

C. Characteristics of Undergraduate Students

Fall 2007 Freshmen

A total of 10,112 individuals applied for admission as first-time freshmen to Montclair State University in fall 2007, up 21% from fall 2003. The University admitted 57% of these applicants, and 2,098 of those who were admitted to the University enrolled as freshmen for a yield of 37%. The fall 2007 admissions yield was approximately 2 percentage points lower than in fall 2003.

Fall 2007 freshmen entered MSU as either regular admits, special admits, or students admitted through the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program. By admitting students using different admissions categories, the University fulfilled the hopes and aspirations of more of its applicants. Of Montclair State University's 2,068 full-time, first-time freshmen, 83% were Regular Admits, 7% were admitted through the EOF program, and 10% were Special Admits (see Table II.C.1).

MSU's fall 2007 full-time, first-time freshmen had an average combined (Math and Critical Reading) SAT score of 1,003. Regularly admitted full-time entrants had a mean SAT score of 1,025, while EOF entrants and special admits had mean combined SAT's of 847 and 922, respectively. For all full-time freshmen, the average math SAT score (508) exceeded the average critical reading (495) and writing (497) scores (see Table II.C.1).

TABLE II.C.1: Mean Math and Verbal SAT for First-Time Freshmen, by Admission Status and Overall, Fall 2007

| Type | Full-Time | | | | Part-Time | | | |
|---------|-----------|------|------|-------|-----------|------|------|-------|
| | Number | Math | Read | Write | Number | Math | Read | Write |
| Regular | 1,702 | 518 | 507 | 509 | 14 | 534 | 525 | 522 |
| EOF | 148 | 429 | 419 | 413 | | | | |
| Special | 188 | 473 | 449 | 457 | 1 | 350 | 560 | |
| All | 2,038 | 508 | 495 | 497 | 15 | 521 | 527 | 522 |
| Missing | - | 30 | 30 | 54 | - | 15 | 15 | 18 |

In fall 2007, Montclair State University used the College Board's suite of Accuplacer tests to assess college readiness in reading, computation, and elementary algebra. College readiness in writing was assessed using the SAT essay and writing scores, in combination.

Incoming freshmen whose SAT-Critical Reading scores were below 550 were required to take the Accuplacer reading test. All incoming freshmen were required to take both the computation and elementary algebra portions of Accuplacer, and everyone's SAT-W and SAT-essay scores were examined for possible placement into developmental writing; no exemption policies were in place in math and writing in fall 2007.

Approximately 11% of fall 2007 undergraduates were enrolled in one or more remedial courses. Most of those enrolled in remediation were first-time freshmen.

Table II.C.2: Enrollment in Remedial Courses, Fall 2007

| Total Fall 2007 Undergraduate Enrollment | Number of Students Enrolled in One or More Remedial Courses | Percent of Total |
|---|---|---|
| 13,017 | 1,406 | 10.8% |
| | | |
| Total Number of Full-time, First-time Students | Number of FTFT Students Enrolled in One or More Remedial Courses | Percent of FTFT Students Enrolled in One or More Remedial Course |
| 2,069 | 1,045 | 50.5% |
| | | |
| Remedial Subject Area | Number of FTFT Students Enrolled in | Percent of FTFT Students Enrolled in |
| Reading | 135 | 6.5% |
| Writing | 151 | 7.3% |
| Math Computation | 457 | 22.1% |
| Elementary Algebra | 488 | 23.6% |

A survey administered to fall 2007 first-time freshmen revealed that over 86% considered MSU their first or second choice among colleges. The survey also revealed that the top three reasons freshmen chose MSU were: a) its good academic reputation (59%), b) its affordability (50%), and c) the success of its graduates in finding good jobs (46%).

The profile of the first-time freshman class reflects the continuing commitment of the University to an ethnically and racially diverse student body. Excluding unknowns, 9% of full-time, first-time freshmen identified themselves as African American, 7% as Asian, and nearly 23% as Latino/a. Over 1% of freshmen were international students, and nearly 62% of entering freshmen were female.

Fall 2007 Undergraduates

In fall 2007, a total of 16,736 students attended Montclair State University. Of this total, 13,017 (or 77.8% of all enrollees) were registered as undergraduates. The number of undergraduates attending the University rose 14% between fall 2003 and fall 2007. Nearly 84% of fall 2007 undergraduates attended the University full-time, up five percentage points from fall 2003. MSU's undergraduates were racially/ethnically diverse, with over 19% identifying themselves as Latino/a, 10% as African American, 6% as Asian, 55% White, and 5% non-resident aliens (see Table II.C.3.a).

