

Spring 2020 – Spring 2024

Five-Year Trend

Spring Semester Student Enrollment and
Selective Demographics

Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

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Five-Year Trend on Spring Semester Student Enrollment and Selective Demographics

- In spring 2024, student enrollment rose for the second consecutive year since the pandemic and achieved a 5.0% percent increase in student headcount and an 8.4% gain in bill hours compared to the previous spring semester. The College enrolled 753 more students and generated 11,157 more bill hours than in spring 2023. Even though enrollment appears to be pointing towards an upward trend, headcount and bill hours are respectively 14.1% and 14.2% below the headcount and bill hours generated in spring 2020 (**Figure 1**).
- More than two-thirds of students attend the College on a part-time basis. The percentage of part-time student enrollment increased from 68.1% in spring 2020 to its peak of 70.3% in spring 2022, then declined to 67.6% in spring 2024 (**Figure 2**).
- Female students account for a higher percentage of enrollment compared to males (**Figure 3**). Students, on average, are increasingly younger: an average of 24.7 years of age in spring 2020 to 23.6 years of age in spring 2024. The decline in the age of students attending Montgomery College is likely influenced by the dual enrollment of high school students (**Figure 4**).
- Between spring 2020 and spring 2024, the percentage of Asian students (**Figure 5**) has remained relatively stable (from 12.4% to 12.7%); black students have declined more than one percentage point (from 26.2% to 25.0%); Hispanic students have increased more than three percentage points (from 25.1% to 28.4%); while the percentage of white students has declined nearly three percentage points (from 22.5% to 19.7%). American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students (**Figure 6**) consistently account for less than one percent of enrollment. The percentage of multi-race students has increased from 3.3% to 3.9% and foreign students are slightly up from 9.6 to 9.8%.

Figure 1: Enrollment and Bill Hours: Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

From spring 2020 to spring 2024, student headcount and bill hours are down 14 percent.

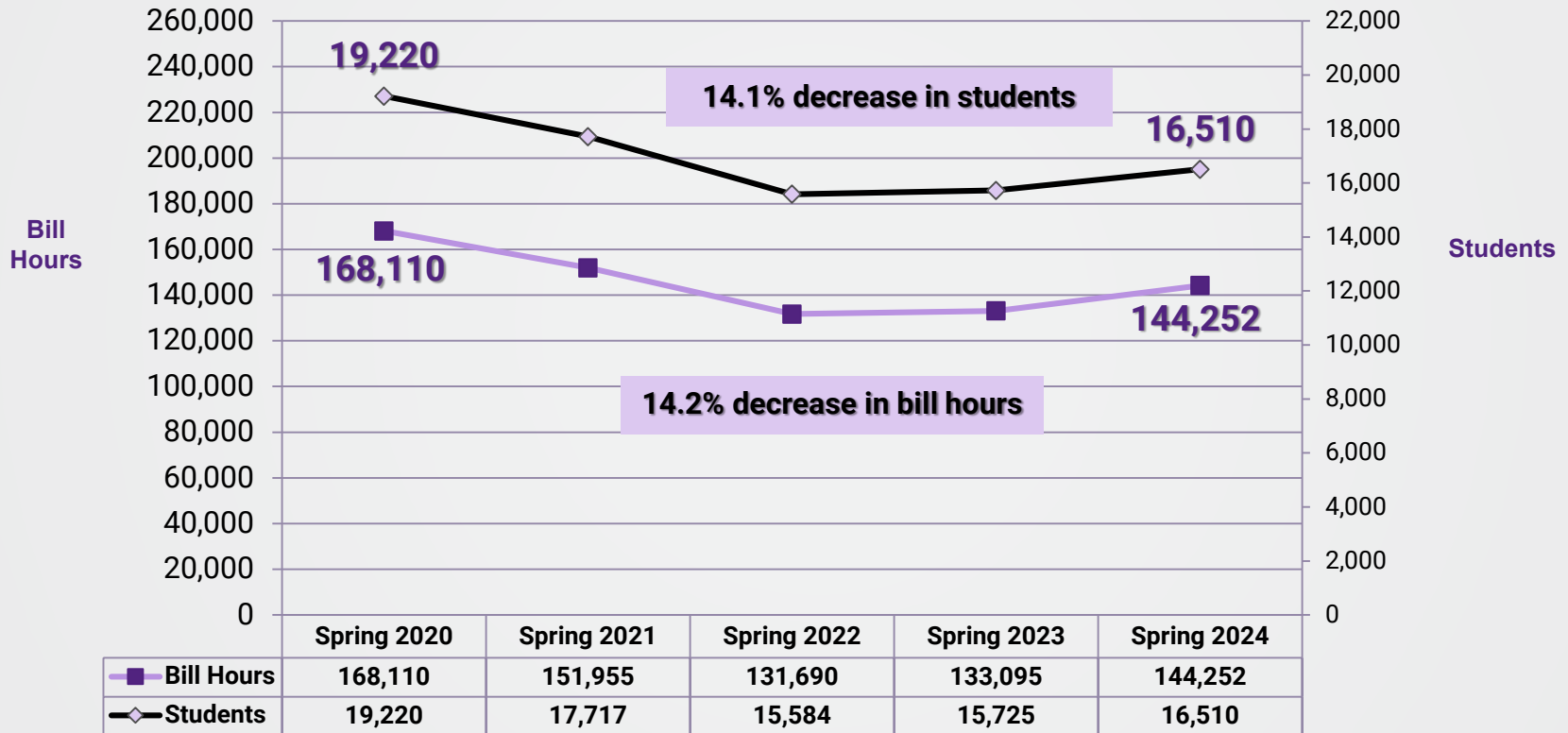


Figure 2: Enrollment Status – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

The percentage of part-time enrollment peaked at 70.3% in spring 2022 and dropped to its lowest level of 67.6%, while the percentage of full-time enrollment increased to its highest level of 32.4% in spring 2024.

