

From: [DeRionne Pollard, Montgomery College President](#)
To: [MC Communications!](#)
Subject: Updated Student Success Score Card
Date: Monday, April 18, 2016 9:16:13 AM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

April 18, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery College Colleagues
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Updated Student Success Score Card

I am pleased to announce that the Montgomery College Student Success Score Card has been updated and is available for review at www.montgomerycollege.edu/scorecard. As you know, the Score Card was introduced last year as a tool for tracking trends in student achievement across the College. I am delighted that several of our measures are headed in the right direction:

- New student fall-to-spring retention is up considerably, from 71 percent to 80 percent.
- Fall-to-fall new student retention is also up, albeit a bit less dramatically, from 60 to 64 percent.
- The number of students transferring is up as well, increasing by 279 students over the previous fiscal year, a testament to the quality of advising and the diligence of our faculty.

In addition, overall percentages of new students completing gateway courses in math and English are up, a sign that that incoming students are being sufficiently encouraged to tackle such courses more ambitiously, that they are better prepared for college work, or both. In a related measure, the need for developmental English among new students has fallen from 31 percent to 29 percent, while the need in mathematics has grown from 61 percent to 63 percent.

Since this is only the second year of the Score Card, data on cohort completion is not yet available. It takes four to six years for a cohort to pass through the College, so although our three-year graduation and transfer rates do not appear to have improved, this cohort has not had the full benefit of several initiatives implemented in the last two to three years. These outcomes will be more accurately judged a few years in the future. We still need to focus on systems and supports that maintain the '41 percent' who are completing while also addressing the '59 percent' I have spoken about all year. And, in fact, this year's Score Card data show that the currently reported cohort has a lower completion rate—37 percent graduated and transferred, while 63 percent did not.

There are many discreet variables you can follow on the Score Card, and I encourage you to do so with an eye to your own division's contributions. Time to degree, average number of credits, pass rates in classes, and trends in scholarship funding all tell us something about the

impact of our efforts. All of the variables are also disaggregated by age, gender, and ethnicity, which provides a comprehensive portrait of our students' progress and vital information about the impact of our strategies. As I have stressed, improving the success of our students who are not graduating or transferring is at the heart of our mission. The data we gather on their progress will continue to inform our academic plans and support systems, and to serve us as we embark on our partnership with Achieving the Dream. Thank you for your attention to this important process and for everything you do to empower our students to change their lives.