

AGENDA ITEM: ACTION

Title: Admissions Policy Revision

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a revised admissions policy to improve student success and retention and bring existing institutional admissions policy into alignment with CDHE policy.

Background:

Admission to Colorado Colleges and Universities

Admission to Colorado's public four-year colleges and universities is defined in large part by an admission index for entering freshmen. The freshmen index is a calculated measure combining a student's performance on a standardized test (e.g., ACT, SAT) and his/her high school grade point average (GPA) or class rank. There is nearly even weighting given to each of the two components; higher performance by a student on these components results in a higher admissions index.

Admissions Index Increased – "Window" Defined

During the December 14, 2005 Board meeting, the MSC Board of Trustees approved higher admissions standards for baccalaureate-seeking freshmen, raising the Admissions Index from an 80 to an 85, beginning with the AY 2007 cohort, while providing a pathway for admission for students with an index of less than 85 by utilizing the admissions "window" and WCCC.

Increasing Student Success and Retention

Since the implementation of the 2005 policy, new data have become available that provide college officials further direction for successful strategies. On a global level, recent publications addressing the topic of student success (Bowen & McPherson, 2009; Long & Kurlaender, 2009) suggests that those students desiring a four-year degree are more likely to be successful if they can gain entry into a baccalaureate program from the outset of their college career versus starting in an associate's program and attempting to navigate transfer into a four-year program. Institutional data would suggest that this phenomenon also holds true for MSC students.

Further, institutional data suggests lesser prepared students, such as "window" students between the index range of 75 - 84, may benefit from engagement strategies such as a full-time academic load of between 13-15 credit hours (current policy limits "window" students to 12 credit hours), taking the SUPP 101 course (Introduction to Higher Education), and receiving personalized attention in the Advising Center.

Suggested Revised Policy

In order to continue improving student success and retention rates, especially among less prepared students, this agenda item requests to further develop and modify existing policy. The suggested policy modification also aligns MSC policy with CDHE policy. Beyond requirements specified in the admissions standards policy specified by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), the recommended changes to Mesa State College's admissions standards for entering freshmen are:

- Baccalaureate-seeking students with an index of 85 or greater will receive regular admission to the college's baccalaureate division;

- Baccalaureate-seeking students with an index between 75-84 (to be known as “provisional baccalaureate” students) will receive provisional admission into a baccalaureate program, while providing a pre-baccalaureate track that incorporates the following criteria as a pathway to full admission into a baccalaureate program:
 - Provisional-baccalaureate students with fewer than 30 earned credit hours must be advised by staff from the Advising Center before registering.;
 - Provisional-baccalaureate students who have met all HEAR requirements per CDHE policy may be admitted into a baccalaureate program after completing 13 credit hours of non-remedial courses with a 2.3 GPA;
 - Provisional-baccalaureate students who have met all HEAR requirements per CDHE policy and have completed 30 credit hours with a 2.3 GPA shall be internally transferred into a baccalaureate program;
 - Provisional-baccalaureate students who do not meet the criteria listed above may apply for regular admission into a baccalaureate program after completion of one semester, to be reviewed by the Office of the Registrar on a case-by-case basis.
- The college reserves the right to admit students with an index between 75-84 to a baccalaureate program, based upon special circumstances, and within the confines of allocated window space designated by CDHE.
- Admit baccalaureate-seeking students with an index below 75 to a Western Colorado Community College program, to pursue admission into a baccalaureate program subject to CDHE transfer admission standards. The college reserves the right to admit students with an index below 75 into a baccalaureate program, based upon very limited circumstances, and within the confines of allocated floor space designated by CDHE.

