

## HIGHLIGHTS

### NEW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

#### Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen

Full-time, first-time freshmen represent the traditional core segment of MSU population. During fall 2004, full-time, first-time freshmen accounted for over half (55 percent) of the newly admitted students at Montclair State University. Approximately 8,700 students applied for fall 2004 admission to Montclair State University, more than 5.0 percent increase over fall 2003. Almost 50 percent (4,345) of those who applied were accepted and over 40 percent (1,754), of those who were accepted, eventually enrolled at the university (Table 1.1).

The standardized test scores and high school rank of MSU's full-time, first-time freshmen did not change significantly during the last few years. The average combined SAT score for all entering freshmen was 1,031; and the mean high school rank is 70 (Table 1.4).

The full-time, first-time freshmen continue to reflect the University's commitment to an ethnically and racially diverse student body. Almost 12 percent identified themselves as African American, 16 percent identified themselves as Latino/a and 7 percent as Asian. Over 58 percent of our entering freshmen were female and the average age of the first-time entrants to the university was 18.4 years. Over 96 percent of the freshmen cited New Jersey as their state of origin. Montclair, predominantly a commuter campus, is situated in the middle of Bergen, Passaic, Morris, Union and Hudson counties of New Jersey. Not surprisingly, therefore, almost half (45 percent) of the full-time, first-time freshmen came from the neighboring three feeder counties of New Jersey, i.e., Bergen (17 percent), Essex (15 percent) and Passaic (13 percent) (Table 1.5).

Almost 60 percent of the incoming full-time, first-time freshmen declared their major field of study as they enrolled at the university. Of the freshmen who chose their major at the outset, the five most frequently chosen majors are: Biology (152), Human Ecology (113), Psychology (103), Business Administration (101) and English (66) (Table 1.7).

Almost 58 percent of the entering full-time, first-time freshmen indicated that Montclair State University was their first choice among the colleges to which they applied and more than 31 percent indicated MSU was their second choice (Figure 1.1).

#### Transfer Students

Montclair State University is a receiving institution for community college students to fulfill their undergraduate degree ambitions. Almost 40 percent (1,266) of the newly admitted students in fall 2004 transferred from various universities and colleges in US. Montclair received 3,037 applications from transfer students. Sixty-four percent were accepted (1,943) and 65.2 percent (1,266) of those accepted were enrolled (Table 1.2). A little over 57 percent of all transfers came from New Jersey public community colleges; and of these, more than 58 percent came from the following three community colleges: Bergen County Community College, 27 percent; County College of Morris, 16 percent; and Essex County Community College, 15 percent. (Figure 1.11). Regardless of the transfer institution, 644 students (51 percent) came to MSU with 60 or more credits

(Table 1.9). The most popular transfer majors were: Psychology (144), Human Ecology (143), English (76), Justice Studies (70), and Physical Education (66) (Table 1.10).

## **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

### Majors

The University has 45 active undergraduate majors. Using Primary major as the measure, programs with the most students are: Business Administration (1,418), Human Ecology (1,358), Psychology (938), English (634), and Biology (605) (Table 3.6). Six hundred and sixty-two students are also pursuing teacher certification. The three most popular areas for teaching certification are Elementary (Early Childhood) Education (213), Physical Education and Health (86), and Preschool through Grade 3 (76) (Figure 3.8).

### Graduation and Continuation (Retention)

The University granted 2,174 degrees in the 2003-2004 academic year (Table 4.1). The overall undergraduate grade point average of graduates was 3.2 (Table 4.3).

The most recent freshman cohort finishing their degrees in six years entered MSU in fall 1998. Almost 57 percent graduated and an additional 6 percent continued into the seventh year. While the majority of our students still graduate in five years, the four-year graduation rate has risen from 19 percent of freshmen who entered in Fall 1994 to 26 percent of freshmen who entered in fall 2000. The one-year retention rate, for the fall 2003 freshman cohort was 84.0 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 1998 cohort are: 59.5 percent for those entering with up to 32 credits, 65 percent for those entering with up to 59 credits, and 75 percent for those entering with 60 or more credits (Table 4.9). The six-year graduation rate for transfer students graduating from New Jersey community colleges is approximately 70 percent (Table 4.10).

