the University of Maryland at College Park; 83 (15.2 percent) transferred from the University of Maryland University College and 71 (15 percent) transferred from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. The number of reverse transfers has increased 18.9 percent in three years.

Discussion and Implications

Many students who were enrolled at four-year colleges and universities in fall 2006 transferred to Montgomery College (reverse transfers) in the fall of 2007. The complex question is why? Probable explanations might involve financial, economic, academic, and environmental factors. Some students, for example, 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 high school to a four-year university transition might be overwhelming for some students which might lead students (and parents) to conclude that attending Montgomery College is economically more feasible, especially considering the rise in the cost of higher education. 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 knowledge to help community college students to be better prepared for four-year college and university experience.

Number and Enrollment Status of Montgomery College Students who Transferred to Maryland Public Four-Year Colleges and Universities by Academic Year of Entry Fall 2002 to Fall 2007

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



Two thousand fifteen students (2,015) transferred to Maryland senior public colleges and universities in fall 2007, which are 66 more students than in the previous fall semester. The increase in the number of transfers is 3.4 percent above the number of fall 2006 transfers and is the second consecutive increase in as many years. Over a five year period, the number of transfers to Maryland four-year public colleges has increased 15.3 percent.

Former Montgomery College (MC) students who transferred to public senior Maryland institutions in fall 2007 were as diverse as the Montgomery College student body.

Table 1 provides a five-year trend of the number and proportional representation of transfers by race/ethnicity. In fall 2007, more than half of the transfers were non-white (20 percent Asian, 20.1 percent Black, 10.7 percent Hispanic, and 4.1 percent for "other" students). The increase in the number of transfers was noted in each race/ethnic group, except the collective combination of "other" students. Asian students showed the single largest increase in transfers (37 students) compared to fall 2006, while Black transfers showed the smallest increase (12 students).

Table 1: Number of MC Transfers to Maryland 4-Year Public Colleges

| | Fall 2002 | Fall 2003 | Fall 2004 | Fall 2005 | Fall 2006 | Fall 2007 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Race/ Ethnicity | All 4-Yr Transfers | All 4-Yr Transfers | All 4-Yr Transfers | All 4-Yr Transfers | All 4-Yr Transfers | All 4-Yr Transfers |
| Asian | 362 (20.7%) | 391 (21.7%) | 351 (19.3%) | 393 (22.2%) | 366 (18.8%) | 403 (20.0%) |
| Black | 347 (19.9%) | 362 (20.0%) | 366 (20.1%) | 325 (18.4%) | 393 (20.2%) | 405 (20.1%) |
| Hispanic | 162 (9.3%) | 169 (9.4%) | 194 (10.6%) | 163 (9.2%) | 192 (9.9%) | 215 (10.7%) |
| White | 773 (44.2%) | 776 (43.0%) | 828 (45.4%) | 817 (46.2%) | 886 (45.5%) | 909 (45.1%) |
| Other | 104 (5.9%) | 106 (5.9%) | 84 (4.6%) | 70 (4.0%) | 112 (5.7%) | 83 (4.1%) |
| Total # of Transfers | 1,748 | 1,804 | 1,823 | 1,768 | 1,949 | 2,015 |