Retention/Graduation Rates of First-time, Full-time, Bachelor's Degree-Seeking Freshmen

Cohort Entering in --				Retention to/Graduation after --											
Fall 2000	Index Category	# in Cohort	% of Cohort	2 Yrs (#)	2 Yrs (%)	3 Yrs (#)	3 Yrs (%)	4 Yrs (#)	4 Yrs (%)	5 Yrs (#)	5 Yrs (%)	6 Yrs (#)	6 Yrs (%)	7 Yrs (#)	7 Yrs (%)
	Under 80	11	1.7	4	36.4	2	18.2	0	0.0	2	18.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
	80 - 84	72	11.3	31	43.1	24	33.3	19	26.4	16	22.2	16	22.2	15	20.8
	85 - 89	93	14.6	50	53.8	39	41.9	30	32.3	31	33.3	31	33.3	29	31.2
	90 - 94	94	14.7	53	56.4	40	42.6	41	43.6	35	37.2	35	37.2	33	35.1
	95 - 99	96	15.0	52	54.2	46	47.9	39	40.6	39	40.6	37	38.5	39	40.6
	100 - 109	147	23.0	101	68.7	82	55.8	77	52.4	75	51.0	64	43.5	67	45.6
	110 and Higher	126	19.7	99	78.6	82	65.1	80	63.5	76	60.3	72	57.1	77	61.1
	Total	639	100.0	390	61.0	315	49.3	286	44.8	274	42.9	255	39.9	260	40.7
	Average Index = 98.4														
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 98.7														
Fall 2001	Under 80	5	0.9	2	40.0	2	40.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	1	20.0	1	20.0
	80 - 84	93	16.3	47	50.5	31	33.3	28	30.1	19	20.4	19	20.4	18	19.4
	85 - 89	77	13.5	44	57.1	33	42.9	28	36.4	24	31.2	22	28.6	21	27.3
	90 - 94	94	16.5	54	57.4	45	47.9	34	36.2	29	30.9	26	27.7	26	27.7
	95 - 99	68	11.9	44	64.7	32	47.1	29	42.6	28	41.2	26	38.2	27	39.7
	100 - 109	119	20.9	80	67.2	76	63.9	63	52.9	60	50.4	60	50.4	58	48.7
	110 and Higher	114	20.0	79	69.3	74	64.9	70	61.4	71	62.3	68	59.6	68	59.6
	Total	570	100.0	350	61.4	293	51.4	253	44.4	232	40.7	222	38.9	219	38.4
	Average Index = 97.8														
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 97.9														
Fall 2002	Under 80	48	7.4	18	37.5	14	29.2	11	22.9	8	16.7	6	12.5	8	16.7
	80 - 84	96	14.7	35	36.5	34	35.4	28	29.2	26	27.1	23	24.0	22	22.9
	85 - 89	91	13.9	53	58.2	31	34.1	28	30.8	24	26.4	20	22.0	17	18.7
	90 - 94	81	12.4	46	56.8	43	53.1	30	37.0	30	37.0	31	38.3	27	33.3
	95 - 99	75	11.5	49	65.3	39	52.0	33	44.0	32	42.7	31	41.3	31	41.3
	100 - 109	136	20.8	97	71.3	72	52.9	63	46.3	64	47.1	62	45.6	64	47.1
	110 and Higher	126	19.3	98	77.8	84	66.7	80	63.5	78	61.9	78	61.9	78	61.9
	Total	653	100.0	396	60.6	317	48.5	273	41.8	262	40.1	251	38.4	247	37.8
	Average Index = 96.7														
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 97.0														
Fall 2003	Under 80	73	10.8	35	47.9	21	28.8	21	28.8	18	24.7	14	19.2	6	8.2
	80 - 84	89	13.2	39	43.8	35	39.3	30	33.7	23	25.8	16	18.0	6	6.7
	85 - 89	110	16.3	52	47.3	30	27.3	22	20.0	21	19.1	22	20.0	5	4.5
	90 - 94	96	14.2	63	65.6	49	51.0	40	41.7	32	33.3	31	32.3	6	6.3
	95 - 99	89	13.2	61	68.5	48	53.9	42	47.2	38	42.7	35	39.3	11	12.4
	100 - 109	114	16.9	70	61.4	66	57.9	61	53.5	60	52.6	58	50.9	14	12.3
	110 and Higher	103	15.3	75	72.8	60	58.3	58	56.3	55	53.4	53	51.5	6	5.8
	Total	674	100.0	395	58.6	309	45.8	274	40.7	247	36.6	229	34.0	54	8.0
	Average Index = 94.7														
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 95.0														