TABLE II.C.3.a: Undergraduate Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Fall 2007

| | Full-time | | Part-time | | Total | |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Native Amer. | 24 | 0.2% | 8 | 0.4% | 32 | 0.2% |
| African Amer. | 1,046 | 9.6% | 220 | 10.3% | 1,266 | 9.7% |
| Asian | 662 | 6.1% | 106 | 5.0% | 768 | 5.9% |
| Latino/a | 2,039 | 18.7% | 474 | 22.2% | 2,513 | 19.3% |
| White | 6,096 | 56.0% | 1,070 | 50.1% | 7,166 | 55.1% |
| Non-Res. Alien | 566 | 5.2% | 52 | 2.4% | 618 | 4.7% |
| Missing | 447 | 4.1% | 207 | 9.7% | 654 | 5.0% |
| Total | 10,880 | 100.0% | 2,137 | 100.0% | 13,017 | 100.0% |

In fall 2007, 61% of all undergraduates were female, and the average age of the undergraduate population was 22.7 years (see Tables II.C.3.b and II.C.3.c).

TABLE II.C.3.b: Undergraduate Enrollment by Sex, Fall 2007

| | Full-time | | Part-time | | Total | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Female | 6,665 | 61.3% | 1,374 | 64.3% | 8,039 | 61.8% |
| Male | 4,215 | 38.7% | 763 | 35.7% | 4,978 | 38.2% |
| Total | 10,880 | 100.0% | 2,137 | 100.0% | 13,017 | 100.0% |

TABLE II.C.3.c: Undergraduate Enrollment by Age, Fall 2007

| | Full-time | | Part-time | | Total | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Less than 18 | 16 | 0.1% | 28 | 1.3% | 44 | 0.3% |
| 18-19 | 3,509 | 32.3% | 59 | 2.8% | 3,568 | 27.4% |
| 20-21 | 3,958 | 36.4% | 148 | 6.9% | 4,106 | 31.5% |
| 22-24 | 2,418 | 22.2% | 644 | 30.1% | 3,062 | 23.5% |
| 25-29 | 595 | 5.5% | 460 | 21.5% | 1,055 | 8.1% |
| 30-34 | 178 | 1.6% | 245 | 11.5% | 423 | 3.2% |
| 35-39 | 92 | 0.8% | 193 | 9.0% | 285 | 2.2% |
| 40-49 | 85 | 0.8% | 244 | 11.4% | 329 | 2.5% |
| 50-64 | 27 | 0.2% | 108 | 5.1% | 135 | 1.0% |
| More than 64 | 2 | 0.0% | 7 | 0.3% | 9 | 0.1% |
| Unknown | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.0% |
| Total | 10,880 | 100.0% | 2,137 | 100.0% | 13,017 | 100.0% |

During FY2007, MSU's undergraduates received financial aid from Federal, State, University, and private sources. Aid took multiple forms, from grants and scholarships, through loans and waivers. For those who needed financial assistance, the MSU Alumni Association and the MSU Foundation sponsored a number of scholarships, and special MSU program awards were substantial, amounting to over \$5 million during FY07. During the same fiscal year, Federal grants, guaranteed loans, and work-study programs amounted to nearly \$61 million.

During FY07, MSU distributed over \$18 million in state-funded financial aid, including both scholarships and NJCLASS loans (see Table II.C.4). A total of 8,112 awards were made to MSU students, including 617 Bloustein Scholar Awards and 274 Urban Scholar Awards.

Between FY03 and FY07, the total number of financial aid awards rose 27%, while the total amount of aid dollars distributed increased nearly 74%.

Table II.C.4: Financial Aid from State-Funded Programs, FY2007

| | Recipients | Awards | \$ Dollars | \$/Recipient | \$/Award |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| TAG | 2,905 | 5,305 | \$11,623,852 | \$4,001 | \$2,191 |
| EOF | 654 | 1,238 | \$772,000 | \$1,180 | \$624 |
| Bloustein Scholars | 315 | 617 | \$286,905 | \$911 | \$465 |
| Urban Scholars | 145 | 274 | \$127,410 | \$879 | \$465 |
| NJCLASS Loans | -- | 524 | \$4,900,931 | -- | \$9,353 |
| NJ Stars II (2007) | 45 | -- | \$93,060 | \$2,068 | -- |
| OSRP | -- | 109 | \$270,375 | -- | \$2,481 |

Of MSU's 2,099 full-time, first-time students who entered in fall 2007, nearly 97% were New Jersey residents (see Table II.C.5). Most were from Bergen (18%), Passaic (13%), and Essex (13%) counties.

Table II.C.5: Full-Time, First-Time Student Enrollment by State of Residence, Fall 2007

| State Residents | Non-State Residents | Total Students | % State Residents |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2,003 | 66 | 2,069 | 96.8% |

Fall 2007 Graduate Students

Of the 16,736 students who attended Montclair State University in fall 2007, 3,719 (22%) were graduate students. Graduate student enrollment declined 3% between fall 2003 and fall 2007.

Most graduate students (80%) attended MSU part-time, taking fewer than nine credits per semester. Seventy-three percent of fall 2007 graduate students were female, and the average age of the graduate student population was 33 years. Nine percent of graduate students identified themselves as African American, 4% as Asian, 8% as Latino/a, 76% as White, and 4% as non-resident aliens. Nearly 94% of MSU's graduate students are New Jersey residents.