



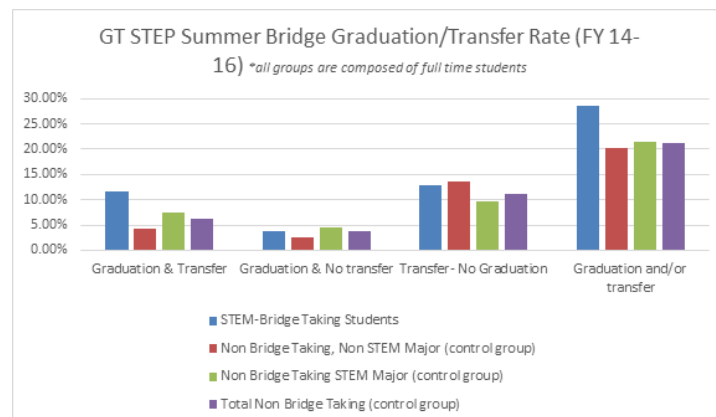
Issue
01

SEPTEMBER
2017

COUNSELING CHRONICLE

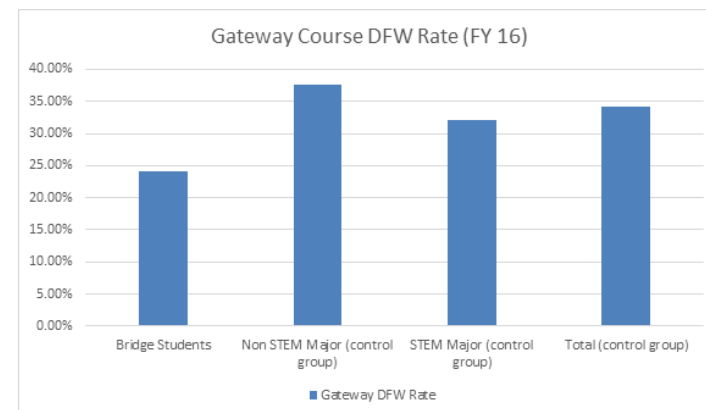
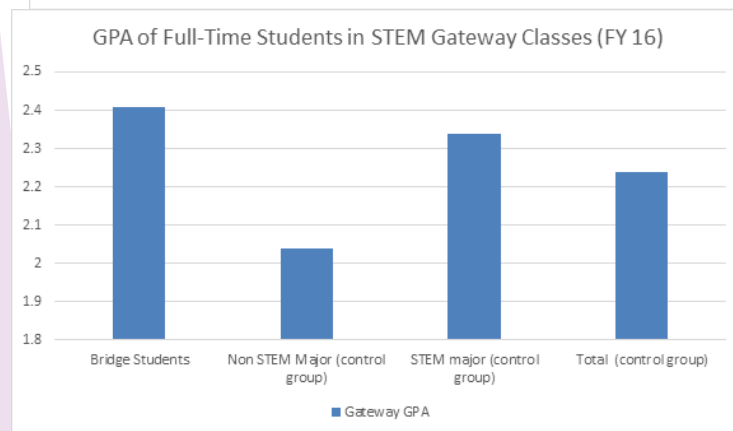
QUARTERLY COUNSELING & ADVISING NEWSLETTER

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE STRENGTHENS COLLEGE READINESS



Summer Bridge STEM Partnership Shows Great Promise in Lowering DFW rates and Increasing Graduation/Transfer and GPA

The three charts demonstrate the difference between students who completed the Summer Bridge STEM program and those who did not in the following areas: graduation/transfer rates, GPA, and DFW rates for gateway courses.



In their own words...

Every single first-year student should take this course if they want information and experience on transitioning to college.

It helped me more than I imagined.

It was a welcoming experience that I will never forget.

Thank you so much for helping and supporting me these past two weeks. It was so helpful!

I really enjoyed meeting my new peers!

Get to Know Your Faculty Counselors

Welcome, Professor Elizabeth Kirby!



What do you teach?
STSU 100

What is your favorite part of teaching this class?
The interaction with students and seeing their personal and academic growth.

What committees or groups do you serve on or what special programming are you a part of?