Cohort Entering in -- Fall 2004	Index Category	# in Cohort	% of Cohort	Retention to Graduation after --									
				2 Yrs (#)	2 Yrs (%)	3 Yrs (#)	3 Yrs (%)	4 Yrs (#)	4 Yrs (%)	5 Yrs (#)	5 Yrs (%)	6 Yrs (#)	6 Yrs (%)
	Under 80	51	6.9	12	23.5	10	19.6	9	17.6	9	17.6	4	7.8
	80 - 84	92	12.4	47	51.1	36	39.1	32	34.8	27	29.3	13	14.1
	85 - 89	84	11.3	39	46.4	30	35.7	21	25.0	17	20.2	10	11.9
	90 - 94	97	13.1	50	51.5	39	40.2	40	41.2	32	33.0	20	20.6
	95 - 99	98	13.2	55	56.1	43	43.9	41	41.8	39	39.8	14	14.3
	100 - 109	130	17.5	80	61.5	66	50.8	57	43.8	50	38.5	18	13.8
	110 and Higher	189	25.5	146	77.2	120	63.5	109	57.7	103	54.5	26	13.8
	Total	741	100.0	429	57.9	344	46.4	309	41.7	277	37.4	105	14.2
	Average Index = 98.6												
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 99.1												
Fall 2005	Under 80	57	6.9	18	31.6	14	24.6	9	15.8	5	8.8		
	80 - 84	106	12.9	38	35.8	26	24.5	24	22.6	17	16.0		
	85 - 89	108	13.2	45	41.7	31	28.7	29	26.9	22	20.4		
	90 - 94	115	14.0	56	48.7	36	31.3	29	25.2	25	21.7		
	95 - 99	104	12.7	56	53.8	42	40.4	40	38.5	30	28.8		
	100 - 109	141	17.2	94	66.7	74	52.5	70	49.6	45	31.9		
	110 and Higher	190	23.1	135	71.1	115	60.5	113	59.5	63	33.2		
	Total	821	100.0	442	53.8	338	41.2	314	38.2	207	25.2		
	Average Index = 97.7												
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 98.1												
Fall 2006	Under 80	28	3.9	15	53.6	11	39.3	9	32.1				
	80 - 84	74	10.3	30	40.5	21	28.4	13	17.6				
	85 - 89	74	10.3	35	47.3	25	33.8	18	24.3				
	90 - 94	99	13.8	53	53.5	38	38.4	30	30.3				
	95 - 99	104	14.5	63	60.6	44	42.3	43	41.3				
	100 - 109	151	21.1	91	60.3	75	49.7	71	47.0				
	110 and Higher	187	26.1	145	77.5	117	62.6	108	57.8				
	Total	717	100.0	432	60.3	331	46.2	292	40.7				
	Average Index = 99.8												
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 99.9												
Fall 2007	Under 80	7	1.0	1	14.3	0	0.0						
	80 - 84	22	3.2	13	59.1	8	36.4						
	85 - 89	88	12.9	40	45.5	27	30.7						
	90 - 94	129	18.9	77	59.7	52	40.3						
	95 - 99	86	12.6	52	60.5	36	41.9						
	100 - 109	143	20.9	88	61.5	76	53.1						
	110 and Higher	208	30.5	144	69.2	129	62.0						
	Total	683	100.0	415	60.8	328	48.0						
	Average Index = 101.8												
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 101.7												

