Maryland Higher Education Commission

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**Introduction**
This annual report presents data on students who registered with disability services at Maryland colleges and universities and provides analysis on graduation and retention outcomes for those students. To better understand higher education outcomes for students with disabilities in Maryland, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Disabilities and in partnership with the state’s higher education institutions, created a survey administered to colleges and universities to collect retention and completion data on these students. The data may be used to inform policy that may be beneficial to this unique population.

The aggregated data collected reflect the number of students who registered with disability services at their college or university and report on retention and graduation outcomes for those students.

**Maryland Statewide Results**
In fiscal year 2018, 15,362 undergraduate students and 1,181 graduate students were registered with their institutions’ disability services office as students with disabilities. This represents 3.6% of all students enrolled in fiscal year 2018. More specifically, this represents 4.2% of undergraduate students enrolled and 1.3% of graduate students enrolled.

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1 Surveys are administered annually to Maryland’s 16 community colleges, 13 four-year public institutions, and 13 state-aided independent colleges and universities.
2 For the purposes of this report, the terms disability services and disability services office will be used throughout for consistency. It is important to note that the name of this office can vary from campus to campus.
3 For detailed background information on students with disabilities in Maryland and the nation, please refer to the February 2018 and February 2019 Students with Disabilities at Maryland Colleges and Universities reports.
4 Students registered with their institutions’ disability services office in this report’s analysis include those who have permanent or temporary disabilities.
Four-Year Institutions
In fiscal year 2018, Maryland’s four-year public and state-aided independent institutions reported that 8,734 students were registered as students with disabilities with disability services. Four-year public institutions reported 4,627 undergraduate students and 688 graduate students while state-aided independent institutions reported 2,926 undergraduate students and 493 graduate students.

Maryland’s four-year public and state-aided independent institutions also reported on the first-time, full-time, degree- or certificate-seeking students who were registered with the disability services office and enrolled in Fall 2017. To obtain a retention rate on those students, institutions reported the number of these students who returned to the institution in Fall 2018. See Table 1 and Table 2 on the following page for a three-year trend of data which, includes undergraduate and graduate student 12-month enrollment, and a three-year trend of retention rates for students registered with the disability services office, respectively.

The trend data show that students attending Maryland’s four-year public institutions and registered with their disabilities services office, on average, are under 3% of total undergraduate enrollment and have retention rates comparable to the total undergraduate population. Students registered with their disabilities services office at state-aided independent institutions also have retention rates comparable to the total undergraduate population and, on average, are approximately 9% of the total undergraduate enrollment population.

Community Colleges
In fiscal year 2018, 7,809 undergraduate students registered with the disability services office of their campus. This represents 4.7% of the total undergraduate enrollment at Maryland’s community colleges. The trend data show that the percentage of students registered with their disabilities services office increases slightly each year but remains under 5% of the total undergraduate enrollment at the community colleges from 2016 to 2018. Survey results also show that of these students, 985 (12.6%) graduated with an undergraduate degree or certificate by the end of the fiscal year.

In 2021, MHEC will report on retention, transfer, and completion data for community college students who register with their institution’s disabilities services office. These data will reflect a cohort of students (beginning with the Fall 2015 cohort) and compare the outcomes of these students with the outcomes of all students.
Table 1: Students Registered with Disability Services at Maryland Colleges and Universities: 2016-2018 Enrollment Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2016: Undergraduate Students</th>
<th>FY 2017: Undergraduate Students</th>
<th>FY 2018: Undergraduate Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-month Total Undergraduate</td>
<td>12-month Total Undergraduate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undergraduate students</td>
<td>Undergraduate students</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>registered with Disabilities</td>
<td>registered with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Services Offices</td>
<td>Services Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% of Undergraduates registered</td>
<td>% of Undergraduates registered</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with Disabilities</td>
<td>with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-month Total Undergraduate</td>
<td>12-month Total Undergraduate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undergraduate students</td>
<td>Undergraduate students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>registered with Disabilities</td>
<td>registered with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Services Offices</td>
<td>Services Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% of Undergraduates registered</td>
<td>% of Undergraduates registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with Disabilities</td>
<td>with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Public Institutions</td>
<td>163,047</td>
<td>173,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,480</td>
<td>4,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Aided Independent</td>
<td>30,740</td>
<td>29,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td>2,359</td>
<td>2,692</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Colleges</td>
<td>179,824</td>
<td>172,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7,723</td>
<td>7,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 2: Undergraduate Students Registered with Disability Services at Maryland Colleges and Universities: 2016-2018 Retention Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 2016: Graduate Students</th>
<th>FY 2017: Graduate Students</th>
<th>FY 2018: Graduate Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12-month Total Graduate</td>
<td>12-month Total Graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>students</td>
<td>students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>registered with Disabilities</td>
<td>registered with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Services Offices</td>
<td>Services Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>% of Graduates registered</td>
<td>% of Graduates registered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with Disabilities</td>
<td>with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-Year Public Institutions</td>
<td>53,990</td>
<td>53,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>467</td>
<td>707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Aided Independent</td>
<td>32,138</td>
<td>34,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutions</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions
Data collected from Maryland’s colleges and universities indicate that students are seeking services for their disabilities. Findings also show that students attending Maryland’s four-year institutions (both public and state-aided independent) who were identified in the survey as registering for disability services had second-year retention rates that were comparable to the overall cohort. This suggests that students who seek disability services are obtaining the support and accommodations they need to successfully persist.

In coming years, the data collected by MHEC will allow for additional outcome measures to be analyzed, including six-year graduation rates for students enrolled in the state’s four-year institutions, and retention, graduation, and transfer rates for all community college students. With these additional measures, Maryland’s colleges and universities will be able to track the success of their students seeking disability services and Maryland will be able to report on statewide results. The information may give institutions greater insight into how these students compare to the larger student body and perhaps identify ways to ensure they have the support needed to succeed.