



MCC Student Success & College Completion

FACTSHEET

Background

As MCC forges ahead into a new decade, college leadership under the direction of Dr. Shouan Pan has set **student success and college completion** as MCC's top priority. Studies of the community college movement confirm that our unique open-access, community focused educational institutions are a remarkable success. Yet, today community colleges across the nation are a focus of much criticism over college completion rates, including MCC.

Last month, a report was released stating that MCC's college completion rate was 11%, which is below the national average. The percentage reported is true but misleading. The 11% completion rate covers only a small percentage of our students. These students are first-time, full-time students who are seeking a degree or certificate. For example, it excludes 97% of our students who are not first-time, full-time. At Mesa Community College, 11% represents 786 students out of a total of 26,138 or 3% of the student-body. At enrollment, 52% of our students indicate that they intend to transfer to a 4-year university or college.

MCC is taking this criticism seriously with a renewed resolve and commitment to success for every student. This will be accomplished through new initiatives focusing on retention and completion, as well as a commitment to work with other educational institutions to focus energy and resources to answer the call of President Obama to increase graduates by five million students by 2020.

MCC Student Retention/College Completion Efforts

(The following measures were put in place over the last two years. College leadership, faculty, administration and staff continue to create new initiatives to enhance retention and completion.)

- Comprehensive advising and educational plans
- A college success course for underprepared students
- Student orientation that provides an introduction to all resources available for student success
- An early alert referral system that faculty and staff use to reach out to students who are not attending classes, have low grades and consequently need additional help
- A new math placement and diagnostic instrument that helps place students on the path to success
- A revised developmental math curriculum that utilizes new pedagogies, innovative instructional technologies and new learning spaces
- Expanded tutoring and mentoring opportunities
- Collaboration with Mesa Public Schools and the city of Mesa to increase the number of low-income young adults who successfully earn a postsecondary degree or certificate as part of the Gates Foundation Grant.

Financial Aid

(Even though MCC tuition and fees, at \$71 per credit hour, are significantly below that of state universities, it is still a barrier to college completion for many MCC students.)

Academic Year 2009-2010

- MCC awarded more than \$55 million in federal grants, loans and student employment
- MCC awarded more than \$4 million in scholarships
- 29,804 students applied for federal financial aid and 11,574 were awarded
- 61% (17,141 of 27,921) applicants reported an income of \$30,000 or less

Academic Year 2010-2011

- Fall & Spring only: 30,125 students have applied for federal financial aid and 10,195 have been awarded

Transfer Students

(Transferring to a university prior to achieving a two-year degree from MCC constitutes student success under MCC's mission.)

- Fall 2009: 10,723 students with MCC transfer credits were enrolled at an Arizona University (2,115 students were new to the Univ.) ASU: 8,972; NAU: 1,083; UofA: 668
- Academic Year 2008-2009: Over 25% of students receiving a bachelor degree from ASU have transfer credits from MCC.
- New MCC university transfer students (transfer student is defined as transferring 12 or more credit hours) took an average of 25 credit hours and earned an average GPA of 3.13 in their first year of university study.
- Transfer students who received an MCC degree/certificate/AGEC before attending a university took an average of 35 credit hours and earned an average 3.29 GPA in their first year at the university.
- MCC partnerships with universities to create programs that make transfer easier, i.e., MAPP, MCC/NAU Connection.
- Fall 2009: MCC transfer students (only those transferring 12+ hours) transferred an average of 46 credit hours from MCC to a state university; all MCC students beginning their study at a university (those transferring any number of hours) transferred an average of 30 credit hours.

MCC Degrees & Certificates

- 2009-2010: 3,206 degrees and certificates awarded

Challenges to Completion

(There are numerous challenges to completion from a student and college perspective.)

- Fall 2010: 69% (4,337 of 6,252 testing) of all new students testing, tested into at least one developmental course (reading, writing, math) and 31% tested into two or more.
- Fall 2010: 70% (1,965 of 2,818 testing) of recent high school graduates tested into at least one developmental course and 33% tested into two or more.
- Fall 2010: 15,683 students (59%) reported working in addition to attending classes. 9,660 students (37%) enrolled reported working more than 20 hours a week.
- Fall 2010: 11,786 students (45%) are first generation.
- Fall 2010: 458 students (2%) were enrolled in ESL courses. 1,011 students (4%) said a language other than English was their primary language at the time they enrolled.
- Many MCC students have family obligations, and childcare responsibilities.
- Fall 2010: 8,893 (34%) students are full-time and 17,515 (66%) students are part-time