

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Designated as “the public liberal arts college of Massachusetts” in 1997, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts is one of the smallest of the nine state colleges. MCLA offers the bachelor of arts, bachelor of science and master of education degrees. MCLA’s mission is to prepare students to become active members of their communities and leaders in their chosen professions.

COLLABORATIONS

- The College has been a host to the annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day since 1990. This program, done in partnership with elementary and middle schools across the county, began at MCLA with a basketball clinic. This further developed into a series of programs and leadership workshops with girls in grades three through eight. The young students participate in programs followed by basketball clinics on the MCLA campus. This year’s event was attended by 70 girls from all over Berkshire County. In concert with the basketball clinics and games our students go into the schools where they provide mentoring to the school children. This program is a wonderful way of exposing future students to the college experience.
- The STEM Pipeline Fund initiative continues to provide incentives for networking among Berkshire County science educators. MCLA, as the lead partner, has provided professional development opportunities for teachers, from STEM workshops to a STEM Fellows program. MCLA also hosts a range of activities for students such as Middle School and High School Science and Engineering Fairs, a robotics summer camp, the BOSE “In Harmony with Education” program and other STEM activities to engage students in science. These initiatives help to provide a solid foundation for more students entering the STEM fields. These initiatives have impacted more than 1,300 middle school students in Berkshire County.
- MCLA has a long history of offering service learning opportunities to our students. More than ten courses—impacting more than 200 students each semester—incorporate a service learning component. The success of the program stems from the multiple levels of collaboration: collaboration between Academic Affairs and Student Affairs (the College has established within Student Affairs a Center for Service and Citizenship, and the director of the Center works closely with the faculty coordinator for service learning). Secondly, the collaboration between students and the sites at which they do service, and thirdly collaboration with Drury High School in North Adams whose program is nationally recognized.
- The Berkshire Compact for Higher Education, now in its third year, is a county-wide initiative under the leadership of MCLA. Goals have been established; all residents of the County should have the opportunity and access to 16 years of education and training. The Compact recently completed a survey of 7,500 Berkshire County students (6th and 12th graders) to determine attitudinal barriers that could be used when developing strategies. Also, to expose students to higher education, the

Program of DISTINCTION

The Peer Advisor Network acts as a support unit for all first-year students. The 36 peer advisors are upperclassmen who have successfully experienced college life, and are willing to share their experiences, and support first-year students as they transition into life at MCLA. This peer support and mentoring works to ensure the success of our first-year students, fosters connections between these students and the College, and assists students in building a host of resources they can rely upon as they continue here at MCLA. Ultimately, the Peer Advisor Network serves as a resource in the retention of MCLA students.

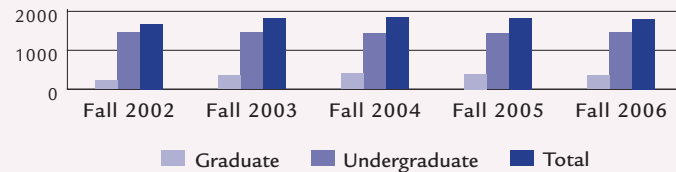
Compact and MCLA collaborated with Tufts University this year, in providing outreach activities through a fellow placed at the College and in one of our local high schools. In efforts to better connect employers with educational training and education services, the Compact and the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board completed a survey of employers regarding their workforce needs assessment. The Compact also collaborates with the Berkshire Immigration Forum and offered a seminar for businesses to engage the community in identifying language barriers and workforce needs.

- Twice a year, a multicultural, two-day program brings 20 high school seniors from urban areas to campus and focuses on a college experience at MCLA. These seniors stay with current MCLA students in the residence halls, attend classes, and experience the college in much the same way as our enrolled students. Affirmation of cultural identity and cultural sharing is an integral part of the student experience at MCLA. Our students are diverse—in ways that are apparent and ways that are harder to identify at first glance—but one thing they all have in common is the experience of MCLA. The multicultural overnight experience is made richer by each individual who chooses to become a part of our community.

