

TRUSTEE INFORMATION PROGRAM

Academic Year Student Faculty Ratio 2004 to 2008



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**Student Faculty Ratio
Academic Year 2004 to Academic Year 2008
Executive Summary**

Introduction: The student faculty ratio (SFR) provides a perspective on faculty workload and fiscal efficacy. A SFR of 20.00 is the proposed target for academic year 2008. Thirty (30) equivalent semester hours (ESH) is comparable to one full-time faculty who teaches 30 instructional hours in an academic year (15 ESH in the fall semester and 15 ESH in the spring semester). Three ESH is normally associated with a typical 3-credit hour course. From the perspective of faculty workload, 600 instructional hours would need to be taught for each 30 units of ESH to achieve the proposed SFR of 20.00 (20 SFR * 30 ESH).

Collegewide and Campus Summaries

In academic year (AY) 2008, Montgomery College (College) yielded a SFR of 18.55. The SFR was higher than the figure a year ago and well below the proposed goal of 20.00. The average number of instructional hours (556.47) taught in AY 2008 was almost 93 percent of the number of instructional hours needed to achieve the targeted SFR.

- The SFR for the Germantown Campus was 19.27 for AY 2008, which was below the academic year's target (20.00) and above the previous year's achievement (19.14).
- Aided by the enrollment during the winter session, the Rockville Campus yielded a SFR of 19.73 in AY 2008 compared to 19.68 in the previous year. The Campus was short of its target SFR of 21.00.
- The Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus yielded a SFR of 15.54 in AY 2008, which was notably above the SFR a year ago (15.17). In fact, this increase in the SFR follows a three-year decline.

Discussion and Implications

The targeted SFR of 20.00 was unchanged from the last three academic years. However, the targeted SFR for each campus was equally distributed across semesters for the academic year. Although the College has not reached the level of achievement on this faculty workload factor, a considerable amount of effort has been expended in this area. The information presented in this report provides a general picture on the number of credit hours that were generated in an AY and the amount of instructional ESH distributed to teach those hours – these two variables form the basis for the SFR. As a cautionary note, it is suggested that when drawing conclusions about these data, campus characteristics and traits are factors that should be considered, because those traits and characteristics have the potential to impact the targeted SFR.

- The Takoma Park /Silver Spring Campus, for example, has program areas that require smaller class sizes and related laboratory requirements. The merging of the Maryland College of Art and Design with the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus is yet another consideration. With that in mind, the SFR at this campus is set at a considerably lower level than the SFRs established at the other two campuses. In spite of that, the TP/SS campus continues to struggle to reach this SFR yield.
- Some of the program areas and courses at the Germantown and Rockville Campuses might lend themselves well to larger class sizes and as such yield higher SFRs. This places more of a burden on these campuses to achieve the Collegewide targets.
- The rationale for the trend of increased instructional ESH compared to the small percentage gains in credit hour enrollment by campus might be an area for some thought and consideration, especially in light of the disproportionate change in these two factors.
- It may be appropriate to re-examine the underlying assumptions of the SFR targets. This is particularly true when the targets are set at a level that do not coincide with the uniqueness of each campus environment, as well as the smaller class sizes for some courses and labs within a discipline (music, art, sciences) and the size of the classroom space.

Therefore, to gain a better understanding of the data, academic administrators might need to review at a detailed level:

- The enrollment data at the discipline and course section level compared to minimum class size/enrollment levels and the distribution of instructional ESH, for example.
- The enrollment maximums for courses and seating capacity of classrooms used to teach certain disciplines.
- The rationale that underlies the SFR targets.
- The rationale that underlies the distribution of instructional ESH on a campus and Collegewide basis.

Student Faculty Ratio- A faculty workload indicator Academic Year 2004 to Academic Year 2008

Collegewide

Montgomery College achieved a **student faculty ratio** (SFR) of 18.55 in Academic Year (AY) 2008. This SFR is higher than the previous year's figure and reversed a two-year decline that began in AY 2006. In spite of the increase, the SFR continues to be well below the targeted goal of 20. In academic year 2008, the average number of instructional hours (as of official third week enrollment) was 556.47 (SFR*30 Equivalent Semester Hours (ESH)) – which is 43.53 instructional hours short or almost 93 percent of the number of hours needed (600) to achieve the targeted SFR goal. Trend data for the fall semester shows a recent two year increase in the SFR (fall 2006 and 2007), while data for the spring semester reveals a three-year decline through spring 2007 followed by relative stability in spring 2008. The SFR for the academic year fluctuated over this five year period. Note also, the SFR for the winter session, which have been well above the targeted 20.00 since its inception.