Cohort Entering in --	Index Category	# in Cohort	% of Cohort	Retention to/Graduation after --										
				2 Yrs (#)	2 Yrs (%)	3 Yrs (#)	3 Yrs (%)	4 Yrs (#)	4 Yrs (%)	5 Yrs (#)	5 Yrs (%)	6 Yrs (#)	6 Yrs (%)	7 Yrs (#)
Fall 2008	Under 80	7	1.0	1	14.3									
	80 - 84	19	2.6	13	68.4									
	85 - 89	76	10.5	33	43.4									
	90 - 94	109	15.0	58	53.2									
	95 - 99	129	17.7	77	59.7									
	100 - 109	173	23.8	106	61.3									
	110 and Higher	214	29.4	172	80.4									
	Total	727	100.0	460	63.3									
	Average Index = 102.4													
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 102.5													
Fall 2009	Under 80	8	0.8											
	80 - 84	31	3.2											
	85 - 89	104	10.9											
	90 - 94	121	12.7											
	95 - 99	139	14.5											
	100 - 109	236	24.7											
	110 and Higher	317	33.2											
	Total	956	100.0											
	Average Index = 103.7													
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 103.9													

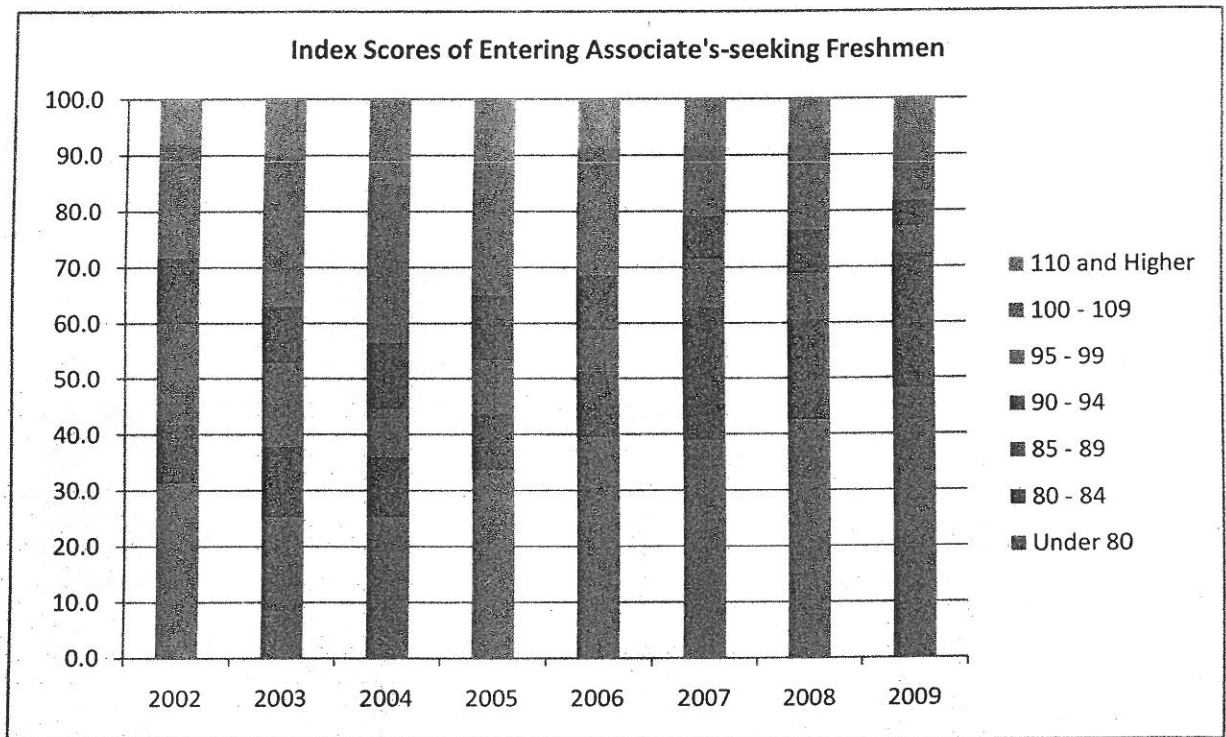
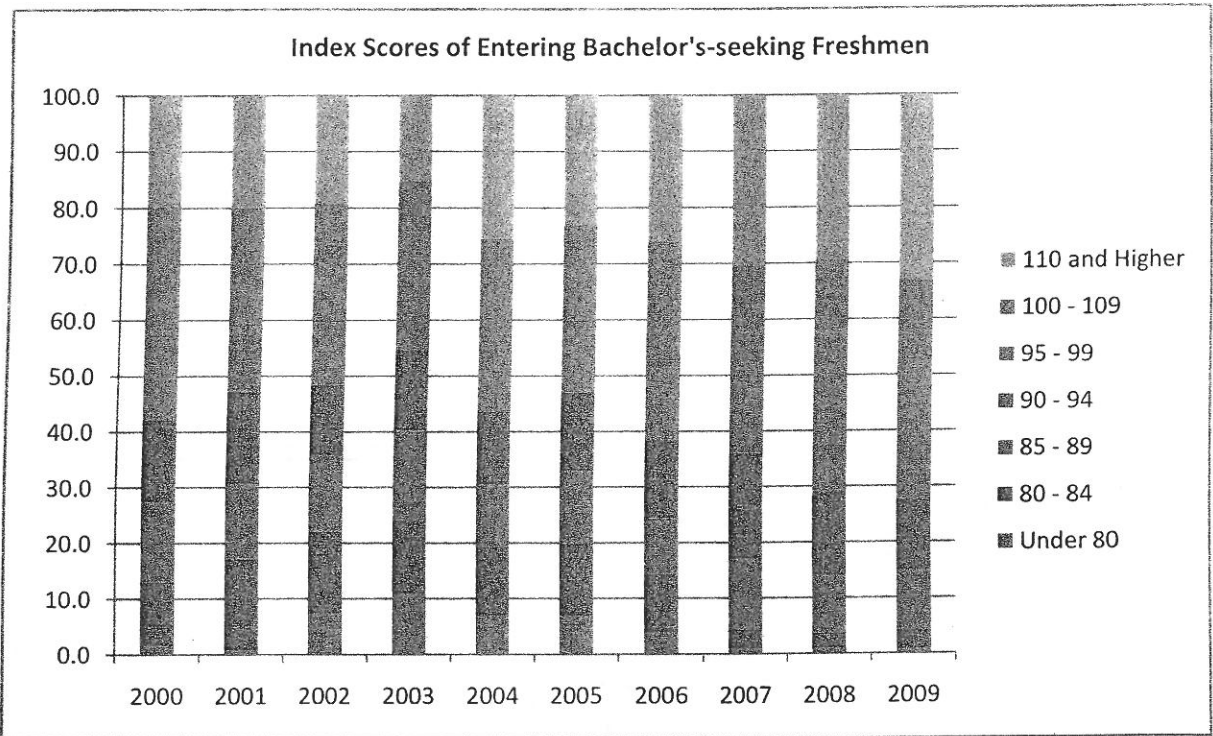
Note: Shaded cells indicate preliminary data for the Fall 2009 semester.