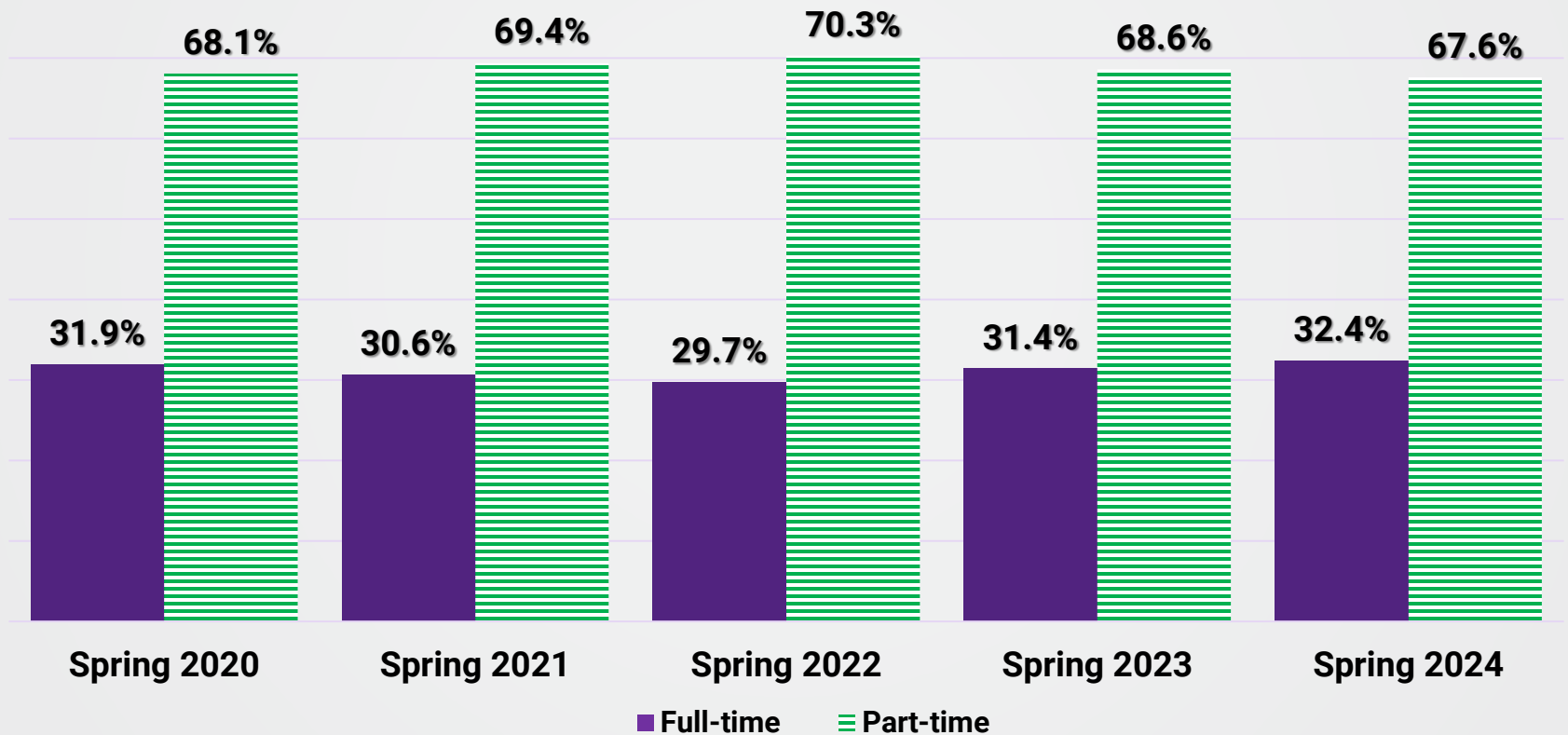


Figure 3: Enrollment by Gender – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024
Female students account for the highest percentage of enrollment.

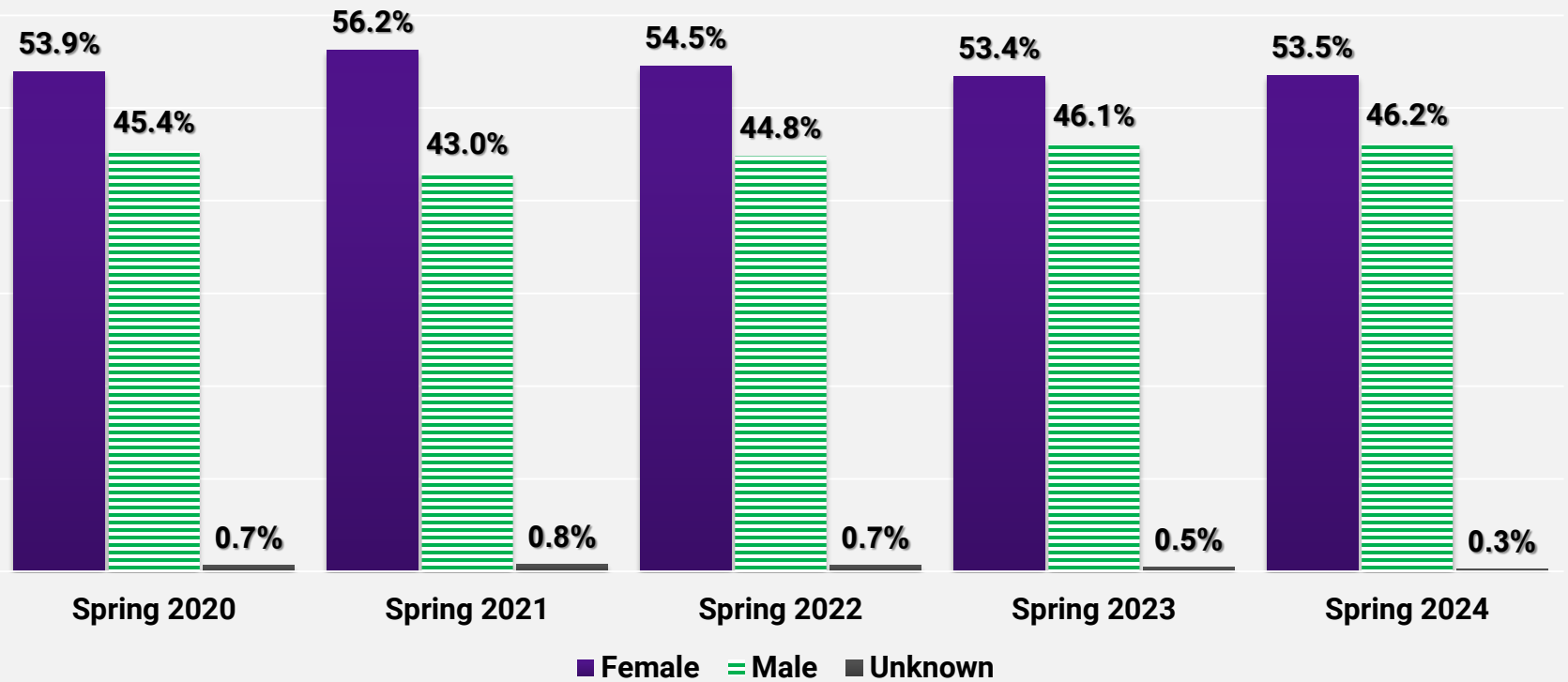


Figure 4: Average Age of Montgomery College Students – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024
The average age of students is gradually declining.