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

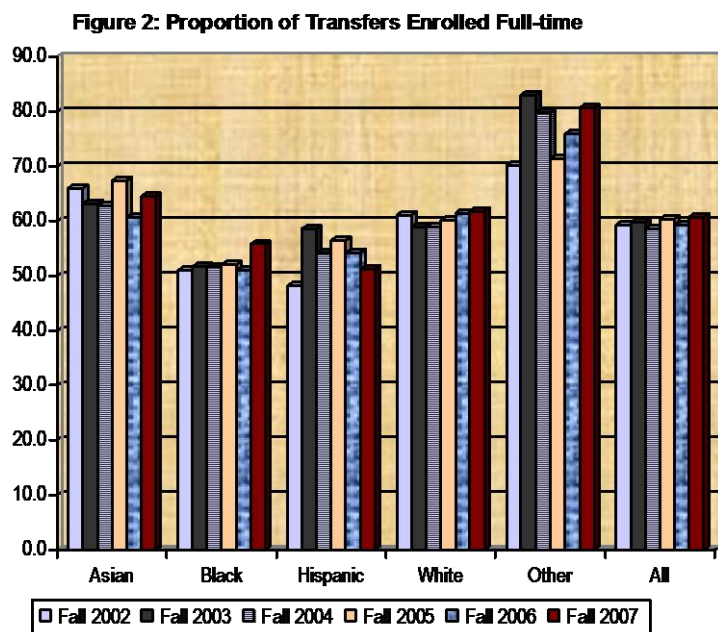


Figure 2 reveals that almost 61 percent of the fall 2007 transfers enrolled at transfer institutions on a full-time basis, which is slightly higher than the proportion a year ago (59.3 percent). Asian and white students and those students categorized as “other” were consistently more likely to transfer as full-time students across all six years shown in Figure 2 compared to other student groups. It should be also noted that the proportion of students to attend a Maryland senior college on a full-time enrollment status increased perceptibly among Asian, Black and “other” students. Full-time enrollment has dropped two consecutive years for Hispanic students, while the proportion of white students enrolled on a full-time basis remained steady.

Transfer Institutions

The University of Maryland at College Park (UMCP) continues to be the recipient of the single largest number of MC transfer students (Table 2), followed by the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), the Baltimore County (UMBC) campus, and Towson University. An increase in the number of transfers in fall 2007 took place at all receiving institutions with the exception of the UMUC which received 54 fewer students than in fall 2006. The most noticeable increase in transfer students was at Towson University which received 41 more students in fall 2007 than in fall 2006. Note also the one and five-year year increases at Frostburg, Morgan and UM at Eastern Shore. Transfer activity at Morgan State University has increased five-fold since fall 2002, while the number of transfers to Frostburg and the Eastern Shore campuses has almost doubled. A slight increase in the number of transfer students in the “other” category is also noted, which includes the colleges and universities that consistently received less than 25 transfers during this six-year period. Therefore changes at the institutions that make up this group are masked.

Table 2: Number of MC Transfers by Receiving Institution

| | Bowie | Frostburg | Morgan | Salisbury | Towson | University of Maryland | | | | | Other* |
|-----------|-------|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|--------|
| | | | | | | AB | BC | CP | ES | UC | |
| Fall 2002 | 30 | 21 | 6 | 49 | 99 | 62 | 258 | 787 | 15 | 390 | 31 |
| Fall 2003 | 35 | 30 | 11 | 43 | 105 | 64 | 235 | 858 | 20 | 375 | 28 |
| Fall 2004 | 30 | 33 | 25 | 59 | 156 | 56 | 229 | 787 | 23 | 409 | 16 |
| Fall 2005 | 27 | 17 | 20 | 49 | 120 | 41 | 211 | 885 | 21 | 340 | 37 |
| Fall 2006 | 33 | 26 | 19 | 79 | 118 | 63 | 204 | 921 | 23 | 428 | 35 |
| Fall 2007 | 44 | 36 | 29 | 83 | 159 | 65 | 222 | 933 | 27 | 374 | 43 |

*Includes: Coppin, St Mary's, University of Baltimore

It is noted also that during this transfer period, 194 former Montgomery College (MC) students transferred to one of the other Maryland community colleges, most notably to Howard Community College (50 students) and Prince George's Community College (59 students).

Reverse Transfers

What is a *reverse transfer*? Reverse transfers are students who were enrolled at a four-year public college in the fall of one year and transferred to Montgomery College in the fall semester of the following year. Five hundred twenty-nine students who were enrolled at one of the four-year public colleges and universities in Maryland in fall 2006 transferred to Montgomery College in fall 2007. Note that this is the third increase in reverse transfers in as many years. Reverse transfer activity has increased almost 20 percent (18.9 percent) in three years. Of the reverse transfers, the larger numbers of students transferred from colleges and universities that typically receive the bulk of the transfers from Montgomery College, namely the University of Maryland's College Park, University College and Baltimore County campuses.

Table 3: Number of Reverse Transfers by Institution

| 4-Year Transfer Institutions | AY 2002-03 | AY 2003-04 | AY 2004-05 | AY 2005-06 | AY 2006-07 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Reverse Transfers | 470 | 445 | 472 | 514 | 529 |
| Bowie | 11 | 5 | 15 | 17 | 14 |
| Coppin | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Frostburg | 31 | 28 | 35 | 37 | 42 |
| St Mary's | 10 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 9 |
| Salisbury | 16 | 13 | 8 | 28 | 15 |
| Towson | 38 | 19 | 24 | 19 | 30 |
| University of Baltimore | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Morgan State | 11 | 7 | 11 | 13 | 17 |
| UM at Baltimore | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| UM Baltimore County | 64 | 65 | 71 | 69 | 71 |
| UM College Park | 177 | 204 | 192 | 215 | 220 |
| UM Eastern Shore | 14 | 14 | 16 | 15 | 23 |
| UM University College | 90 | 71 | 86 | 84 | 83 |