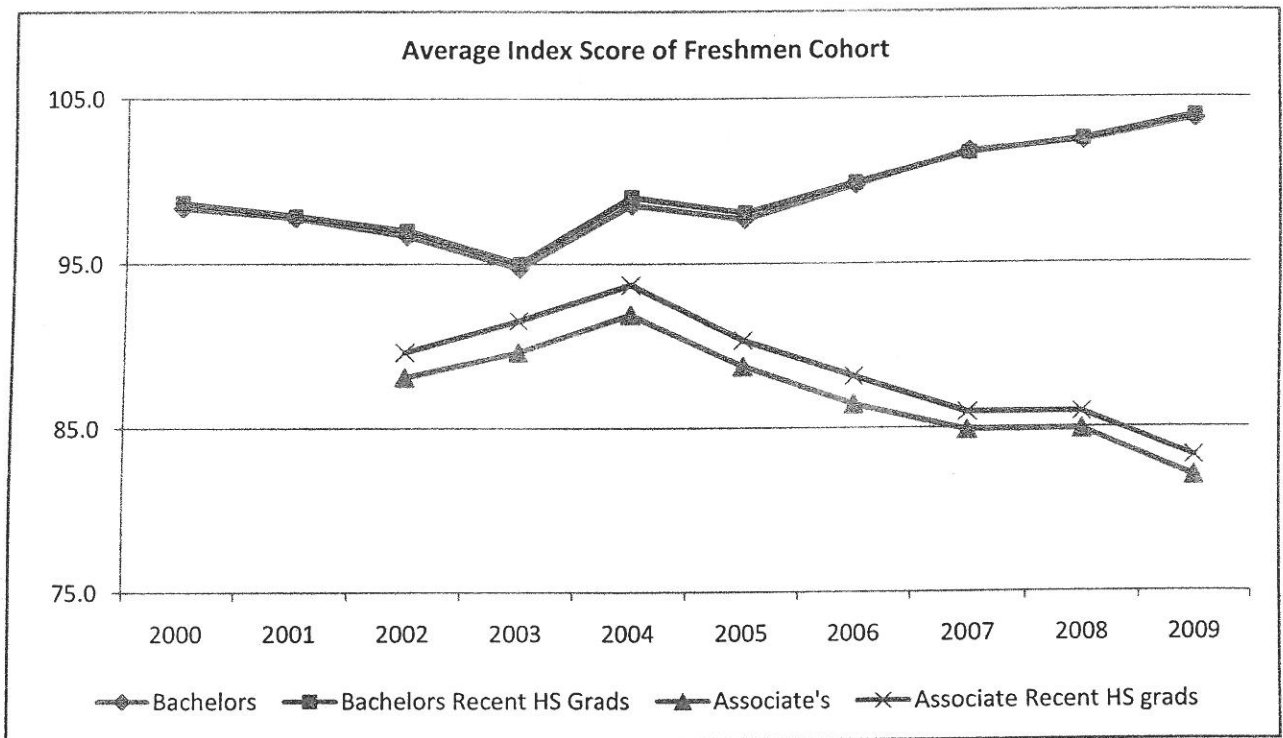
Retention/Graduation Rates of First-time, Associate's Degree-Seeking Freshmen
with Index Scores

