

HIGHLIGHTS

NEW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Full-Time, First-Time Freshmen

Full-time, first-time freshmen represent the traditional core segment of MSU population. During the fall of 2006, full-time, first-time freshmen accounted for almost two thirds (62 percent) of the newly admitted students at Montclair State University. More than 9,700 students applied for fall 2006 admission to Montclair State University, an over 10 percent increase from fall 2005. Over 54 percent (5,314) of those who applied were accepted and 38 percent (2,018) of those who were accepted eventually enrolled at the university (Table 1.1).

The standardized test scores of MSU's full-time, first-time freshmen decreased slightly since last fall, i.e.: the SAT average score went from 1,056 in fall 2005 to 1,022 in fall 2006. The average high school rank of 70 did not change considerably since last fall (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 eleven percent identified themselves as African American, while over 18 percent identified themselves as Latino/a and 6 percent as Asian. Over 59 percent of our entering freshmen were female and the average age of the first-time entrants to the university was 18.3 years. Almost 97 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 (44 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 (12 percent) (Table 1.5).

Over 61 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: Family and Child Studies (over 8 percent), Biology (7 percent), Business Administration (almost 7 percent), Psychology (over 4 percent), and English (over 3 percent) (Table 1.7).

Sixty-one 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 29 percent indicated MSU was their second choice (Figure 1.4).

Transfer Students

Montclair State University is a receiving institution for many community college students to fulfill their undergraduate degree ambitions. Montclair received 3,022 applications from transfer students. Almost 66 percent were accepted (1,987) and 60 percent (1,195) of those accepted were enrolled (Table 1.2). Over 60 percent (722) of all transfers came from New Jersey public community colleges; and of these, almost 59 percent came from the following three community colleges: Bergen County Community College, (28 percent); County College of Morris, (almost 20 percent); and Essex County Community College, (11 percent) (Figure 1.9). Regardless of the transfer institution, 625 students (over 52 percent) came to MSU with 60 or more credits (Table 1.10). Over 83 percent

declared their major and among those who declared, the most popular transfer majors were: Psychology (over 10 percent), Family and Child Studies (almost 9 percent), English (6 percent), and Biology and Justice Studies (over 5 percent each) (Table 1.10).

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Overall, 12,365 undergraduates enrolled at MSU during the fall of 2006. Among these, over 60 percent were females and over 60 percent identified their race/ethnicity as Caucasians. While 19 percent identified themselves as Latino(a), another 11 percent indicated African-American and just over 6 percent indicated Asian as their race/ethnicity. Among those who resided in New Jersey, 51 percent were from three counties: Bergen (19 percent), Essex (18 percent) and Passaic (14 percent). The average age of the undergraduates at MSU was 22.9 years. About one-third of the undergraduates (over 31 percent) were seniors while 26 percent were freshmen in fall 2006.

Majors

During the fall of 2006, the University offered 48 active undergraduate majors. Using the primary major as the measure, programs with the most students are: Family and Child Studies (11.1 percent), Business Administration (10.6 percent), Psychology (7.8 percent), Biology and English (over 5 percent each) (Table 3.6). Almost 7 percent (804) of undergraduates are also pursuing teacher certification. The three most popular areas for teaching certification are Elementary (Early Childhood) Education (368), Physical Education and Health (106) and Preschool through Grade 3 (99) (Figure 3.9).

Graduation and Continuation (Retention)

The University granted 2,492 degrees in the 2005-2006 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 2000. Over 59 percent graduated and almost 9 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 20 percent of freshmen who entered in fall 1996 to over 27 percent of freshmen who entered in fall 2002. The one-year retention rate, for the fall 2004 freshman cohort was 81 percent (Table 4.4). Graduation rates also 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 2000 cohort are: 69 percent for those entering as sophomores, 78 percent for those entering as juniors, and 89 percent for those entering as seniors (Table 4.9). The six-year graduation rate for Fall 2000 transfer cohorts who transferred from New Jersey community colleges is almost 74 percent (Table 4.10).

