Manchester Community College
Enrollment Update
Opening Day Fall 2019

Manchester Community College credit enrollment has decreased by 25% over the past five years. Enrollment is down across all student types, but is most notable among Continuing (-30% Est Fa19 vs Fa14), new Transfer-In (-23% Est Fa19 vs Fa14), and New 1st time college students (-16% Est Fa19 vs Fa14).

Most projections suggest CT’s high school age population will continue to decrease over the next several years. There is increasing competition for students from higher education and the workforce. While MCC enrollment had decreased by over 20% Fa18 vs Fa13, the CC System was down 16%. The CSUs were down just 3% over this period, and UConn was up almost 10% vs. 2013.

Most academic programs have far fewer students than five years ago, with Business, Allied Health, Engineering and Liberal Arts among notable exceptions.
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Manchester, East Hartford and Hartford have been MCC’s largest sending towns for decades – each with over twice the number of students vs. the next tier of towns. In recent years there has been a remarkable decrease in the number from Manchester and East Hartford, with smaller decreases in students who live in Hartford.

MCC’s student body composition is changing as it decreases in size. Over the past several years the number of students who arrive college ready had been decreasing at a faster rate than those needing developmental work, particularly in English. Next Generation Accuplacer and SAT scores may be having an impact on striking changes to placement testing distributions in Fa19. Family income is a powerful predictor of college readiness. As income increases, so does the likelihood that the student will be eligible for college-level English and Math when they begin at MCC.

Students with financial need are accounting for a larger share of our credit students. The number of Pell eligible students is down 16% vs. five years ago, and those not eligible for Pell are down 30% (Est Fa19 vs Fa14). The number of 1st generation college students is down 17% vs five years ago, while the decline is more dramatic among students with a parent that has a Bachelor’s degree.