I. ACCESS TO PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN MASSACHUSETTS

Access Indicators*	
FALL ENROLLMENT	
Fall 2006 Headcount:	1,454 Undergrad. 351 Graduate
Fall 2006 FTE:	1,340 Undergrad. 204 Graduate
<i>Results: Over the last three years, total fall headcount enrollment has remained relatively stable, total fall FTE enrollment has increased 4.2%, and undergraduate FTE enrollment increased 5.1%.</i>	
ANNUAL ENROLLMENT	
FY2007 Headcount:	1,712 Undergrad. 911 Graduate
FY2007 FTE:	1,357 Undergrad. 428 Graduate
<i>Results: Over the last three years, total annual headcount enrollment has declined 4.1%, total annual FTE enrollment has remained relatively stable, and undergraduate annual FTE enrollment increased 3.4%.</i>	
MINORITY ENROLLMENT	
Minority Enrollment Percentage in Fall 2006:	9.1%
<i>Results: Higher than the Berkshire Region's minority representation of 4.6%.</i>	
CC TRANSFER STUDENTS	
Fall 2006 Community College Transfer Students:	89
<i>Results: Over the last three years, the number of community college transfer students has increased 3.5%.</i>	

Fall Enrollment: Headcount



II: AFFORDABILITY OF MASSACHUSETTS STATE COLLEGES

Affordability Indicators*	
% OF MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME	
Tuition and fees as a percent of median family income in FY2007:	8.0%
<i>Results: Below the Northeast regional average of 9.3%.</i>	

Tuition and Fees as a Percent of Median Income

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
Tuition and fees	\$4,197	\$5,397	\$5,417	\$5,616	\$5,926
State median family income (SMFI)	\$66,922	\$67,527	\$68,701	\$71,655	\$74,463
Tuition and fees as % of SMFI	6.3%	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%	8.0%
Segment avg. tuition and fees as % of SMFI	5.5%	6.7%	7.3%	7.5%	7.8%
Northeast avg. tuition and fees as % of SMFI			9.2%	9.3%	9.3%

* See Technical Guide (pages 41–42) for indicator methodology and details.

III: STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACADEMIC QUALITY

Success and Quality Indicators*	
FIRST-YEAR RETENTION	
Fall 2005 Cohort First-Year Retention Rate:	71.0%
<i>Results: Below the segmental rate of 73.5% and the peer rate of 75.7%, but above the national rate of 70.0%.</i>	
SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE	
1998–2000 Cohort Six-Year Graduation Rate (3-year average):	47.9%
<i>Results: Comparable to the segmental rate of 47.9% but below the institutional peer rate of 54.5%.</i>	
DEGREES CONFERRED	
Total Degrees Conferred in FY2007:	331
<i>Results: Average degrees conferred per year over the last three years: 338.</i>	
MTEL PASS RATE	
2006 Pass Rate for the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure:	100%
Number of Passing Students:	44
<i>Results: Above the target pass rate of 80%.</i>	
SPECIAL ADMISSION STUDENTS	
Percent of New Students who were Special Admits in Fall 2006:	7.9%
<i>Results: Meets the Board of Higher Education’s requirement of enrolling less than 10% special admissions students per year.</i>	
<i>(See Appendix for BHE admissions policies.)</i>	

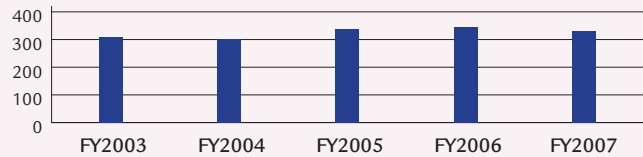
First-Year Retention Rate (Fall-to-Fall)

Entering Cohort	2001	2002	2003	2004	2004
Institution Rate	68.2%	76.5%	73.6%	72.6%	71.0%
Peer Avg. Rate			82.1%	77.9%	75.7%
Segment Avg. Rate	72.9%	74.6%	75.2%	76.2%	73.5%
Public Liberal Arts National Avg. Rate			71.1%	70.3%	70.0%

Six-Year Graduation Rate

Entering Cohort	1997	1998	1999	2000	Rolling Avg. 1998–00
Institution Rate	46.7%	45.0%	47.3%	51.3%	47.9%
Peer Avg. Rate	50.1%	53.2%	53.8%	56.5%	54.5%
Segment Avg. Rate	45.5%	47.6%	47.2%	48.9%	47.9%