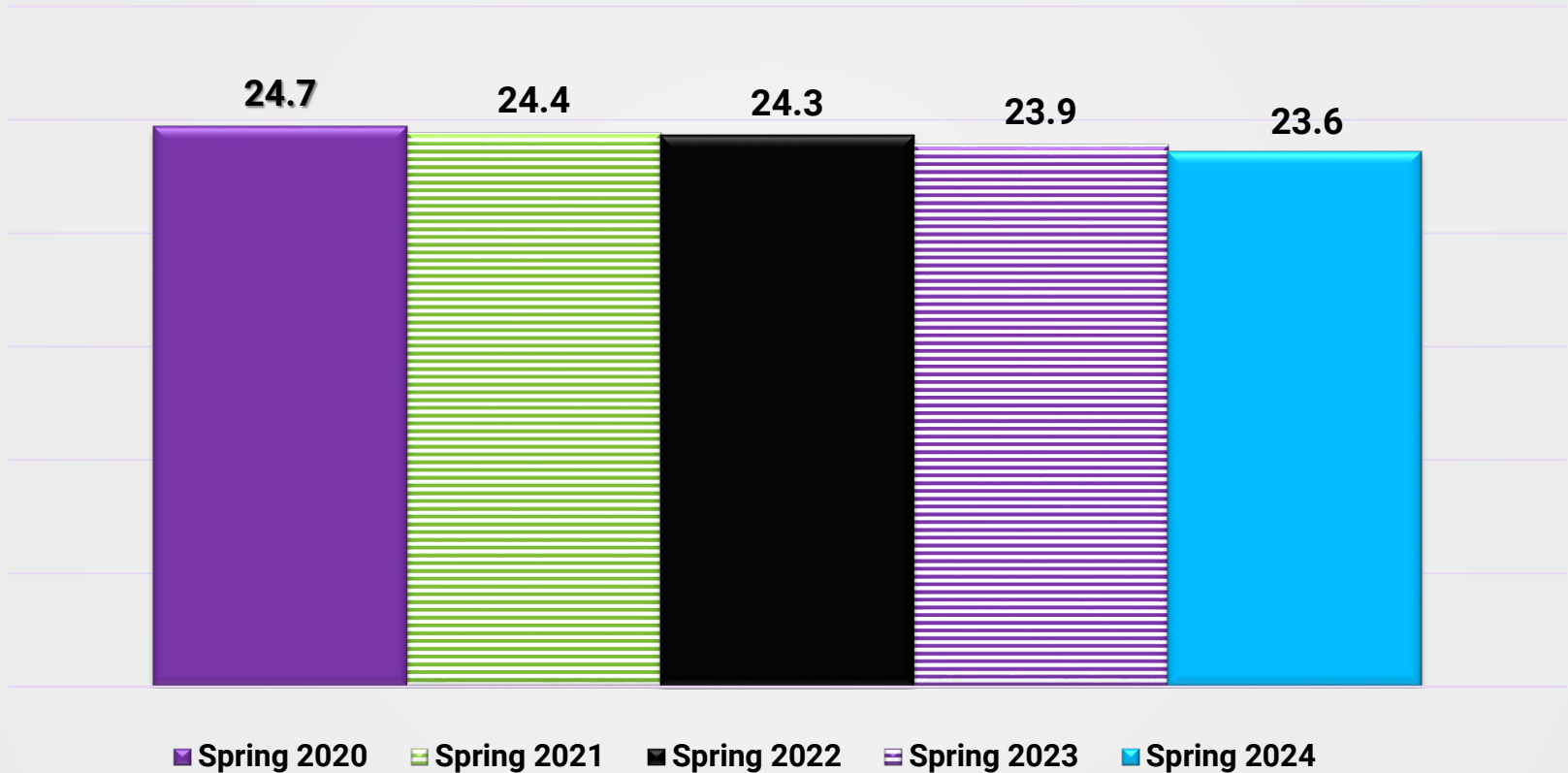
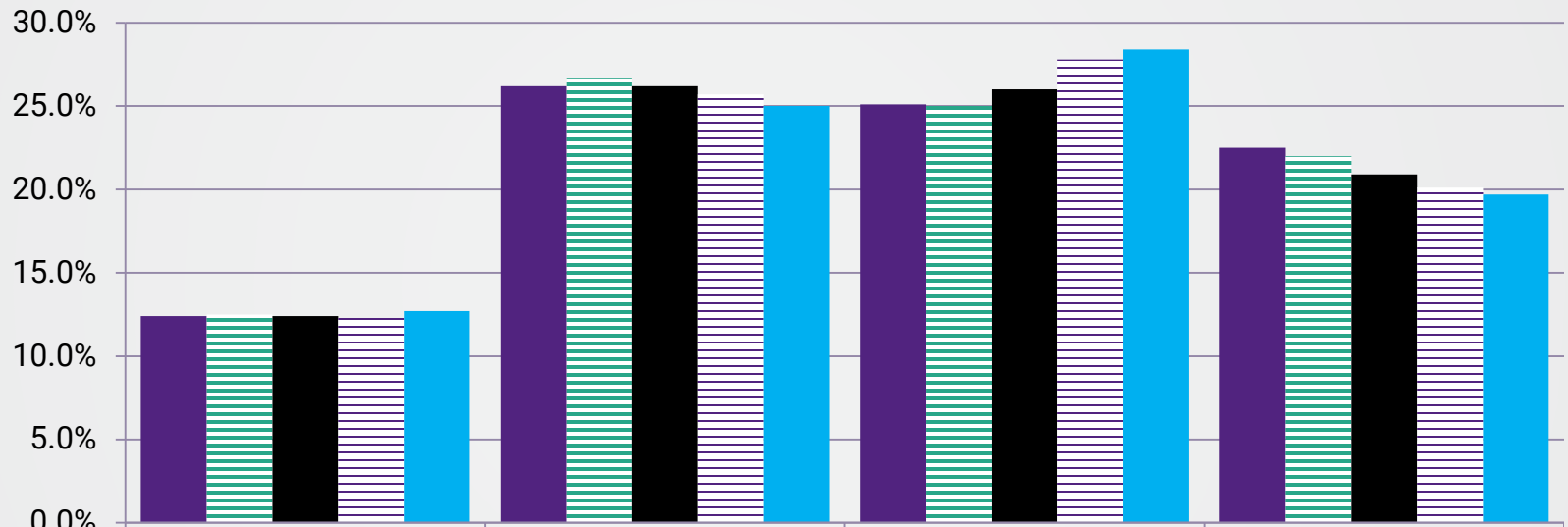


Figure 5: Percentage of Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

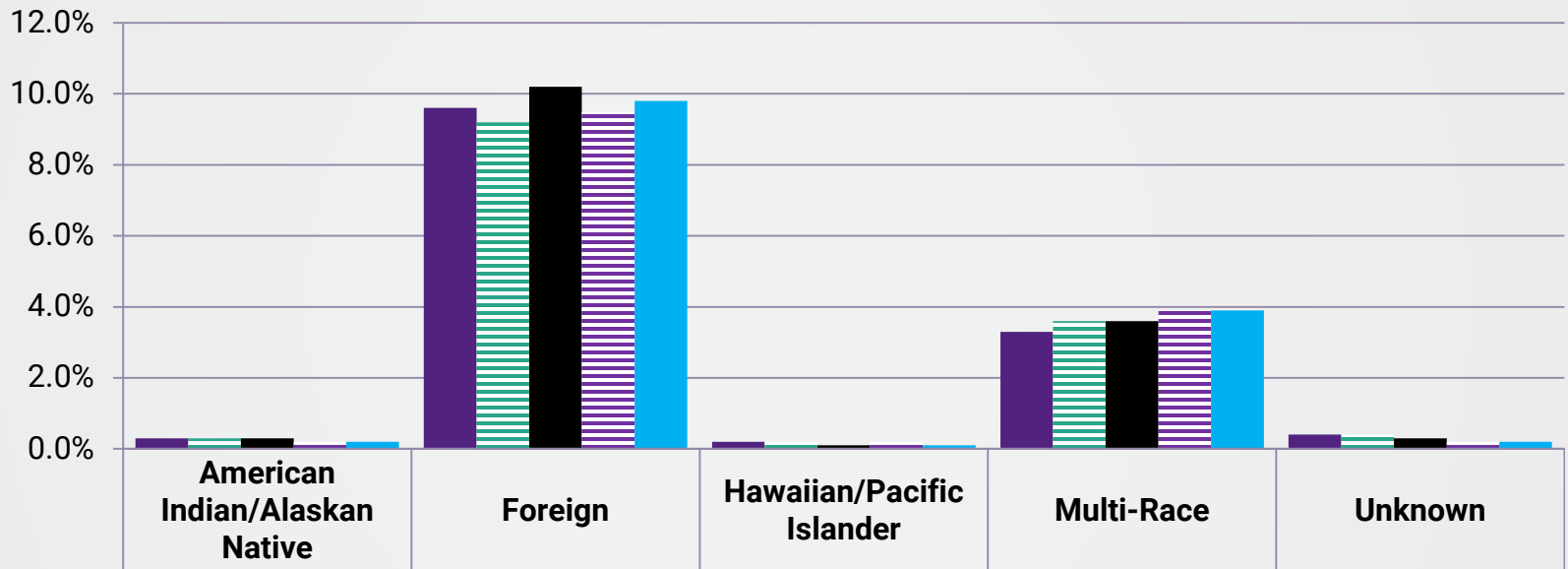
Student representation by race/ethnicity show declining percentages of white and black students and an increasing percentage of Hispanic students.



	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White
■ Spring 2020	12.4%	26.2%	25.1%	22.5%
▨ Spring 2021	12.5%	26.7%	25.0%	22.0%
■ Spring 2022	12.4%	26.2%	26.0%	20.9%
▨ Spring 2023	12.3%	25.7%	27.8%	20.1%
■ Spring 2024	12.7%	25.0%	28.4%	19.7%

Figure 6: Percentage of Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

Relatively stable percentages of enrollment are noted in race/ethnic groups that have smaller numbers of students.



Spring 2020 – Spring 2024

A Deeper Look at the Numbers: Spring Semester Student Enrollment Demographics

- **Figures 7 and 8:** From spring 2023 to spring 2024, student headcount increased across all race/ethnic groups except American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students. In spring 2024, headcount across each student group is below their respective enrollment in spring 2020, except for students identified as multi-race. Of particular note: the number of American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students has dwindled to approximately half their enrollment in five years, while the number of multi-race students reached its highest enrollment level in spring 2024.
- **Figures 9 and 10** show the actual enrollment change in each subsequent spring semester across race/ethnicity. For example, there were 173 fewer Asian students in spring 2021 than in spring 2020, and 276 fewer Asian students enrolled in spring 2022 than in spring 2021, etc. Substantial enrollment contractions occurred across groups in spring 2021 and 2022, which were plausibly influenced by the impact of the pandemic. In spring 2023 the number of Asian, Hispanic, multi-race, and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students increased, while the numbers of white, foreign, and black students continued to decline. In spring 2024, enrollment increased across race/ethnic groups except for American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students.
- **Figures 11 and 12** show the percent change in each subsequent spring semester by race/ethnicity that correspond to the numbers in figures 9 and 10.
- **Figure 13** shows the contraction of enrollment in each race/ethnic group over five years. In spring 2024, the College has 2,710 fewer credit students than in spring 2020. The four largest contractions in enrollment were in white (-1,078), black (-921), Asian (-287), and foreign (-217) students.