Table 1: Collegewide Student Faculty Ratio

	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	AY 2008 Target
Fall	18.94	19.44	18.68	18.73	18.92	
Winter				29.73	26.45	
Spring	18.64	18.53	18.30	18.09	18.10	
AY	18.79	18.99	18.49	18.44	18.55	20.00

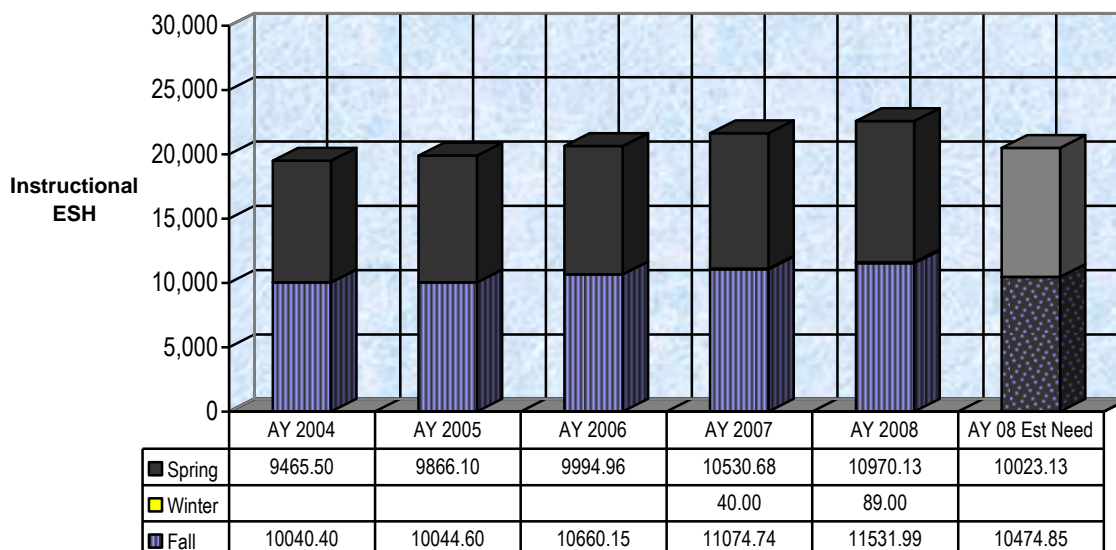
The College generated 419,044 **credit hours** in AY 2008 which was five percent above the number of credit hours that were generated the previous academic year. The increase in credit hours was noted in both the fall (5.2 percent) and spring (4.3 percent) semesters. It was also noted that the number of hours for the winter session nearly doubled in one year. Table 2 shows that between AY 2004 and AY 2007 credit hour enrollment increased each succeeding year and culminated in a 14.3 percent increase. The College achieved almost 102.3 percent of its academic year credit hour projection. As shown in Table 2, the number of credit hours that were generated in fall 2007 and spring 2008 exceeded projections. There were no projections for the winter session.

Table 2: Collegewide Credit Hour Enrollment

	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	Projections AY 2008	Percent Change		
							AY 07-08	AY 04-08	% of proj
Fall	190,156	195,241	199,123	207,383	218,132	212,727	5.2%	14.7%	102.5%
Winter				1,189	2,354		98.0%		
Spring	176,415	182,819	182,857	190,463	198,558	197,004	4.3%	12.6%	100.8%
AY	366,571	378,060	381,980	397,846	419,044	409,731	5.0%	14.3%	102.3%

Figure 1 provides a five-year trend on the amount of **instructional ESH** that was disseminated by semester. In AY 2008, the College distributed 22,591.12 ESH for instructional purposes. The amount of ESH dispersed in AY 2008 was 4.4 percent or 945.70 instructional ESH higher than the amount in AY 2007; an equivalence of 31.52 full-time faculty. Instructional ESH has increased almost 15.8 percent in four years: 14.9 percent for the fall semester and 15.9 percent for the spring semester. It also should be noted that the percentage increase in ESH was less than one percentage point lower than the increase in credit hour enrollment – and this was particularly true for the fall semester (5.2 percent increase in credit hours versus 4.1 percent increase in instructional ESH). However, the amount of ESH that was disseminated in AY 2008 was 10.2 percent higher than the amount of ESH needed to achieve the projected credit hours and targeted SFR, an equivalence of 70 full-time faculty.