Cohort	Index Category	#	%	Retention to/Graduation after --			Graduation with Associate's After --			Graduation with Bachelor's After --							
				2 Yrs (#)	2 Yrs (%)	3 Yrs (#)	3 Yrs (%)	2 Yrs (#)	2 Yrs (%)	3 Yrs (#)	3 Yrs (%)	4 Yrs (#)	4 Yrs (%)	5 Yrs (#)	5 Yrs (%)	6 Yrs (#)	6 Yrs (%)
Fall 2002	Under 80	87	31.4	37	42.5	24	27.6	0	0.0	2	2.3	1	1.1	4	4.6	4	4.6
	80 - 84	29	10.5	13	44.8	12	41.4	0	0.0	2	6.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.4
	85 - 89	50	18.1	30	60.0	24	48.0	2	4.0	3	6.0	2	4.0	2	4.0	7	14.0
	90 - 94	33	11.9	17	51.5	13	39.4	2	6.1	4	12.1	0	0.0	3	9.1	3	9.1
	95 - 99	26	9.4	16	61.5	14	53.8	2	7.7	4	15.4	3	11.5	4	15.4	7	26.9
	100 - 109	30	10.8	19	63.3	19	63.3	0	0.0	4	13.3	4	13.3	6	20.0	8	26.7
	110 and Higher	22	7.9	14	63.6	9	40.9	1	4.5	2	9.1	2	9.1	4	18.2	5	22.7
	Total	277	100.0	146	52.7	115	41.5	7	2.5	21	7.6	12	4.3	23	8.3	35	12.6
	Average Index = 88.1																
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 89.6																
Fall 2003	Under 80	67	25.3	24	35.8	17	25.4	0	0.0	3	4.5	0	0.0	1	1.5	1	1.5
	80 - 84	33	12.5	16	48.5	8	24.2	0	0.0	1	3.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	85 - 89	40	15.1	20	50.0	14	35.0	0	0.0	7	17.5	0	0.0	2	5.0	2	5.0
	90 - 94	27	10.2	17	63.0	11	40.7	0	0.0	3	11.1	0	0.0	1	3.7	1	3.7
	95 - 99	33	12.5	16	48.5	12	36.4	0	0.0	3	9.1	0	0.0	4	12.1	4	12.1
	100 - 109	38	14.3	26	68.4	17	44.7	0	0.0	4	10.5	6	15.8	8	21.1	9	23.7
	110 and Higher	27	10.2	18	66.7	17	63.0	0	0.0	6	22.2	4	14.8	5	18.5	6	22.2
	Total	265	100.0	137	51.7	96	36.2	0	0.0	27	10.2	10	3.8	21	7.9	23	8.7
	Average Index = 89.6																
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 91.6																
Fall 2004	Under 80	80	25.2	22	27.5	20	25.0	0	0.0	1	1.3	0	0.0	4	5.0		
	80 - 84	34	10.7	18	52.9	12	35.3	3	8.8	5	14.7	1	2.9	1	2.9		
	85 - 89	27	8.5	8	29.6	9	33.3	2	7.4	3	11.1	1	3.7	1	3.7		
	90 - 94	38	12.0	18	47.4	16	42.1	1	2.6	4	10.5	0	0.0	2	5.3		
	95 - 99	36	11.4	18	50.0	15	41.7	2	5.6	4	11.1	3	8.3	6	16.7		
	100 - 109	54	17.0	41	75.9	35	64.8	5	9.3	10	18.5	2	3.7	7	13.0		
	110 and Higher	48	15.1	32	66.7	26	54.2	6	12.5	7	14.6	7	14.6	13	27.1		
	Total	317	100.0	157	49.5	133	42.0	19	6.0	34	10.7	14	4.4	34	10.7		
	Average Index = 91.9																
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 93.7																
Fall 2005	Under 80	101	33.7	25	24.8	14	13.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0				
	80 - 84	30	10.0	10	33.3	11	36.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.3				
	85 - 89	29	9.7	12	41.4	9	31.0	0	0.0	2	6.9	0	0.0				
	90 - 94	35	11.7	16	45.7	10	28.6	3	8.6	4	11.4	0	0.0				
	95 - 99	27	9.0	14	51.9	11	40.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.7				
	100 - 109	41	13.7	17	41.5	15	36.6	0	0.0	1	2.4	2	4.9				
	110 and Higher	37	12.3	27	73.0	19	51.4	2	5.4	6	16.2	3	8.1				
	Total	300	100.0	121	40.3	89	29.7	5	1.7	13	4.3	7	2.3				
	Average Index = 88.8																
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 90.3																

