

RESEARCH BRIEF

Enrollments in Health Manpower Shortage Programs and Statewide Programs

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Health Manpower Shortage Programs and Statewide Programs

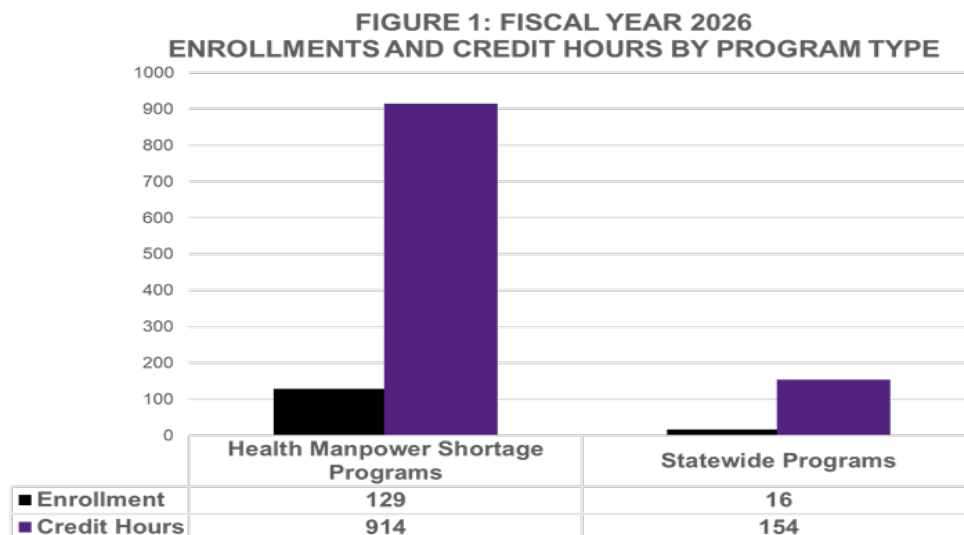
To address Maryland’s workforce needs in high-demand health-related fields, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, designated several academic programs as Health Manpower Shortage Programs (HMSP). This designation allows students from other Maryland counties to attend any community college in the state at the institution’s in-county tuition rate and applicable fees (Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Title 16 §310(d)). Montgomery College offers six associate degree programs in these designated fields.

In addition, the Maryland Higher Education Commission’s (MHEC) Planning and Academic Affairs Division is authorized to designate certain programs as Statewide (SW). These programs are specialized, high-demand offerings that are either unavailable or have reached enrollment capacity at a student’s home community college. As a result, students from other Maryland counties are permitted to enroll in these designated programs at another Maryland community college while paying that institution’s in-county tuition and applicable fees. Montgomery College currently offers six lower-division and six associate-degree-level Statewide programs.

Students from other Maryland counties are charged the applicable out-of-county tuition rate. Eligible students must apply for the tuition differential. In addition, program enrollment must be verified by program coordinators, and applicable credit hours must be confirmed by the registrar before the business office adjusts student accounts. To offset some of the revenue loss, MHEC reimburses the institutions a percentage of the out-of-county tuition differential for each eligible student enrolled in designated program areas. For fiscal year 2026, the reimbursement rate is approximately 67%.

Enrollment by Program Type

In fiscal year 2026, 73 individual students generated 145 enrollments and 1,068 credit hours in the designated programs (Figure 1). The vast majority of enrollments (89.0%) and credit hours (85.6%) were in the health manpower shortage programs.



Health Manpower Shortage Programs (HMSP)

Sixty-one individual students from other Maryland counties accounted for 129 enrollments and 914 credit hours in the HMSP (Table 1). Students enrolled in the nursing program generated the largest share of activity, representing 35.7% of total enrollments and 40.5% of total credit hours. Credit hour enrollment ranged from 2 to 5 in the summer, from 2 to 6 in the winter, from 3 to 11 in the fall, and from 4 to 15 credit hours in the spring semester.

Table 1: Health Manpower Shortage Programs	Fiscal Year 2026	
	Enrollments	Credit Hours
Diagnostic Medical Sonography	40	202
Health Information Technology	10	89
Nursing	46	370
Physical Therapy	7	60
Radiologic Technology	18	121
Surgical Technology	8	72
Total	129	914

Statewide Programs (SW)

Twelve eligible students from other Maryland counties generated 16 enrollments and 154 credit hours in the Statewide (SW) programs (Table 2). Enrollment in SW programs was notably lower than in Health Manpower Shortage Programs (HMSP). Of the six lower-division statewide programs, there were enrollments in three: practical nursing, professional and technical writing, and biotechnology.

The Fire and Emergency Services Management program accounted for the largest share of activity within the SW program area, representing 43.8% of enrollments and 44.8% of credit hours. Credit-hour enrollment ranged from 6 to 14 in the fall semester and from 3 to 12 in the spring semester. One student enrolled in 4 credit hours during the summer term, and one student enrolled in 3 credit hours during the winter term.

Table 2: Statewide Programs	Fiscal Year 2026	
	Enrollments	Credit Hours
Biotechnology	6	55
Fire and Emergency Services Management	7	69
Practical Nursing	2	18
Professional and Technical Writing	1	12
Total	16	154

Students' County of Residence

Eligible students resided in eight Maryland counties (Table 3). Students from Prince George's County generated the largest share of both enrollments and credit hours. They accounted for 45.0% of enrollments and 46.6% of credit hours in the Health Manpower Shortage Programs (HMSP), as well as 56.3% of enrollments and 53.2% of credit hours in the Statewide (SW) program areas.

These findings suggest that students across the state recognize the value of enrolling at Montgomery College, particularly when comparable programs are not available within their home jurisdictions. This pattern underscores the importance of continued state support for tuition differential reimbursement, as well as the need for strategic program planning to ensure access to high-demand fields across counties.

Table 3: Student's County of Residence	Fiscal Year 2026		Fiscal Year 2026	
	Health Manpower Shortage Programs		Statewide Programs	
	Enrollments	Credit Hours	Enrollments	Credit Hours
Anne Arundel	11	78	2	23
Baltimore County	10	87		
Charles County	5	35		
Frederick County	23	146	1	14
Howard County	15	104	4	35
Prince George's County	58	426	9	82
Washington County	3	17		
Worcester County	4	21		
Total	129	914	16	154

Tuition Differential Dollars

Eligible students collectively saved \$178,142.40 in tuition and fee costs in fiscal year 2026. The actual reimbursement rate often varies depending on state appropriations and funding levels. In fiscal year 2026, the Maryland Higher Education Commission received a higher volume of submissions than the program budget could support. As a result, the expected reimbursement rate to Montgomery College is about 67% of the total tuition differential dollars or approximately \$119,355, resulting in an estimated revenue shortfall of \$58,787.