

## Data Focus of the Month - April 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. This month, we look at the models in which high school students take a program of courses to earn an associate’s degree at a Montgomery College campus (“Early College”).

Early College is open to all MCPS students, who can complete their high school diploma and an associate’s degree. Students enter the program as high school juniors and complete their junior and senior years of high school by taking a full schedule of college courses at MC. Students must meet assessment levels and prerequisites for all courses. MCPS pays 75 percent of tuition, 100 percent of books, and MCPS pays 100 percent for students in the Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) program.

Early College began in fall 2018 and now offers two degrees: and associate of arts in teaching mathematics and an associate of science with a mathematics track. Both are offered only at the Rockville Campus.

Of the 44 students participating, 50 percent of the students are African American, Black, or Latino and they represent every high school in the county. Their first term average GPA was 3.2, which is higher than other first term MC students at 2.6. Early College students are completing 91 percent of their coursework with a C or better and have 9 percent DFW rate, compared to a 30 percent DFW rate for other MC students taking the same classes.

Nine more degrees are planned to start in FY20, one more at the Rockville Campus, two at the Germantown Campus, and six at the Takoma Park Silver Spring Campus. Of the 611 students who have expressed interest in Early College for FY20, 552 have met the GPA requirements and 365 have completed the application. The maximum enrollment allowed by budget is 260 students. The disciplinary foci of the new programs expands our offerings considerably, to include: business, computer science, biological sciences, and cybersecurity. Several health sciences are also included: diagnostic medical sonography, physical therapy, surgical technology, radiological technology, and nursing, expanding the pool of high school students who will be job-ready upon graduation.