

## HIGHLIGHTS

### NEW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

#### First-Time Freshmen

More than 8,200 students applied for fall 2003 admission to Montclair State University, a 10.8 percent increase over fall 2002. Acceptance and enrollment rates for fall 2003 are 51.3 percent and 38.4 percent, respectively (Table 1.1).

First-time, full-time freshmen account for over half (52 percent) of new entering undergraduate students (Figure 1.4). The average Combined SAT score for all entering freshmen increased to 1,039; and the mean high school rank is 70 (Table 1.4).

The first-time full-time freshmen continue to reflect the University's commitment to an ethnically and racially diverse student body. Eleven percent identified themselves as African American, 16.6 percent identified themselves as Latino/a and 6.6 percent as Asian (Table 1.5).

Of those full-time first-time freshmen selecting a major, the five most frequently chosen majors are: Human Ecology (137), Business Administration (94), Biology (85), Psychology (78), and English (52). Forty-five percent (732) indicated no major (Table 1.6).

Almost Sixty percent of the entering first-time full-time freshmen indicated that Montclair State University was their first choice among the colleges to which they applied and another 27 percent indicated MSU was their second choice (Figure 1.1).

#### Transfer Students

Montclair received 3,011 applications from transfer students. Sixty-one percent were accepted (1848) and 67.6 percent of those accepted were enrolled (Table 1.2). Fifty-six percent of all transfers came from New Jersey public community colleges; and almost 60 percent of these students came from three community colleges--Bergen County Community College, 26.8 percent; County College of Morris, 16.8 percent; and Essex County Community College, 16.2 percent. (Figure 1.9). Regardless of the transfer institution, 620 students (49.6 percent) came to MSU with 60 or more credits (Table 1.8). The most popular transfer majors were: Human Ecology (165), Psychology (124), Business Administration (71), Justice Studies (69), and English (64) (Table 1.8).

### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

#### Majors

The University has 46 active undergraduate majors. Using first major as the measure, programs with the most students are: Business Administration (1,481), Human Ecology (1172), Psychology (892), English (605), and Biology (552) (Table 3.6). Three hundred and seventy-seven students are also pursuing teacher certification. The three most

popular areas for teaching certification are Elementary (Early Childhood) Education (139), Physical Education and Health (60), and English (50) (Figure 3.8).

#### Graduation and Continuation (Retention)

The University granted 2,026 degrees in the 2002-2003 academic year (Table 4.1). The overall undergraduate grade point average of graduates was 3.1 (Table 4.3).

The most recent freshman cohort finishing their degrees in six years entered MSU in fall 1997; 56 percent graduated and an additional 5.9 percent continued into the seventh year. While the majority of our students still graduate in five years, the four-year graduation rate seems to be edging its way up; 23.1 percent of the fall 1999 cohort graduated in four years. The one-year retention rate, for the fall 2002 freshman cohort was 81.7 percent (Table 4.4). Graduation rates vary by certain characteristics such as sex, race/ethnicity and admittance type.

Continuation (retention) and graduation rates for transfer students point to the importance of the number of accepted transfer credits. Students who enter with 60 or more credits tend to reenroll and graduate in greater numbers than students with fewer than 60 transfer credits. For example, the six-year graduation rates for the 1997 cohort are: 63.2 percent for those entering with up to 32 credits, 69.4 percent for those entering with up to 59 credits, and 75.4 percent for those entering with 60 or more credits (Table 4.9). Table 4.10, Transfer Students Graduating from New Jersey Community Colleges, shows that the six-year graduation rate for this group is approximately 72 percent.

### **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Montclair State University currently offers 34 graduate master's degree programs, and 2 doctoral degree programs. In addition, graduate students may pursue post baccalaureate teaching certification in teacher education or certificate programs in a variety of areas.

Over 3,400 students applied to MSU at the graduate level in the fall of 2003. Seventy-eight percent (2249) of those who completed the application process were accepted and, of those accepted, 66 percent (1491) were enrolled (Table 2.1). Overall graduate students make up 25 percent of the student body at MSU. Out of the total graduate population of 3,829 enrolled students, approximately 59 percent (2236) are degree-seeking (Table 3.10). Over all, the College of Education and Human Services enrolls the most students (32.5 percent), followed by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (17.2 percent), the School of Business (10.2 percent), the College of Science and Mathematics (8.9 percent), and the School of the Arts (2.7 percent). An additional 28.5 percent are non-degree students who are not formally enrolled in any school but take courses in the University's various graduate programs (Table 3.9).

### **COURSE CHARACTERISTICS**

In the fall of 2003, 2,054 course sections were offered at the undergraduate level and 347 were offered at the graduate level. The average undergraduate class size was 25 and 16

at the graduate level. The doctoral program offered 13 sections and had an average of 12.4 students (Table 3.11). There were 294,874 student semester credits generated in Fiscal Year '03, which translates to 9,630 Full-Time Equivalents (Table 3.12).

## **EMPLOYEES**

Faculty make up the largest percentage of full-time employees at MSU i.e., 34 percent. It is followed by Other Professionals, 21 percent; Clerical & Secretarial staff, 12.9percent; Service/Maintenance, 12.4 percent; Executive/Administrative & Managerial, 10.6 percent; Skilled Crafts, 5.2 percent; and Technical and Paraprofessionals, 3.7 percent (Figure 5.1).

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 give a profile of MSU faculty. Of the 458 full-time faculty, 41 percent are female, 25 percent report they are members of a racial or ethnic minority group, and 91 percent have doctorates or other terminal degrees.

## **FINANCIAL FACTS**

State appropriations are the largest source of revenue for the university; but the State's support has decreased substantially over a five-year period, from 43 percent in FY 1999 to 36 percent last year. Other sources of revenue for Fiscal Year 2003 were: tuition and fees, 38 percent; Auxiliary Enterprises, 10.3 percent; Government Grants & Contract Funds, 12 percent; Sales & Services of Educational Activities, 2 percent; Other Sources, 1.6 percent; and Private Gifts and Grants, less than 1 percent (Figure 6.1).

Starting in fall 2002, newly entering undergraduate students were charged a flat rate tuition charge per semester; along with additional fees. Full-time is defined as 12 or more credits. For academic year 2003/04, a full-time (15 credits per semester) undergraduate at MSU pays \$6,407 in tuition and fees. Annual room and board for the same year is \$7,710 (based on double occupancy and a 14-meal plan). Twenty-seven percent of our undergraduate student body lives on-campus (Table 6.3).

A total of \$7.3 million in federal financial aid was disbursed to about 2,400 students in Academic Year 2003. Another \$34 million in other forms of federal aid (loans, work study) was also disbursed. An additional \$9.5 million in financial aid came from the State of New Jersey (Table 6.4).