Spring 2020 – Spring 2024

A Deeper Look at the Numbers: Spring Semester Student Enrollment Demographics

- **Figure 14** shows enrollment categorized into three age groups: under 20 years of age, 20-24, and 25 and older. Enrollment of students who are under 20 years of age and those who are between 20 and 24 years of age has increased in each of the past two spring semesters. Students in the 25 and older age group have declined in each spring semester since spring 2021.
- Between spring 2020 and spring 2024 (**Figure 15**) the percentage of students in the under-20 age group has increased from 31.5% of enrollment to 38.8%. The percentage of students between the ages of 20 and 24 has fluctuated between 36.9% to 38.6%. The percentage of students in the 25 and older age group has declined from 30.4% in spring 2021 to 24.1 percent currently.
- **Figure 16** reveals that over the past several years, the largest decreases in enrollment has been students who are 20 years of age and older. For example, in spring 2021, there were 888 fewer students in the 20-24 age group enrolled at the College than in spring 2020 and 672 fewer students in spring 2022 than in spring 2021. Among students in the 25 and older age group, 931 fewer students were enrolled in spring 2022 than in spring 2021 and decline in the number of students in this age group has continued into spring 2024. The decrease of 530 students under the age of 20 is also notable. The increases in enrollment in spring 2023 and spring 2024 are largely attributed to students in the under-20 age group, noting an 8.3% and a 12.1% increase in spring 2023 and spring 2024, respectively.
- In spring 2024 compared to spring 2020 (**Figure 17**) the number of students under the age of 20 has increased nearly 6%. In contrast, the enrollment of students in the 20-24 age group is 17.6% lower, and there are 30.6% fewer students in the 25 years and older age group in spring 2024 than in spring 2020.

Figure 7: Number of students by Race/Ethnicity – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

The enrollment decline in previous spring semesters reversed in spring 2023 for Hispanic and Asian students, while it took another year, spring 2024, to see that reversal in black and white students.

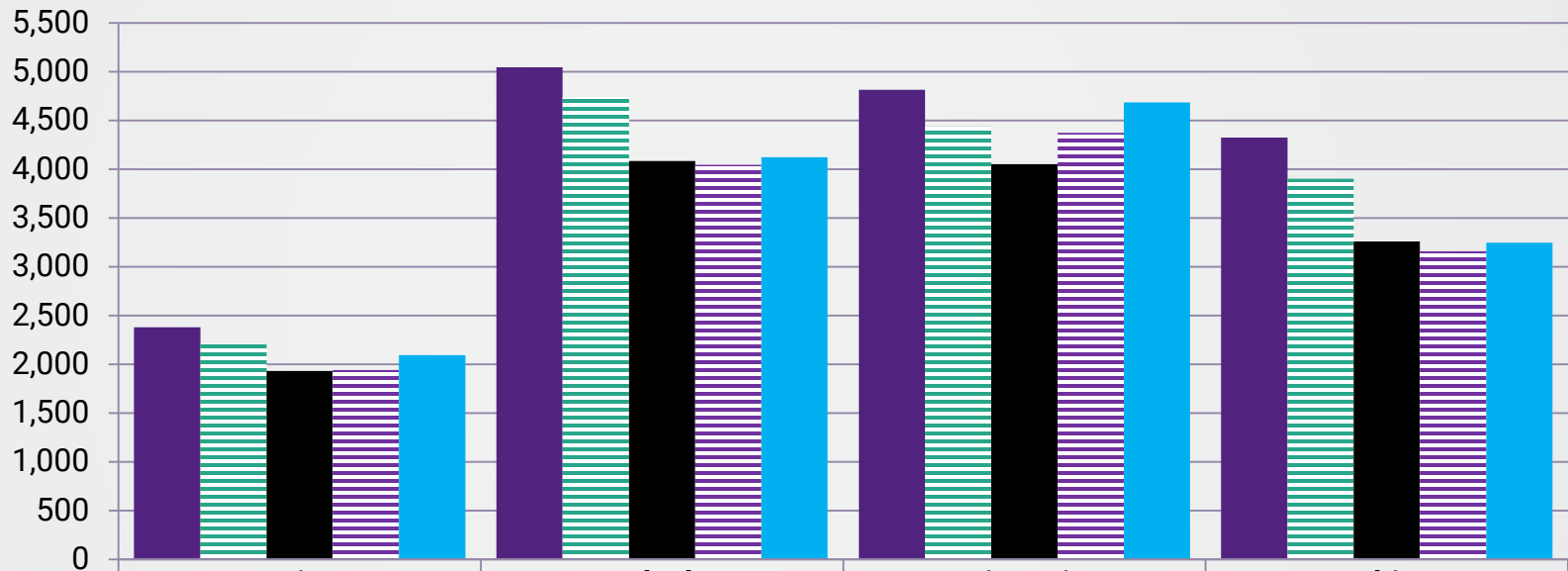
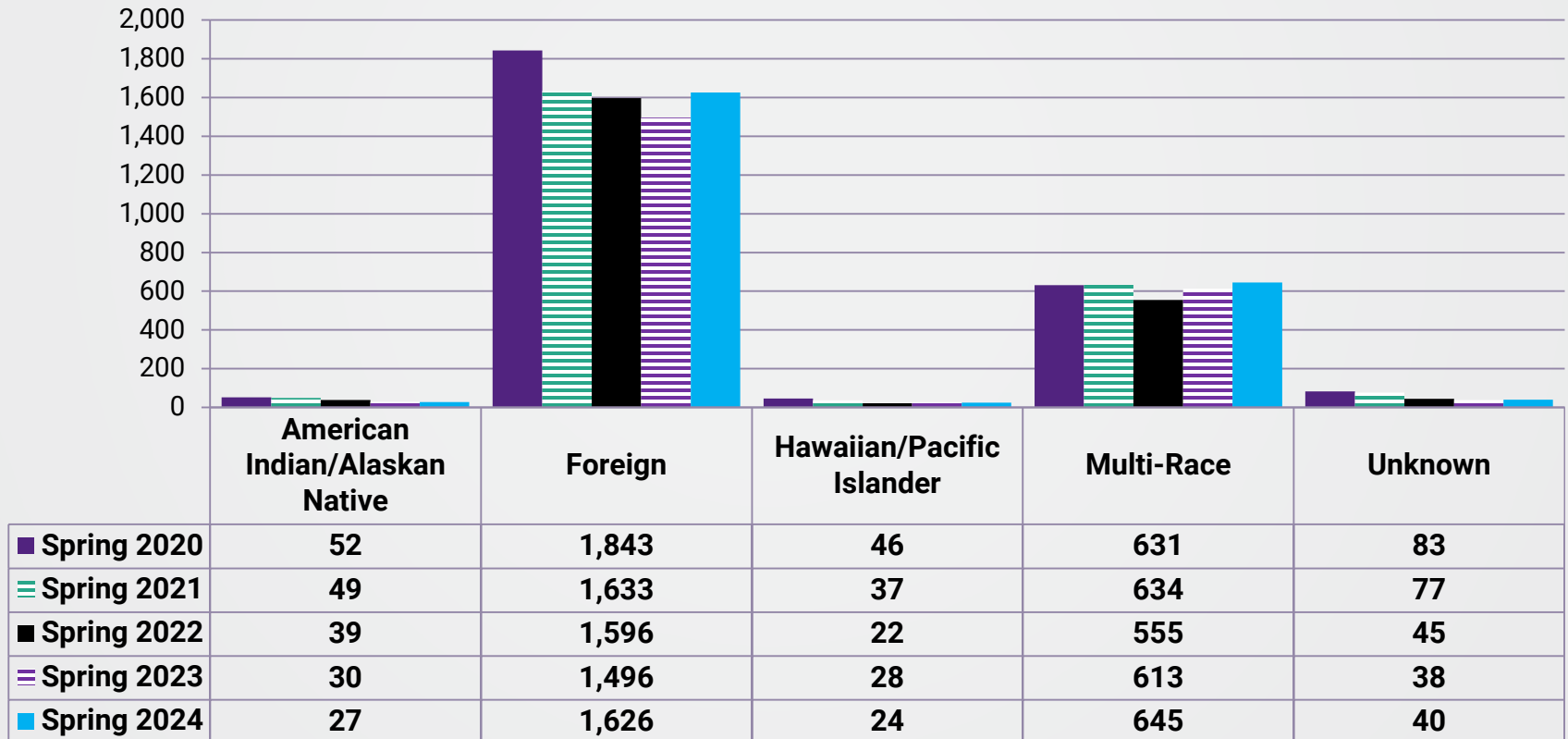