Transfer Resource Council, Rockville Online Team, Strategies for Success Videos, Maryland Advising Affinity Group, Academic Success Program

What do you like most about being a faculty counselor at MC?
I love being a part of the MC community and helping students reach their academic, career, and personal goals.

Prof. Kirby's Strategies for Success Videos are available on the MC website:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Pain.aspx?id=101852>



this issue

- Summer Bridge Fosters Success P.1
- FYE & College Readiness P.2
- Student Ambassadors P.3
- Level 4 Advising Q & A P.4

Summer Bridge Fosters Success in New Students

Each summer Montgomery College eagerly welcomes new students from diverse backgrounds and experiences. For students coming from high school the transition to college can be a confusing and stressful process, especially for those who are first in their families to attend an institution of higher education. Research demonstrates the importance of students connecting with peers and instructors in addition to learning basic college readiness skills during the seminal first year.

To help high school students successfully navigate college and to explore readiness topics, Montgomery College's Department of Counseling and Advising offers a special program called Summer Bridge through the First Year Experience Program (FYE).

STSU 100 as part of Summer Bridge, is offered at no cost to students, including free class materials. This course is set up in an interactive, seminar style with student ambassadors serving as peer mentors. Each summer section runs for half days for two weeks. Additionally, a grant (GT STEP) from the National Science Foundation allowed for several sections to be focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

In these STEM sections, students received an extra week of instruction focused on orienting students to the sciences. Included is an evaluation of math skills, an introduction to basic lab protocol/safety, and how to communicate science effectively.

Data has been collected and used to analyze and assess the effectiveness of the Summer Bridge program. Some of those data points have been included in this newsletter. The students who have gone through the Summer Bridge program outperform those students who did not, particularly in the STEM area. This shows a lot of promise as the College continues its commitment to helping students persist towards their goals. We hope to be able to expand this program and to continue funding the STEM sections of Summer Bridge.

However, nothing is more powerful than the feeling of connectedness this course provides. As one student said at the end of the course this past summer, "I feel insurmountably better prepared for my first semester at MC and college in general. If I had not taken this course, I would have wasted a year or two of my life."

THE DEPARTMENT OF COUNSELING AND ADVISING

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Germantown, MD 20876
240-567-7734

Rockville
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240-567-4104

Takoma Park/Silver Spring
Room 233, ST Building
7600 Takoma Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
240-567-1480

Find us on the web! www.montgomerycollege.edu/CAN



CALENDAR OF COUNSELING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Transfer Fairs:
Rockville, Large Gym
Tuesday, 9/26
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Germantown, Bioscience Center
Wednesday, 9/27
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Takoma Park/Silver Spring, Atrium
Thursday, 9/28
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

OCTOBER

Wednesday, 10/4- Test Preparation & Test Anxiety Workshop
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
SW 303, Rockville

Wednesday, 10/11- Time Management Workshop
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
HT 400, Germantown

Monday, 10/23- Test Taking Workshop
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
BE 110, Germantown

Monday, 10/30- Learning Styles Workshop
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
BE 110, Germantown

NOVEMBER

Career Month!
Tuesday, 11/2- Career Center Open House
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
SA 265, Germantown

Tuesday, 11/14- Careers in Law Panel
11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
HT 216, Germantown

Wednesday, 11/17- Engineering Careers
12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
HT 216, Germantown

STUDENT AMBASSADORS OFFER POWERFUL RETENTION TOOL

FYE Student Ambassadors support fellow students navigating college for the first time while also benefitting from this leadership experience



FYE Student Ambassadors play a key role in assisting first-year students with the transition to college. Student Ambassadors are a select group of student leaders dedicated to serving first-year students by fostering support in academic performance and social development inside and outside the classroom.