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Over 2,400 students applied to MSU at the graduate level in the fall of 2006. More than 73 percent (1,880) of those who completed the application process were accepted and, of those accepted, 66 percent (1,377) were enrolled (Table 2.1).

Females constitute nearly three-fourths (74 percent) of the graduate enrollment. In similar fashion to the university's undergraduate enrollment, the graduate enrollment is ethnically diverse with 10 percent indicating their ethnicity as African-American, almost 9 percent as Latino/a and almost 4 percent as Asian. Almost 62 percent of the newly admitted graduates are from Bergen, Essex and Passaic counties of New Jersey. Of those who joined a graduate program, 388 students enrolled in Masters Program, 49 enrolled for a certification and 59 enrolled in a certificate program. Additionally, 15 students enrolled in two of the doctoral programs offered at MSU.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Overall, 3,711 graduate students were enrolled at MSU in fall 2006. These included students who were new to the institution or new in a major. Seventy-three percent of enrolled graduate students were females. Seventy-four percent cited their race/ethnicity as Caucasian, while almost 11 percent identified themselves as African-American, almost 17 percent were Latino(a) and over 5 percent indicated Asian as their race/ethnicity. The average age of graduate students was 33.2 years. Almost two-thirds (63 percent) of these students were from three counties in New Jersey: Bergen and Essex (25 percent each) and Passaic (13 percent).

Montclair State University offered 37 graduate master's degree programs and 3 doctoral degree programs in fall 2006. In addition, graduate students can also pursue post baccalaureate teaching certification in teacher education or certificate programs in a variety of areas.

Overall, graduate students make up almost a quarter (23 percent) of the student body at MSU. Of these, 67 percent (2,489) are degree-seeking (Table 3.10). Overall, the College of Education and Human Services enrolls the most students (40 percent), followed by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (over 18 percent), the College of Science and Mathematics (10 percent), the School of Business (8 percent), and the College of the Arts (almost 5 percent). Additionally, 18 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 2006, 2,457 course sections were offered at the undergraduate level and 430 were offered at the graduate level. The average class size at the undergraduate level was 24 as compared with 14 at graduate level. The doctoral program offered 17 sections and had an average of almost 5 students (Table 3.11). There were 352,978 student semester

credits generated in Fiscal Year '06, which translates to 12,123 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, 15.4 percent; Service/Maintenance, 13.5 percent; Executive/Administrative & Managerial, 7.7 percent; Skilled Crafts, 4.4 percent; and Technical and Paraprofessionals, 3.5 percent (Figure 5.1).

Tables 5.1 and 5.2 give a profile of MSU faculty. Of the 491 full-time faculty, over 44 percent are female, approximately 25 percent report they are members of a racial or ethnic minority group (African-American, Asian and Latino(a)), and almost 95 percent have doctorates or other terminal degrees.

FINANCIAL FACTS

State appropriations remain one of the largest sources of revenue for the university; but the State's support has decreased substantially over a five-year period, from 38 percent in FY 2002 to not quite 30 percent in FY 2006. Other sources of revenue for Fiscal Year 2006 were: Tuition and Fees, 42 percent; Government Grants & Contract Funds, 10 percent; Auxiliary Enterprises, almost 14 percent; and Other Sources, 4 percent (Figure 6.1).

Beginning in the 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 the academic year 2006/07, a full-time (12 credits per semester) undergraduate at MSU pays \$8,404 in tuition and fees. Annual room and board for the same year is \$8,498 (based on double occupancy and a 14 meal plan). Approximately 27 percent of our undergraduate student body lives on-campus (Table 6.3).

More than \$8.5 million in federal financial aid was disbursed to about 3,133 students in Academic Year 2005. Another \$52.2 million in other forms of federal aid (loans, work study) was also disbursed. Additionally, about \$17.8 million in financial aid came from the State of New Jersey (Table 6.4).