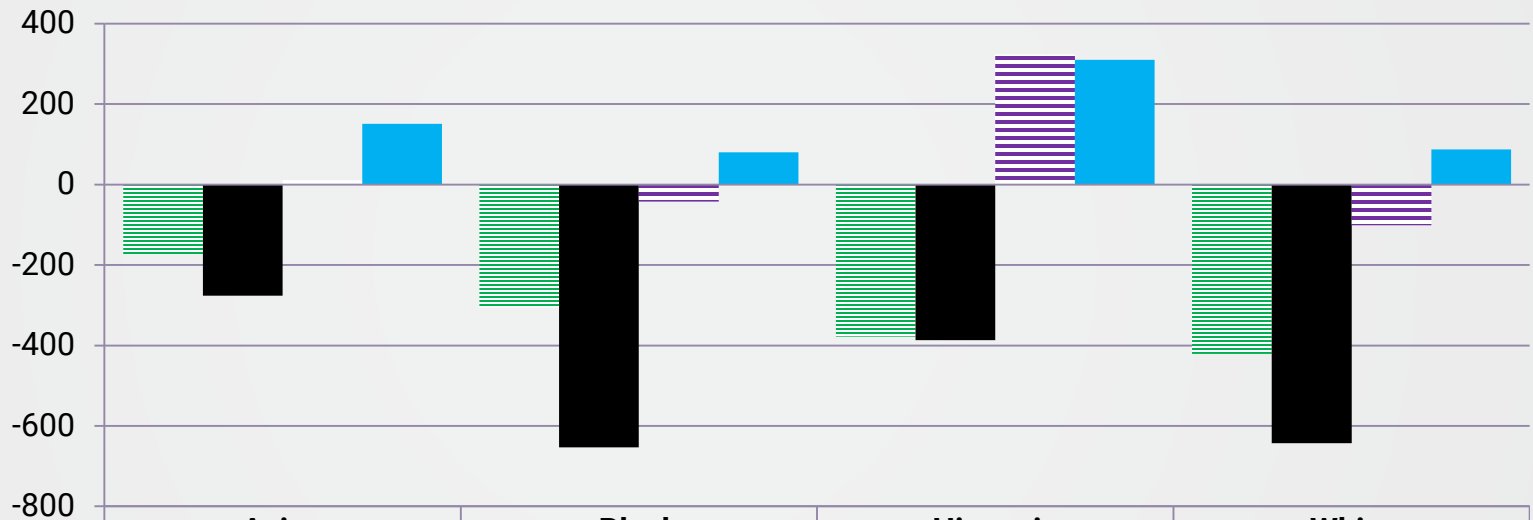
Figure 8: Number of students by Race/Ethnicity – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

Compared to spring 2020, the number of American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students has dwindled to nearly half their enrollment in spring 2024. The number of multi-race students peaked in spring 2024; the increase in the number of foreign students in spring 2024 reverses the trend of decline for the past several years.



**Figure 9: Student Enrollment Change by Race/Ethnicity
Compared to the Preceding Spring Semester**

The largest decline in student enrollment was in the number of black and white students. The decline in black students more than doubled between spring 2021 and spring 2022.



**Figure 10: Student Enrollment Changes by Race/Ethnicity
Compared to the Preceding Spring Semester**

The decline in the number of foreign students more than doubled in spring 2023 compared to the spring 2022, followed by a modest increase in spring 2024.

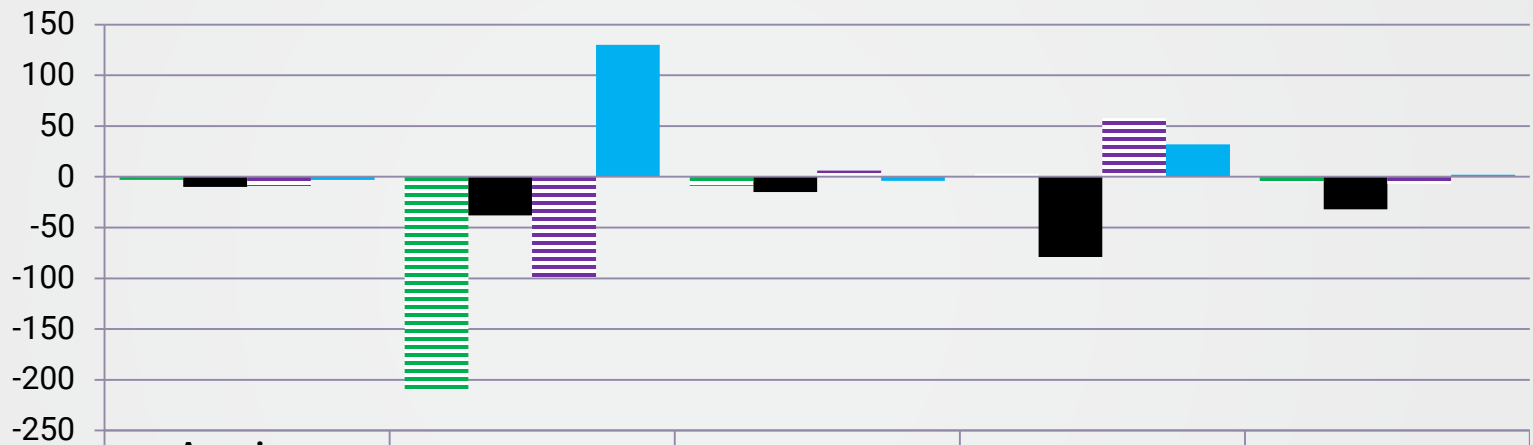


Figure 11: Percent Change in Student Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity Compared to the Preceding Spring Semester

Compared to spring 2021, the decline in enrollment reached double-digits in spring 2022 for three of the four largest race/ethnic groups: Asian, black, and white students, with the largest double-digit percentage decline in white students. Spring 2024 saw increases in enrollment for each of the largest race/ethnic groups.