FYE Ambassador Role:

- Participate in FYE classes, Summer Bridge, New Student Orientation, Welcome Week and other programs designed for First Year students
- Promote FYE and Student Life college/campus events and activities
- Serve as leaders, mentors and positive role models for new MC students
- Attend weekly Leadership programs and meetings
- Co-facilitate Student Success Workshops

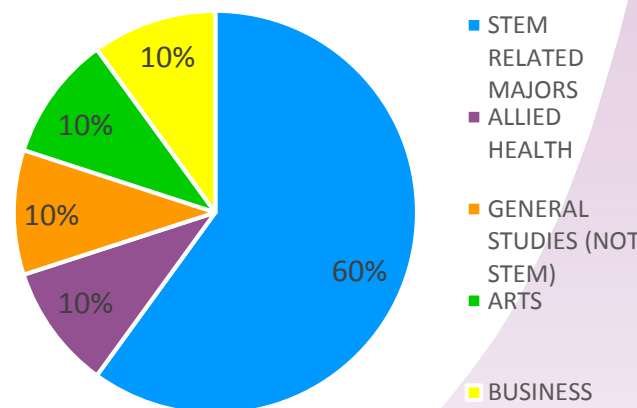
Qualifications to become an FYE Student Ambassador:

- Enrolled at MC at time of application and while participating in the program
- Completed at least 12 credit hours at MC
- Successful completion of STSU 100 or STSU 101 with a B or better
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
- Available 6-7 hours per week
- Able to commit to a full academic year

Benefits of being an FYE Student Ambassador:

- Develop relationships with MC faculty, staff, and students
- Enhance leadership skills
- Expand work experience
- Learn teaching and presentation skills
- Increase self-awareness
- Widen awareness of the college/campus
- Acquire letters of recommendation
- Enhance Resume
- Develop a co-curricular ePortfolio

Majors of FYE Student Ambassadors 16-17 and 17-18



Average GPA: 3.29

Average Hours Earned: 43.6



The Facts on First Year Experience (FYE)

First Year Seminar Course

- ❖ This college-level, transferable course is offered in three different formats:
 1. STSU 100 in the summer is called "Summer Bridge" and involves special programming and presenters and is free, including all materials.
 2. STSU 101 is the Seminar for International Students. This is a good introduction to the American educational system. All materials are free.
 3. STSU 100 during the fall and spring semesters. All materials are free.

Summer Bridge

- ❖ Student Ambassadors who are trained by both Counseling faculty and Student Life staff serve as peer mentors both inside and outside the classroom, giving an extra layer of support.
- ❖ Through a partnership between Counseling and GT STEP special STEM sections of Summer Bridge are offered to help orient students to the sciences. This includes some special science related readings, a lab orientation, and an introduction to what a college-level science course is like, in a fun and engaging environment.

Programming, FYE Team, Etc.

- ❖ A team of counseling faculty, staff and administrators meet regularly to make this program work.
- ❖ The FYE team offers workshops on a variety of topics during each semester to support student success. See the calendar of events on the opposite page.
- ❖ FYE supports New Student Orientation and presents different topics during the in-person sessions.

2017-18 FYE Student Ambassadors



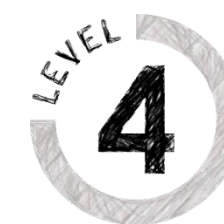
Benedicta Appiah, Life Science

Chenoa Orr, Business

Stephanie Pineda, Digital Animation

Keren Nsoyori, Life Science

This Issue's Q & A for Level 4 Advisors



Q: What should I do if a student comes to me and says they are worried that a course is not covered by Financial Aid?

A: Students should be diligent about running their CAPP report. If students have followed the instructions for running this degree audit report and it shows "In Progress Courses"

(listed at the bottom of the report): these are courses for which the student is registered AND are covered by financial aid. If the report shows courses listed under "Courses Not Used/Attributes Not Used" (also at the bottom of the report), these are courses which are NOT covered by financial aid. They should be referred to Counseling and Advising so we can determine if have declared the right major. Students have until approximately the second week of the semester to declare the correct major.

Partner with Us!



Have an idea for a program, workshop or an in-class presentation?

Counseling Faculty can be an invaluable partner and resource. Many of our counselors have presented different modules on academic planning, transfer, career, and study skills topics both in class and in workshops.

Contact us if you are interested in having someone come and present to your class or if you have an idea for a partnership or workshop.

counselingnewsletter@montgomerycollege.edu