## **NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Over 4,000 students applied to MSU at the graduate level in the fall of 2004. Eighty-one percent (2,410) of those who completed the application process were accepted and, of those accepted, 63 percent (1,529) were enrolled (Table 2.1).

Females constitute nearly three-fourths (73 percent) of the graduate enrollment and the average age of the enrolled students was 32.5 years. In similar fashion to the university's undergraduate enrollment, the graduate enrollment is ethnically diverse with 10 percent indicating their ethnicity as African-American, over 9 percent as Hispanics and 5 percent as Asian. Almost 63 percent of the newly admitted graduates are from Bergen, Essex and Passaic counties of New Jersey. Of those who joined a graduate program, 641 students enrolled in Masters Program, 146 enrolled for a certification and 75 enrolled for a

certificate program. Additionally, 20 students enrolled in two of the doctoral programs offered at MSU.

## **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Montclair State University currently offers 37 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.

Overall, 3,818 graduate students make up about 25 percent of the student body at MSU. Of these 60 percent (2,291) are degree-seeking (Table 3.10). Overall, the College of Education and Human Services enrolls the most students (over 34 percent), followed by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (17 percent), the School of Business (over 9 percent), the College of Science and Mathematics (9 percent), and the School of the Arts (3 percent). An additional 27 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**

Montclair State University recently added a third doctoral program, the Sc.D. in Audiology, to its offerings of advanced degrees in selected professional fields. The new program is housed in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and is seeking accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. Graduates of the program will work as clinicians, researchers, and in private practice in the rapidly growing field of hearing diagnoses and treatment. The program begins in the Fall Semester 2005 with approximately 15 students being taught by four new faculty members. The program joins the two existing doctoral programs, Pedagogy, and Environmental Science.

In the fall of 2004, 2,265 course sections were offered at the undergraduate level and 383 were offered at the graduate level. The average class size at the undergraduate level was 24 as compared with 16 at graduate level. The doctoral program offered 8 sections and had an average of 17 students (Table 3.11). There were 320,994 student semester credits generated in Fiscal Year '04, which translates to 10,501 Full-Time Equivalents (Table 3.12).

## **EMPLOYEES**

Faculty make up the largest percentage of full-time employees at MSU: 34 percent. It is followed by Other Professionals, 21 percent; Clerical & Secretarial staff, 13 percent; Service/Maintenance, 12 percent; Executive/Administrative & Managerial, 11 percent; Skilled Crafts, 5 percent; and Technical and Paraprofessionals, 4 percent (Figure 5.1).

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 give a profile of MSU faculty. Of the 465 full-time faculty, over 43 percent are female, 25 percent report they are members of a racial or ethnic minority group, and approximately 91 percent have doctorates or other terminal degrees.

## **FINANCIAL FACTS**

State appropriations remain the largest source of revenue for the university; but the State's support has decreased substantially over a five-year period, from a little over 41 percent in FY 2000 to 32 percent in FY 2004. Other sources of revenue for Fiscal Year 2004 were: Tuition and Fees, 41 percent; Government Grants & Contract Funds, 12 percent; Auxiliary Enterprises, 12 percent; Sales & Services of Educational Activities and Other Sources, 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 2004/05, a full-time (15 credits per semester) undergraduate at MSU pays \$7,026 in tuition and fees. Annual room and board for the same year is \$7832 (based on double occupancy and a minimum meal plan). Twenty-seven percent of our undergraduate student body lives on-campus (Table 6.3).

More than \$8 million in federal financial aid was disbursed to about 2,953 students in Academic Year 2004. Another \$43 million in other forms of federal aid (loans, work study) was also disbursed. Additionally, about \$13 million in financial aid came from the State of New Jersey (Table 6.4).

## **FACILITIES**

Over the past several years the University has been in the midst of a rapid expansion of the physical plant in order to accommodate the planned growth in student enrollment. The highlight of facilities development during the 2004 fiscal year was the opening of the Alexander Kasser Theater in October of 2004

The 500-seat Alexander Kasser Theater Building is four stories high and approximately 55,000 gross square feet. The Alexander Kasser Theater is a multi-use facility for performances of drama, musical theater, dance, orchestral concerts, solo recitals and chamber opera. The facility also includes administrative space, offices, storage and support space. The structure consists of structural, pre-cast and architectural concrete, EIFIS with stucco finish and aluminum curtain walls with a clay tile roof.