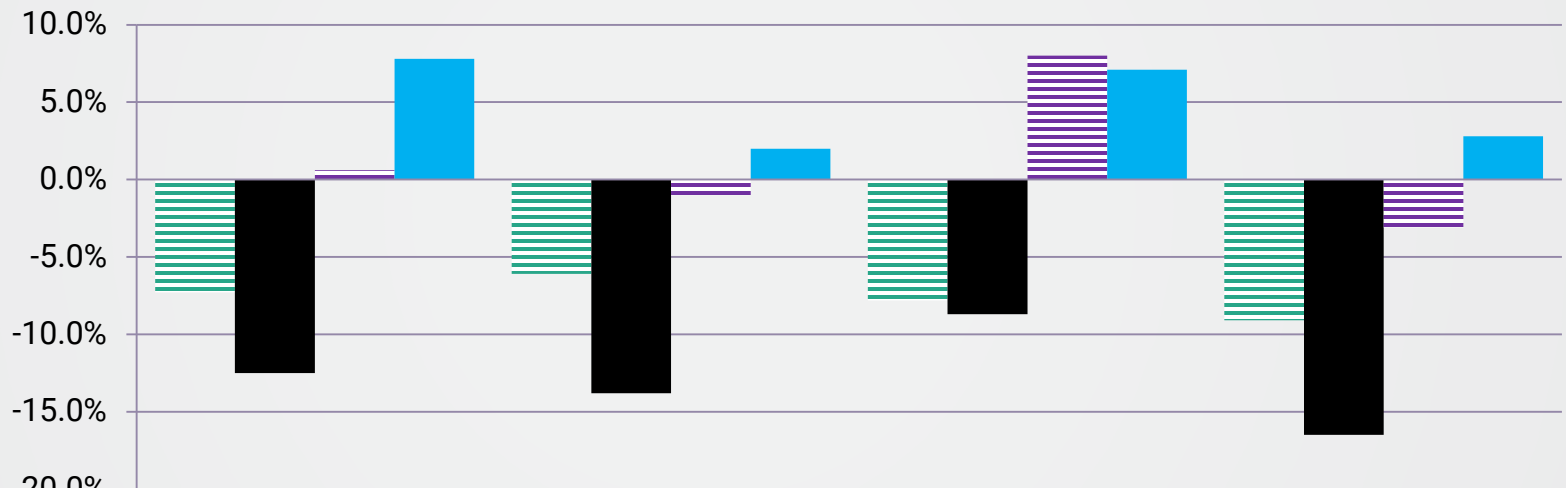


Figure 12: Percent Change in Student Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity Compared to the Preceding Spring Semester

Among the smaller race/ethnic populations at the College, the largest double-digit decline in spring 2022 and spring 2023 was among Native American/Alaskan Native and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students.

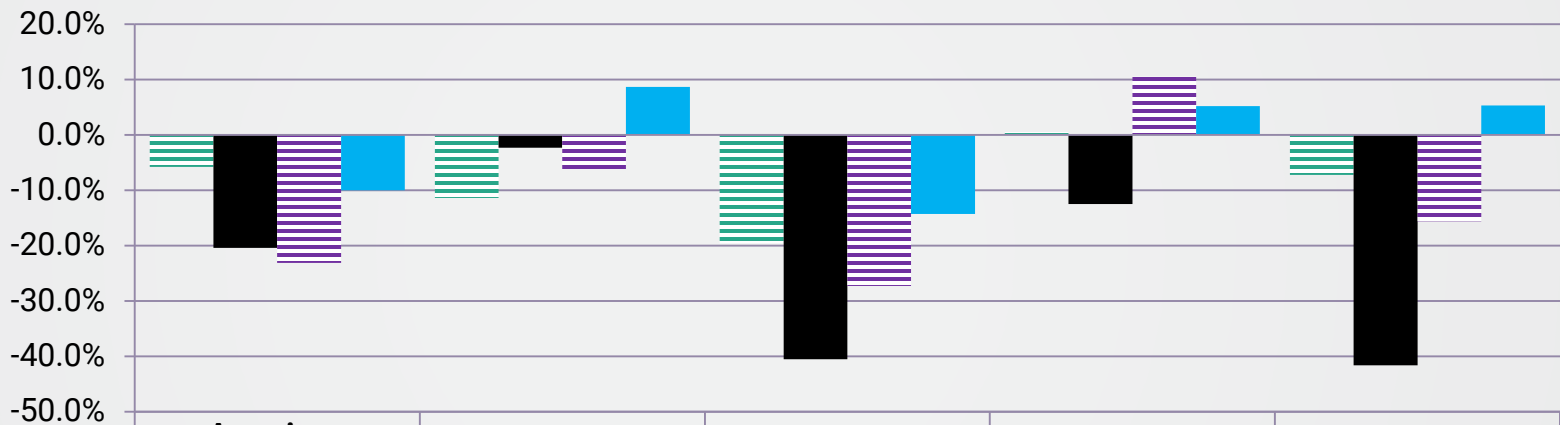


Figure 13: Five-year Enrollment Contractions by Race – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

The College has 2,710 fewer students in spring 2024, than it had in spring 2020. There are 24.9% fewer white students and 18.3% fewer black students.

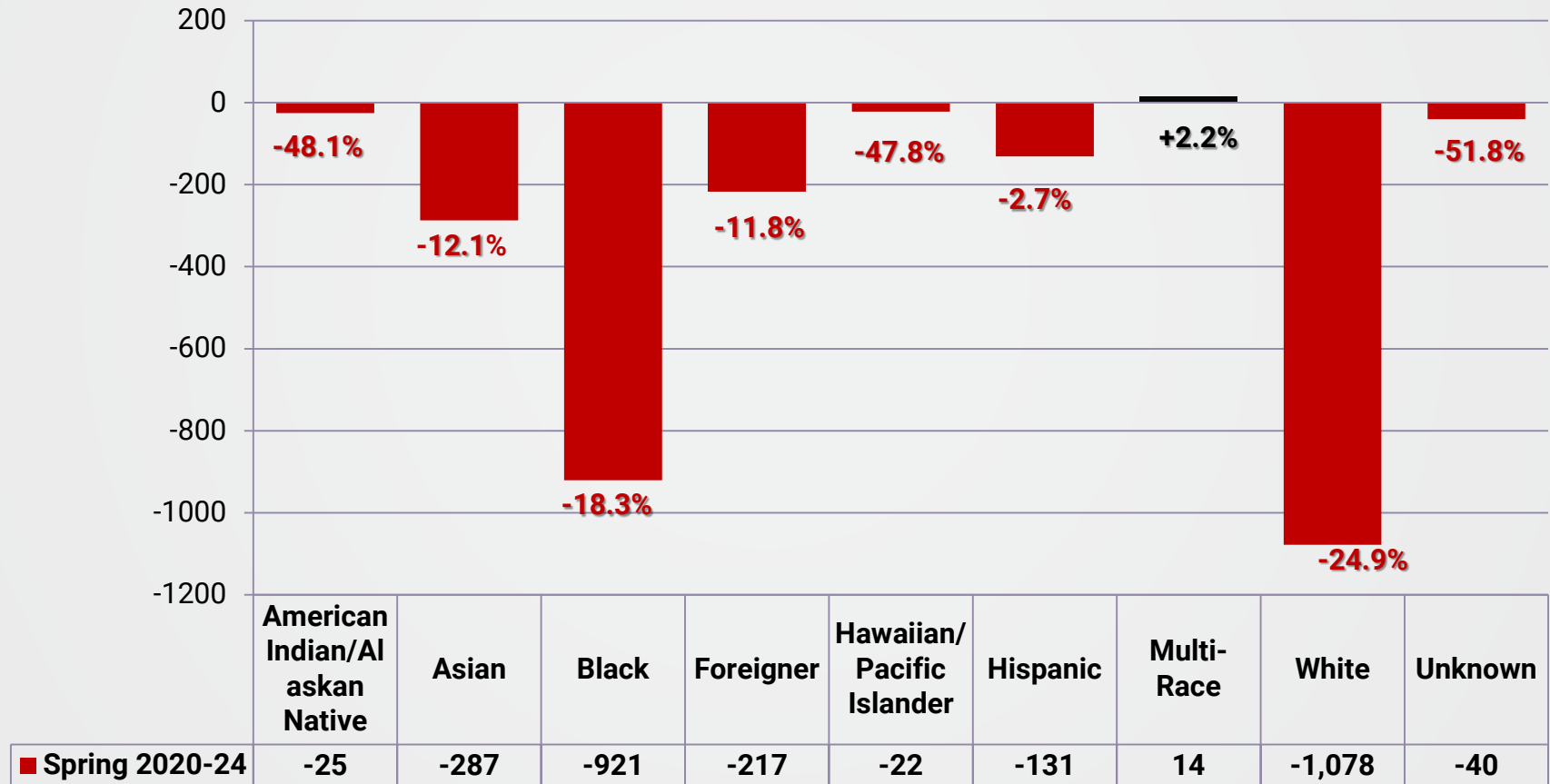


Figure 14: Number of students within specific age groups – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024
Student enrollment is increasing among younger students, but declining among students in the 25 and older age group.

