

Data Focus of the Month - March 2019

Dual Enrollment Programs Are Growing



Montgomery College operates three “[dual enrollment](#)” models for high school students to take Montgomery College courses. In fall 2018, dual enrollment accounted for three percent of the College’s credit enrollment. The three models for high school students are:

- Individual courses to accelerate college completion
- A program of courses to earn an associate’s degree, where the courses are offered within the high school (called “Middle College”)
- A program of courses to earn an associate’s degree at a Montgomery College campus (“Early College”)

This month, we look at the models taught in high schools. The individual course model was the first to take root and in fall 2018, 14 high schools offered 39 college classes, all taught by MC faculty, with courses ranging from human communication to multivariable calculus. In FY18, 546 high school students participated in these options with 967 enrollments. Since 2013, there has been a 109 percent increase in dual enrollment.

Middle College programs are offered at two high schools. Two MCPS high schools, Northwest and Northwood, host Middle College programs where students can earn a high school diploma and an associate’s degree simultaneously. College classes are delivered at the schools for students in grades 10 and 11 with students coming to MC in grade 12 for their final year of college classes.

Eight high school students earned an associate’s degree in 2018—more are coming! At Northwest High School, there are currently 58 enrollees in Middle College, where they are taking classes for an associate of science in general engineering. Three students graduated in 2018. Northwood High School offers five degrees in humanities, interdisciplinary studies, social sciences, STEM, and general studies. Last year, five Northwood students graduated with associate’s degrees, and there are 156 students enrolled this year. Although the numbers started off small, they are rising dramatically, with 460 students applying to the Northwest program for the 2019–2020 school year and 362 applying to Northwood.

Dual enrollment students excel. Academic achievement data has been promising for dual enrollment students, who have an overall GPA of 3.12 in MC course work with 91 percent completing the course earning a grade of C or better. This success rate is higher than that for our students on our campuses.

The P-TECH program serves 58 students. One additional dual enrollment program is run at Clarksburg High School, where 58 students are studying for their associate of applied science in network and information technologies. The Pathways in Network and Information Technology Program (P-TECH) allows students in four districts to apply and begin taking network classes in grades 10 and 11 at Clarksburg, with students coming onto the MC campus in grade 12 for their college classes. Already there have been 172 applicants for FY20, which will host its first classes at the MC-Germantown Campus in fall of 2020.