

**From:** [DeRionne P. Pollard, President, Montgomery College](#)  
**Subject:** Updated Student Success Score Card  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 08, 2019 1:38:51 PM

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## Memorandum

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**To:** Montgomery College Colleagues  
**From:** Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President  
**Subject:** **Updated Student Success Score Card**  
**Date:** May 8, 2019

I am pleased to announce that the Montgomery College Student Success [Score Card](#) has been updated and is available for review. As you know, the Score Card was introduced five years ago as a tool for tracking trends in student achievement across the College. Our FY19 results show several measures headed in the right direction when compared to FY18 data:

- Fall-to-spring retention has held at 80 percent for three years in a row
- Fall-to-fall retention remains fairly steady at 65 percent, dropping a single point below the previous year's 66 percent rate
- Three-year graduation/transfer rate dipped a bit—to 44 percent in FY18, from 46 percent (a change of 32 students)
- Completion rates for developmental course work in the first year were up, in English (up by 21 percent) and in math (up by 14 percent)
- Larger percentages of students attempted gateway English (up by 3 percentage points) and math coursework (up by 8 percentage points) in their first year

Course pass rates are holding steady at 75 percent (same as last year). A significant improvement in graduation trends is that more Hispanic students are graduating—up from 509 to 612, the largest increase among all racial/ethnic groups.

Since the College has now collected five years of Score Card data, it is useful to examine some trends in general performance across this span. For example, the IPEDS graduation rate—degree or certificate attainment—has risen from 16.4 percent to 22.5 percent. In addition, the time-to-degree has fallen from 5.4 years to 4.5 years for degree recipients. For certificate earners, time-to-degree has also dropped from 6.9 years to 6.0 years. Retention from fall-to-spring is up markedly across five years, from 70.8 percent to 79.5 percent, and fall-to-fall return rates improved from 59.8 percent to 64.7 percent over the same span. These numbers capture the reality that more students are staying at the College and graduating or completing certificates in shorter time periods than in previous years.

These outcomes are a direct result of faculty and staff efforts to improve student access, maintain rigorous academic standards, and create inclusive communities that inspire all students to achieve. With increased, appropriate academic support and innovative teaching, more students are excelling; with more seamless processes, more students are staying enrolled; and with a nuanced approach to cultural competence, equity, and financial support, students from diverse backgrounds are drawn to the College's classrooms. These are outcomes born of strategic thinking and tireless implementation, and each of us should be proud of them.

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 contributions. All of the variables that are tracked 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 all of our students through to graduation or transfer is at the heart of our mission. The data we gather on their progress will continue to inform our plans and support systems. Thank you for your dedication to student success and for everything you do to empower our students to change their lives.