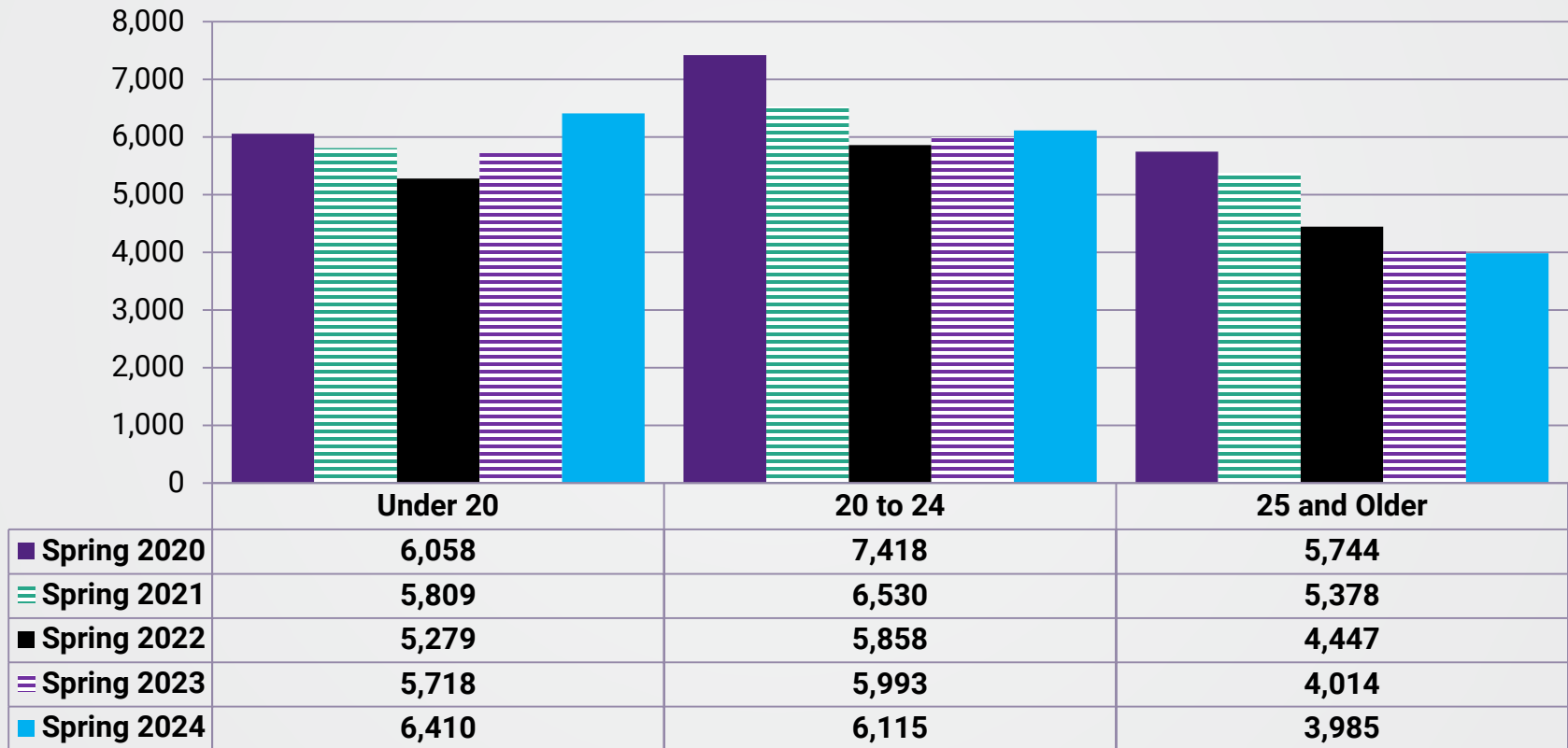


Figure 15: Percent Number of students within specific age groups – Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

The percentage of students under the age of 20 is approaching 40%, while the percentage of students in the 25 and older age group has declined to 24.1%.

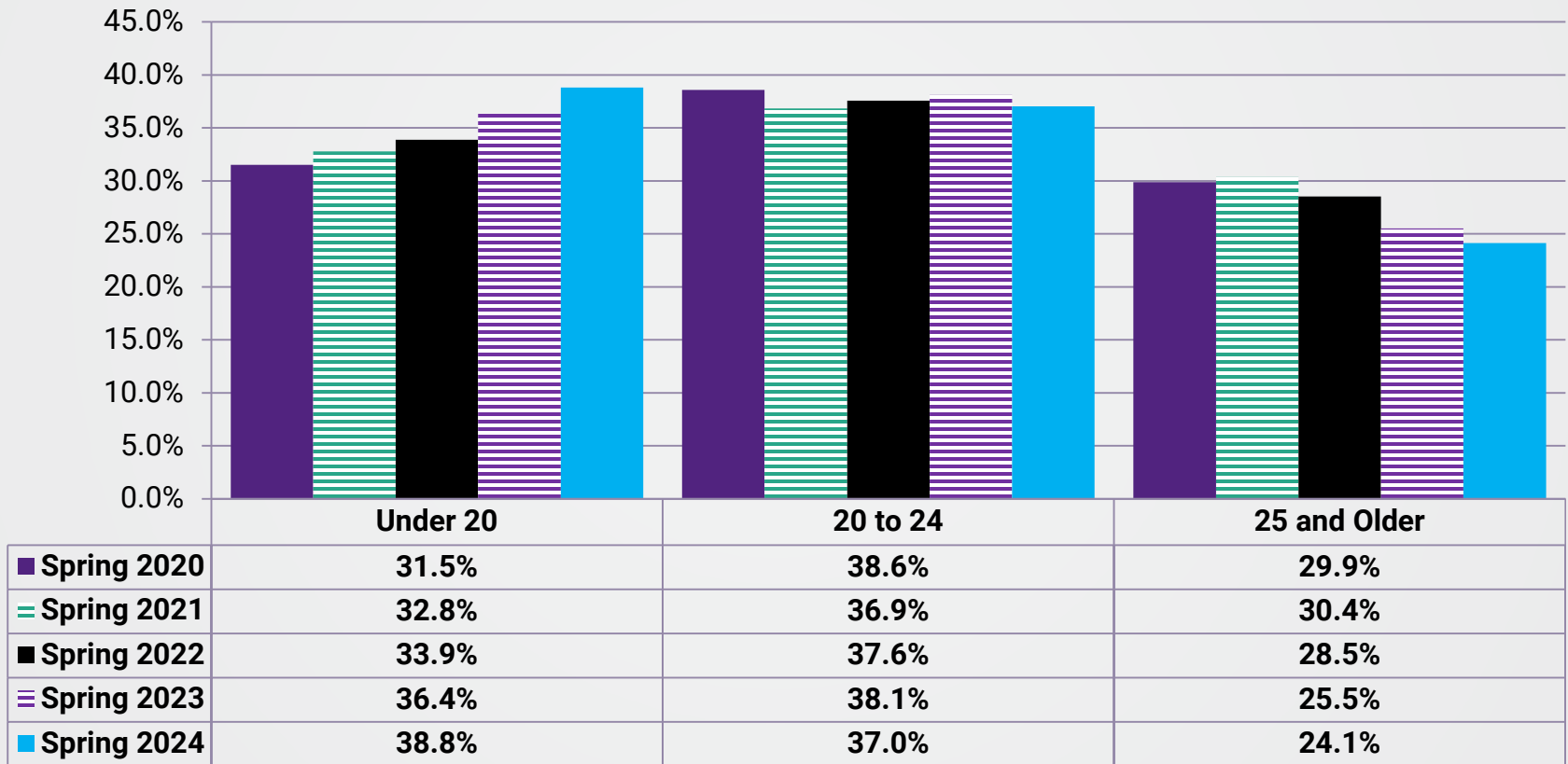
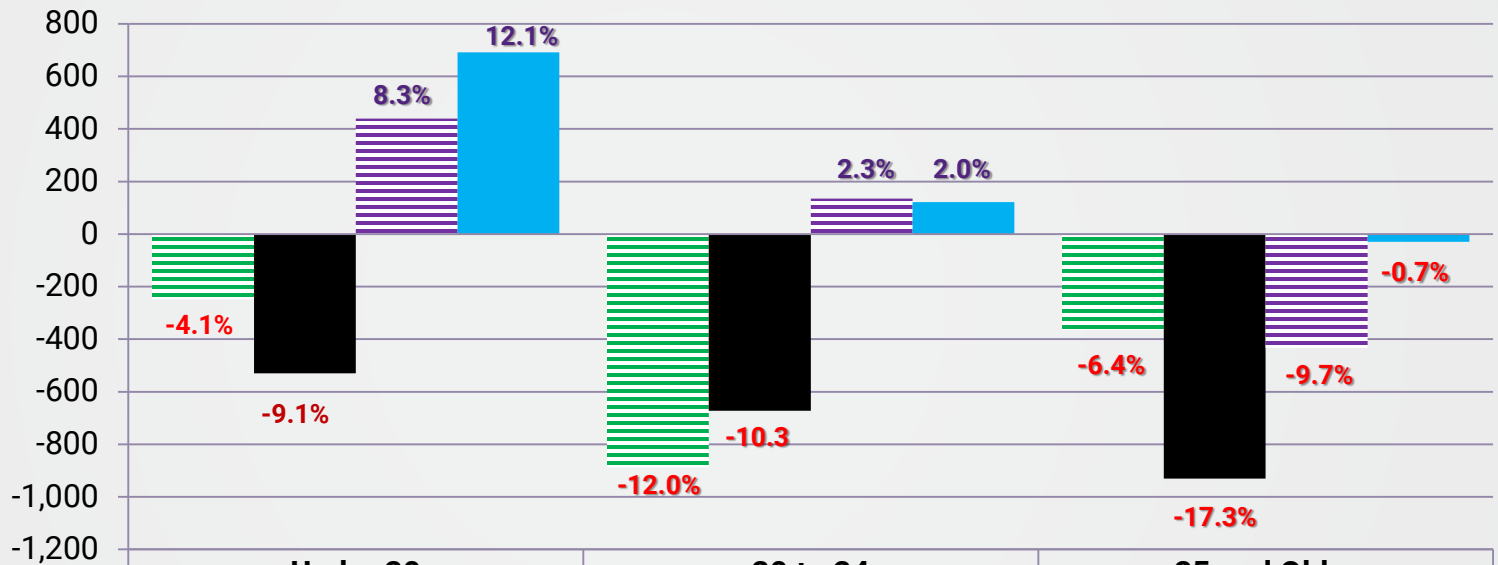