Cohort	Index Category	#	%	Retention to/Graduation after --			Graduation with Associate's After --			Graduation with Bachelor's After --					
				2 Yrs (#)	2 Yrs (%)	3 Yrs (#)	3 Yrs (%)	2 Yrs (#)	2 Yrs (%)	3 Yrs (#)	3 Yrs (%)	4 Yrs (#)	4 Yrs (%)	5 Yrs. (#)	5 Yrs. (%)
Fall 2006	Under 80	128	39.4	47	36.7	30	23.4	0	0.0	3	2.3				
	80 - 84	39	12.0	22	56.4	12	30.8	1	2.6	3	7.7				
	85 - 89	24	7.4	9	37.5	6	25.0	1	4.2	2	8.3				
	90 - 94	32	9.8	15	46.9	10	31.3	1	3.1	2	6.3				
	95 - 99	28	8.6	13	46.4	13	46.4	0	0.0	1	3.6				
	100 - 109	46	14.2	29	63.0	19	41.3	6	13.0	7	15.2				
	110 and Higher	28	8.6	20	71.4	14	50.0	3	10.7	4	14.3				
	Total	325	100.0	155	47.7	104	32.0	12	3.7	22	6.8				
	Average Index = 86.4														
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 88.1														
Fall 2007	Under 80	172	38.8	68	39.5	38	22.1	0	0.0						
	80 - 84	106	23.9	43	40.6	32	30.2	1	0.9						
	85 - 89	39	8.8	20	51.3	17	43.6	0	0.0						
	90 - 94	34	7.7	11	32.4	9	26.5	1	2.9						
	95 - 99	23	5.2	13	56.5	12	52.2	3	13.0						
	100 - 109	32	7.2	18	56.3	13	40.6	2	6.3						
	110 and Higher	37	8.4	26	70.3	18	48.6	3	8.1						
	Total	443	100.0	199	44.9	139	31.4	10	2.3						
	Average Index = 84.8														
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 85.9														
Fall 2008	Under 80	144	42.4	55	38.2										
	80 - 84	62	18.2	28	45.2										
	85 - 89	28	8.2	15	53.6										
	90 - 94	27	7.9	9	33.3										
	95 - 99	25	7.4	13	52.0										
	100 - 109	26	7.6	19	73.1										
	110 and Higher	28	8.2	17	60.7										
	Total	340	100.0	156	45.9										
	Average Index = 84.9														
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 102.5														
Fall 2009	Under 80	183	48.0												
	80 - 84	93	24.4												
	85 - 89	18	4.7												
	90 - 94	18	4.7												
	95 - 99	20	5.2												
	100 - 109	26	6.8												
	110 and Higher	23	6.0												
	Total	381	100.0												
	Average Index = 82														
	Recent H Sch Grad Avg Index = 103.9														

