

HIGHLIGHTS

NEW UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

First-Time Freshmen

More than 7,400 students applied for fall 2002 admission to Montclair State University, a 7 percent increase over fall 2001. Acceptance and enrollment rates for fall 2002 are 53.0 percent and 37.6 percent, respectively (Table 1.1).

First-time, full-time freshmen account for half of new entering undergraduate students (Figure 1.2). The average Combined SAT score for all entering freshmen increased to 1,030; and the mean high school rank is 69 (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 percent identified themselves as Latino/a and 5 percent as Asian (Table 1.5).

Of those full-time first-time freshmen selecting a major, the five most frequently chosen majors are: Business Administration (122), Human Ecology (104), Biology (90), Psychology (82), and English (50). Forty-two percent (615) indicated no major (Table 1.6).

Sixty-four 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 26.8 percent indicated MSU was their second choice (Figure 1.1).

Transfer Students

Montclair received nearly 2,857 applications from transfer students. Sixty-three percent were accepted and 66 percent of those accepted enrolled (Table 1.2). Fifty-two percent of all transfers came from New Jersey public community colleges; and almost half of these students came from two community colleges--Bergen County Community College, 30 percent, and the County College of Morris, 18 percent (Figure 1.3). Regardless of the transfer institution, 552 students (47 percent) came to MSU with 60 or more credits (Table 1.8). The most popular transfer majors were: Psychology (135), Human Ecology (123), English (76) Justice Studies (60), and Business Administration (58) (Table 1.8).

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Majors

With the addition of the new interdisciplinary major of Science Informatics, the University has 47 active undergraduate majors (Table 7.1). Using first major as the measure, programs with the most students (in order of size) are: Business Administration (1,417), Human Ecology (891), Psychology (889), English (614), and Biology (540) (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, Physical Education and Health, and English (Figure 3.8).

Graduation and Continuation (Retention)

The University granted 2,028 degrees in the 2001-2002 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 1996; 56.1 percent graduated and an additional 6.8 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; 22.7 percent of the fall 1998 cohort graduated in four years. The one-year retention rate, for the fall 2001 freshman cohort, rose to 83.7 percent (Table 4.4). Graduation rates vary by certain characteristics such as sex, race/ethnicity and admittance type. Females, for example, had a six-year graduation rate of 60.1 percent and males had a rate of 48.6 percent (Table 4.6).

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 1996 cohort are: 57.5 percent for those entering with up to 32 credits, 67.7 percent for those entering with up to 59 credits, and 78.1 percent for those entering with 60 or more credits (Table 4.9). Table 4.10, Transfer Students Graduating from New Jersey Community Colleges, is a new table and shows that the six-year graduation rate for this group is 69.5 percent.

Ninety-one percent of one-year-out alumni are employed full- and part-time and 19 percent are attending graduate school (Table 4.11). MSU alumni are found in every state of the union (Figure 4.5, new map) and of the total 42,963 New Jersey alumni, most are located in Bergen, Passaic and Essex counties (Figure 4.6, new map).

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Montclair State University currently offers 34 graduate degree programs, including the Ed.D. in Pedagogy which began in fall 1999. In addition, graduate students may pursue post baccalaureate teaching certification in teacher education or certificate programs in a variety of areas (Table 7.1).

Almost 3,300 students applied to MSU at the graduate level in the fall of 2002. Seventy-nine percent of those who completed the application process were accepted and, of those accepted, 64 percent enrolled (Table 2.1). Enrolled graduate students make up 25 percent of the student body. Out of the total graduate population of 3,734 enrolled students, 59 percent are degree-seeking (Table 3.10). The College of Education and Human Services enrolls the most students (31 percent), followed by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (18 percent), the School of Business (9 percent), the College of Science and Mathematics (8 percent), and the School of the Arts (3 percent). An additional 31

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 2002, 1,992 course sections were offered at the undergraduate level and 312 were offered at the graduate level. The average undergraduate class size was 24.3 and 16.7 at the graduate level. The doctoral program had 2 section offerings and had an average of 5.5 students (Table 3.11). There were 277,960 student semester credits generated in Fiscal Year '02, which translates to 9,080 Full-Time Equivalents (Table 3.12).

EMPLOYEES

Faculty make up the largest percentage of full-time employees at MSU, 34 percent; followed by Other Professionals, 20 percent; Clerical & Secretarial staff, 14 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. For example, 40 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 the five-year period, from 49 percent in FY 1997 to 40 percent last year. Other sources of revenue for Fiscal Year 2001 were: tuition and fees, 32 percent; Auxiliary Enterprises, 11 percent; Government Grants & Contract Funds, 12 percent; Sales & Services of Educational Activities, 2 percent; Other Sources, 2 percent; and Private Gifts and Grants, less than 1 percent (Figure 6.1).

Starting in fall 2002, newly entering undergraduate students are charged a flat rate tuition charge per semester; fees are additional. Full-time is defined as 12 or more credits. For academic year 2002/03, a full-time (15 credits per semester) undergraduate at MSU pays \$5,792 in tuition and fees. Annual room and board for the same year is \$7,048 (based on double occupancy and a 14-meal plan). Twenty-seven percent of the undergraduate student body lives on-campus (Table 6.3).

A total of \$7.3 million in federal financial aid was disbursed to about 2,500 students in Academic Year 2003. Another \$33.4 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).