

Data Focus of the Month - October 2019



The theme of the Data Focus page this year is the student academic journey as examined through a disaggregated lens in order to gauge how College efforts are making a difference. This series will look at the journey of new-to-college, full-time, degree-seeking students who began in the fall of 2015 to consider their academic journey and key indicators as depicted in Figure 1. This month begins with the start of the journey: choice of major.

Who are the students of this cohort? First, a quick look at the 1,998 students in this cohort. This group of students has no majority race with 13 percent Asian students, 24 percent Black or African American, 28 percent Hispanic/Latino, and 20 percent White (these are categories defined by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, IPEDS). Males outnumbered females, 56 percent to 44 percent.

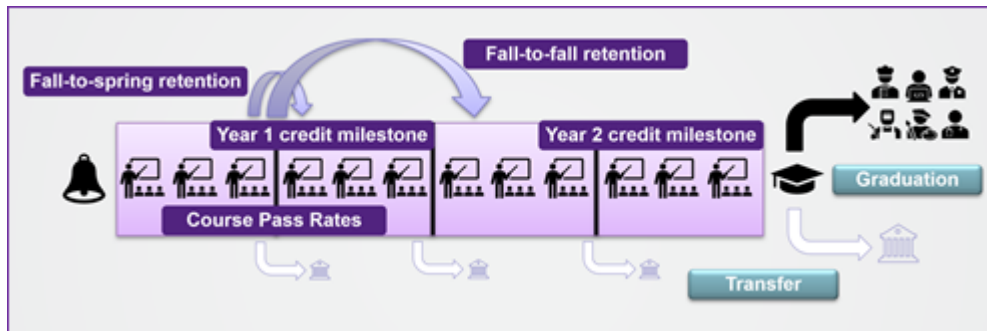


Figure 1. The student academic journey, noting leading indicators in purple and final outcomes in green.

What are students' degree choices? Program majors fall within six award categories. The (1) associate of arts degree is the most popular degree goal across race/ethnicity—with the highest percentage among Asian students. The next highest degree goal is the (2) associate of science degree, with similar representation of Asian and Black students. A larger percentage of Hispanic students intend to earn the (3) associate of applied science compared to other student groups. Regardless of race, a much smaller percentage of students express interest in the (4) associates of arts in teaching, and even fewer in the (5) associates of fine arts—and those percentages are lower than the intent to earn a (6) certificate. However, a certificate as a degree goal is highest among White students.

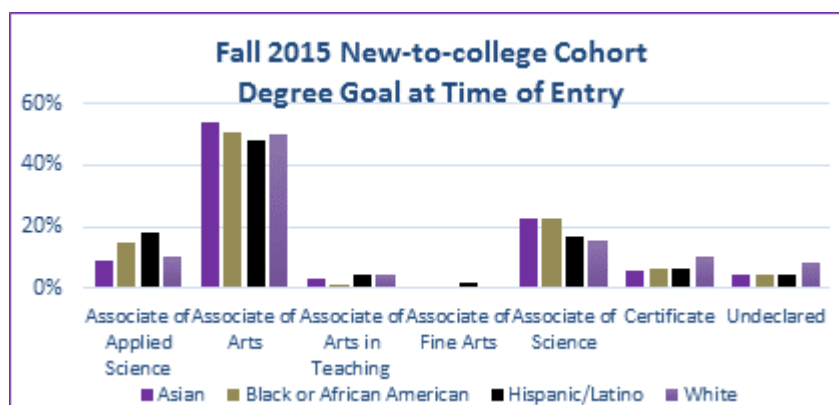


Figure 2. Fall 2015 students' choice of degree at time of entry to College.

What are students' choice of majors? Montgomery College offers a wide variety of programs of study. General studies and business round out the top two enrolled programs for every race category. Computer science is a program of choice across race. Mechanical and computer engineering are in the top five programs among Asian students; life science and criminal justice are in the top five programs among Black, Hispanic, and White students. Of particular note is that Hispanic students were the only student group with 10 or more students declaring a major in accounting, automotive technology, and teacher education.