Note: Shaded cells indicate preliminary data for the Fall 2009 semester.
Columns under the headings "Graduation with Associate's After --" and "Graduation with Bachelor's After --" show the first degree earned.





Bachelors Index Category	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Under 80	1.7	0.9	7.4	10.8	6.9	6.9	3.9	1.0	1.0	0.8
80 - 84	11.3	16.3	14.7	13.2	12.4	12.9	10.3	3.2	2.6	3.2
85 - 89	14.6	13.5	13.9	16.3	11.3	13.2	10.3	12.9	10.5	10.9
90 - 94	14.7	16.5	12.4	14.2	13.1	14.0	13.8	18.9	15.0	12.7
95 - 99	15.0	11.9	11.5	13.2	13.2	12.7	14.5	12.6	17.7	14.5
100 - 109	23.0	20.9	20.8	16.9	17.5	17.2	21.1	20.9	23.8	24.7
110 and Higher	19.7	20.0	19.3	15.3	25.5	23.1	26.1	30.5	29.4	33.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Associate's Index Category	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Under 80	31.4	25.3	25.2	33.7	39.4	38.8	42.4	48.0
80 - 84	10.5	12.5	10.7	10.0	12.0	23.9	18.2	24.4
85 - 89	18.1	15.1	8.5	9.7	7.4	8.8	8.2	4.7
90 - 94	11.9	10.2	12.0	11.7	9.8	7.7	7.9	4.7
95 - 99	9.4	12.5	11.4	9.0	8.6	5.2	7.4	5.2
100 - 109	10.8	14.3	17.0	13.7	14.2	7.2	7.6	6.8
110 and Higher	7.9	10.2	15.1	12.3	8.6	8.4	8.2	6.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Average Index Scores

Cohort	Bachelors	Associate's	Associate Recent HS grads
2000	98.4	98.7	
2001	97.8	97.9	
2002	96.7	97.0	88.1
2003	94.7	95.0	89.6
2004	98.6	99.1	91.6
2005	97.7	98.1	93.7
2006	99.8	99.9	90.3
2007	101.8	101.7	88.1
2008	102.4	102.5	85.9
2009	103.7	103.9	85.9

Number of Entering Associate's-seeking Freshmen with no Index

	No Index	Have Index	Total
2002	104	277	381
2003	105	265	370
2004	117	317	434
2005	88	300	388
2006	151	325	476
2007	145	443	588
2008	143	340	483
2009	225	381	606

Approved by the MSC Board of Trustees – March, 2010