Figure 1: Collegewide Instructional ESH by Semester



Germantown Campus

The **SFR** at the Germantown Campus was 19.27 in AY 2008, which is below the academic year's target (20.00), but higher than the yield for the previous year (19.14). The increase in AY 2008 SFR follows a two-year drop in this faculty workload measure – and this increase was attributed to the increase that occurred in the fall semester, because the SFR in the spring declined for the second time in as many years.

Table 3: Germantown Campus Student Faculty Ratio

SFR	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	Targeted SFR
Fall	19.30	20.07	19.44	19.24	19.52	20.00
Spring	19.65	19.18	19.20	19.02	19.00	
AY	19.46	19.64	19.33	19.14	19.27	

Credit hour enrollment at the Germantown Campus increased almost five percent above the figure in AY 2007 and achieved more than 97 percent of the credit hour projection. Examination of the data in Table 4 reveals more credit hour growth in the spring semester (6.2 percent) of AY 2008 than in the fall (3.4 percent) compared to the previous year's experience. Credit hour enrollment on an academic year basis increased more than 18 percent over four years.

Table 4: Germantown Campus – Credit Hours and Instructional ESH

Credit Hours	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	2008 Proj	--% Change--	
	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	Est Need	AY 07-08	AY 04-08
Fall	34,767	36,599	36,811	39,966	41,318	42,574	3.4%	18.8%
Spring	31,405	32,201	33,015	34,801	36,962	36,769	6.2%	17.7%
AY	66,172	68,800	69,826	74,767	78,280	79,343	4.7%	18.3%

ESH	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	Est Need	AY 07-08	AY 06-08
Fall	1,801.64	1,823.70	1,893.20	2,077.75	2,116.62	2,128.70	1.9%	17.5%
Spring	1,598.56	1,678.86	1,719.11	1,829.50	1,945.80	1,897.10	6.4%	21.7%
AY	3,400.20	3,502.56	3,612.31	3,907.25	4,062.42	4,025.80	4.0%	19.5%

Compared to the previous academic year, the Germantown Campus increased the amount of **instructional ESH** four percent in AY 2008 (about two percent in the fall and 6.4 percent in the spring semester), which was equivalent to five full-time faculty. On average, faculty on the Germantown Campus taught 578 instructional hours per 30 units of ESH in AY 2008 compared to the 600 instructional hours needed to achieve its 20.00 targeted SFR. As noted in Table 5, the percentage increase in ESH in AY 2008 was slightly lower than the increase in credit hours, most notably in the fall semester. Overall, the campus disseminated one percent more instructional ESH than was needed to achieve the projected credit hours and targeted SFR -- an equivalence of one full-time faculty. Instructional ESH has increased more than 19 percent (17.5 percent in the fall; 21.7 percent in the spring) in four years.

Rockville Campus

The **AY 2008 SFR** (19.73) at the Rockville Campus increased slightly above the previous year's figure (19.68) and it was the second increase in two years (Table 5). Data by semester revealed that the increase in the SFR can be attributed to the addition of the winter session, where the SFR was 29.73 in AY 2007 and 26.48 in AY 2008. The SFR for AY 2008 was below the targeted goal (21.00) for the campus.

Table 5: Rockville Campus Student Faculty Ratio

SFR	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	Targeted SFR
Fall	19.84	20.46	19.71	19.91	19.96	21.00
Winter				29.73	26.45	
Spring	19.38	19.59	19.16	19.36	19.37	
AY	19.62	20.03	19.45	19.68	19.73	

Credit hour enrollment at the Rockville Campus (Table 6) increased notably over the past two academic years. Enrollment activity in AY 2008 generated 3.3 percent more credit hours compared to the previous year (4.2 and 1.4 percent in the fall and spring semesters, respectively). It was noted also that the number of hours generated during the winter session almost doubled. Over four years, credit hour enrollment rose 8.4 percent, where more growth occurred in the fall semester (8.9 percent), proportionately, than in the spring semester (5.7 percent). Compared to projections, the Campus achieved its credit hour projection, with 2.6 percent to spare. The achievement of projections can be attributed to the enrollment activity during the fall semester and the addition of the winter session.