Degrees Conferred

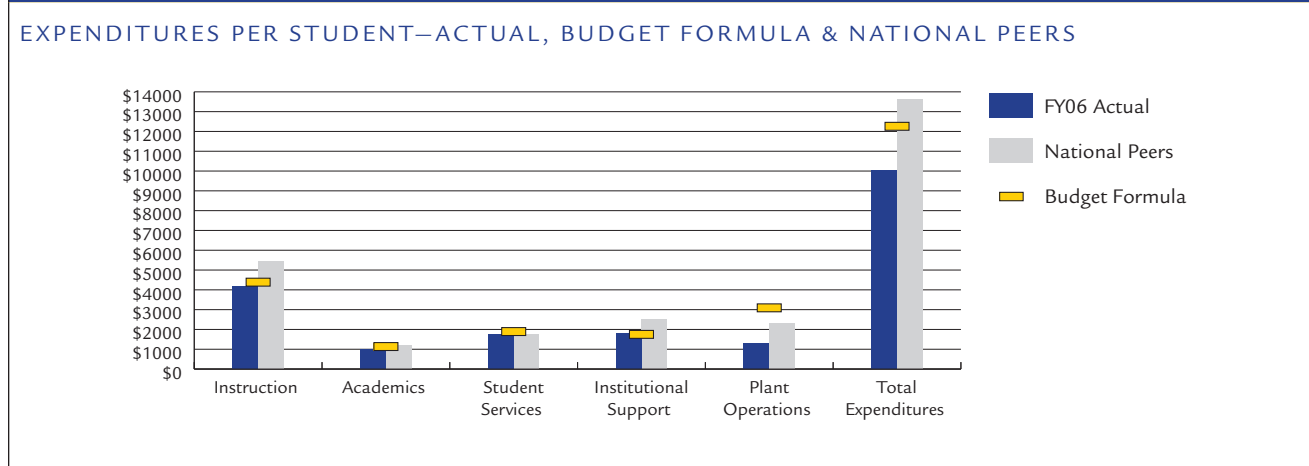


* See Technical Guide (pages 41–42) for indicator methodology and details.

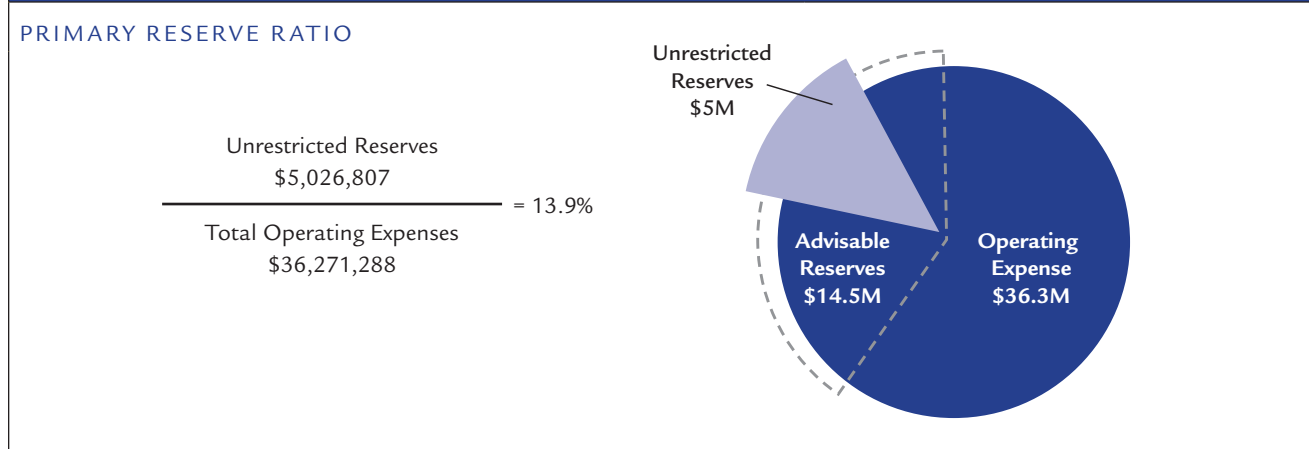
IV: EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES

Efficiency and Innovation *	Compliance *
<p>EFFECTIVE PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES</p> <p>Increased endowment by \$1,687,305 over FY06, to \$7,958,986.</p> <p>Increased grants and contracts revenue by \$225,000 as compared to FY06.</p> <p>Worked to add Berkshire Community College to the state college Follett Bookstore contract, increasing sales by over \$800,000 and increasing commission rates for all colleges.</p> <p>Worked with Center for Ecological Technology to map campus' carbon footprint and improve recycling efforts.</p> <p>Raised \$1,561,378 through private fundraising, an increase of \$1,037,963 from FY06.</p>	<p>ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT</p> <p><i>No material weaknesses based on annual external independent audit:</i></p> <p>2007</p> <p>2006</p> <p>2005</p> <p>2004</p> <p>2003</p>

Resource Allocation *



Financial Health Indicator *



* See Technical Guide (pages 41–42) for indicator methodology and details.