Figure 16: Enrollment Change by Age Group Compared to the Preceding Spring Semester

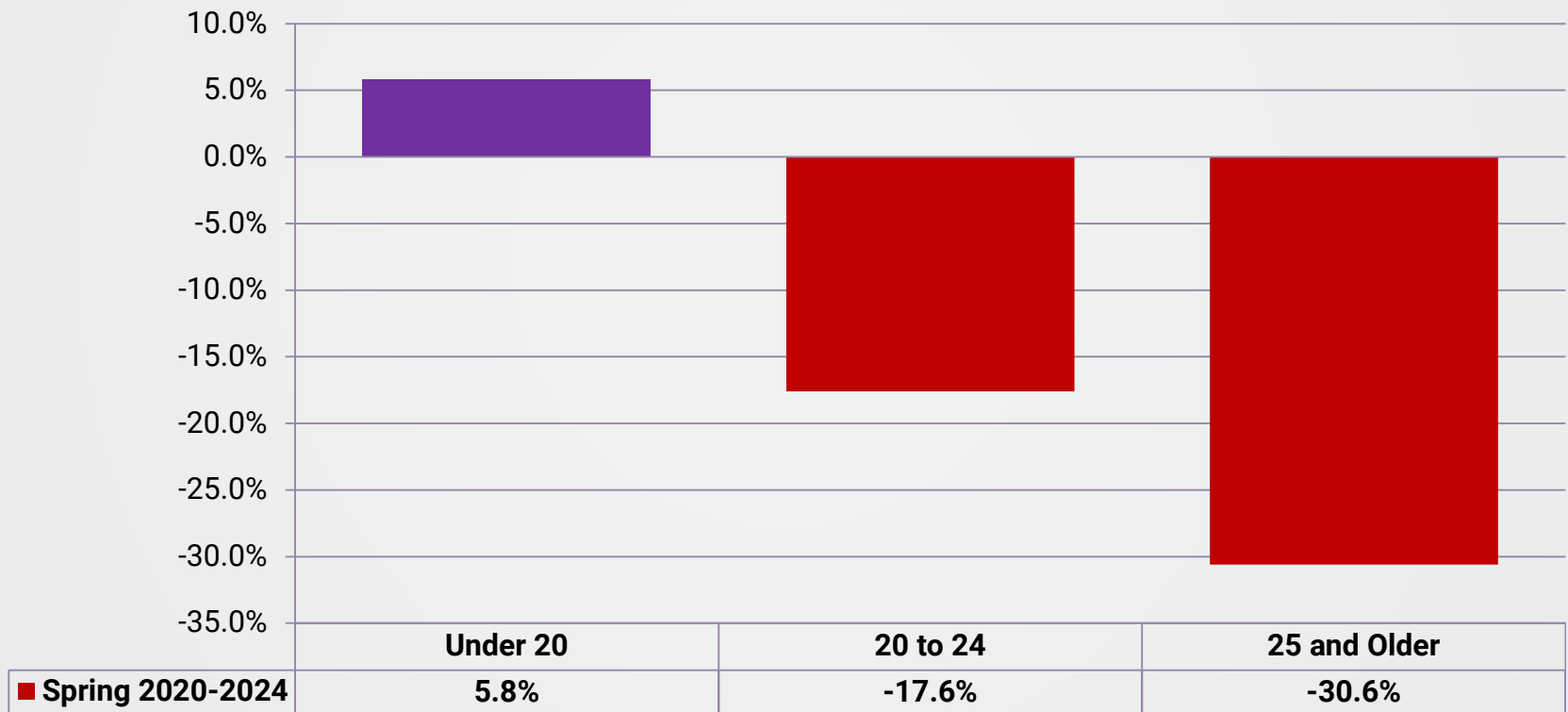
As enrollment in the younger age group increases, the contraction of students in the 25 and older age group has declined.



	Under 20	20 to 24	25 and Older
Spring 2020-2021	-249	-888	-366
Spring 2021-2022	-530	-672	-931
Spring 2022-2023	439	135	-433
Spring 2023-2024	692	122	-29

Figure 17: Number of Students Within Specific Age Groups– Spring 2020 to Spring 2024

Over five years, the most substantial decline in enrollment is in students who are 25 years of age and older, followed by students in the 20-24 age group. There are 30.6% fewer students aged 25 and older than in spring 2020.



Spring 2020– Spring 2024 Enrollment Closing Thoughts

- Student enrollment at community colleges nationwide took a major hit due to the COVID pandemic – and enrollment at Montgomery College continues to be impacted by its effect. Much of the enrollment loss can be attributed to factors outside the College’s control. However, enrollment data for spring 2024 suggest a positive shift or pivot in the direction of higher education again. The impact of the pandemic has waned and potential students are beginning to reengage.
- Spring 2024 enrollment is just over 14 percent below the enrollment and bill hours in spring 2020. While enrollment has shifted upward for the second year, the slow growth with comparatively fewer students and generated bill hours has financial implications for the College. Enrollment status is fairly consistent, but a one percentage point increase in full-time enrollment status is notable. The percentage of Asian and Hispanic students has increased, while the percentage of white and black has continued to decline.
- Students who are 25 years of age and older have consistently declined over the past several years, but that decline appears to be slowing. However, the increase in younger students on the campus is encouraging.
- As various factors impact the College’s enrollment (e.g., labor market, higher education competition, program offerings), efforts in enrollment management, marketing, strategic planning, and the College’s transformation aspirations will collectively take center stage as the College examines strategies and approaches to increase enrollment. Finally, there might need to be a broad conversation with current and prospective students with an emphasis on the changing academic needs and interests of students, enhanced awareness of in-demand career training and other academic programs, and the economic benefits of a higher education experience and degree attainment at the College.