Table 6: Rockville Campus – Credit Hours and Instructional ESH

Credit Hours	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	2008 Proj	--% Change--	
							AY 07-08	AY 04-08
Fall	119,022	119,660	120,342	124,435	129,610	126,112	4.2%	8.9%
Winter				1,189	2,354		98.0%	
Spring	110,675	112,392	110,486	115,341	116,969	116,583	1.4%	5.7%
AY	229,697	232,052	230,828	239,776	248,933	242,695	3.3%	8.4%

ESH	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	Est Need	AY 07-08	AY 04-08
Fall	5,998.9	5,847.8	6,105.17	6,248.35	6,493.23	6005.33	3.9%	8.2%
Winter				40.00	89.00		122.5%	
Spring	5,709.6	5,738.3	5,765.52	5,957.62	6,037.37	5,551.57	1.3%	5.7%
AY	11,708.5	11,588.1	11,870.69	12,245.97	12,619.60	11,556.90	3.1%	7.8%

As shown in Table 6 above, the amount of **instructional ESH** increased three percent in AY 2008 compared to last year and increased almost eight percent in four years. The increase in ESH between AY 2007 and 2008 is equivalent to 12.5 full-time faculty. The proportional increase in ESH in AY 2008 was three times higher in the fall than in the spring (3.9 percent in the fall and 1.3 percent in the spring). It was noted that the increases in ESH were quite comparable to the semester increases in credit hours. Faculty on the Rockville Campus, taught, on average, 592 instructional hours in AY 2008

compared to the 630 instructional hours needed to achieve the proposed SFR of 21.00. The increased dissemination in instructional ESH was 9.2 percent above the estimate in ESH needed to reach the credit hour projection and the targeted SFR, which is equivalent to 35 full-time faculty.

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

The **SFR** at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus (Table 7) increased from 15.17 in AY 2007 to 15.54 in AY 2008. This is the first increase in three years and an increase in the SFR was noted in both the spring and the fall semesters, though well below the 17.71 SFR target for this campus.

Table 7: Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Student Faculty Ratio

SFR	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	Targeted SFR
Fall	16.24	16.44	15.77	15.43	16.15	
Spring	15.92	15.61	15.68	14.68	14.94	
AY	16.08	16.02	15.73	15.06	15.54	17.71

Credit hour enrollment at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus (Table 8) increased more than 10 percent in AY 2008. It was noted that the increase in credit hours was higher in the spring semester (10.7 percent) than in the fall (9.8 percent). Over a five year period, credit hour enrollment has increased 30 percent. Compared to credit hour projections, the campus exceeded its anticipated credit hour enrollment for the academic year by 6.1 percent.

In academic year 2008, the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus used 5,909 ESH for instructional purposes. **Instructional ESH** increased 7.6 percent above the amount of ESH that was distributed in the previous year and 34.4 percent above the amount in AY 2004. The 7.6 increase in AY 2008 was equivalent to about 14 full-time faculty. It was noted also that the increase in ESH was nearly three percentage points lower than the increase in credit hours in AY 2008. On average, faculty taught 466 instructional hours in AY 2008 compared to the 531 instructional hours needed to achieve the proposed 17.71 SFR. The amount of instructional ESH that was disseminated in AY 2008 was 21 percent above the estimated ESH that was needed to achieve the credit hour projection and the targeted SFR, which is equivalent to 34 full-time faculty.

Table 8: Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus – Credit Hours and Instructional ESH

Credit Hours	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	2008 Proj	--% Change--	
							AY 07-08	AY 04-08
Fall	36,367	38,982	41,970	42,982	47,204	44,041	9.8%	29.8%
Spring	34,335	38,226	39,356	40,321	44,627	42,479	10.7%	30.0%
AY	70,702	77,208	81,326	83,303	91,831	86,520	10.2%	29.9%

ESH	AY 2004	AY 2005	AY 2006	AY 2007	AY 2008	Est Need	--% Change--	
							AY 07-08	AY 04-08
Fall	2,239.9	2,371.1	2,661.78	2,748.64	2,922.14	2,486.79	6.3%	9.8%
Spring	2,157.3	2,449.1	2,509.33	2,743.56	2,986.96	2,398.59	8.9%	19.0%
AY	4,397.2	4,820.2	5,171.11	5,492.20	5,909.10	5,885.38	7.6%	14.3%