

Profile of Metropolitan Community College and the Economy

Metropolitan Community College (MCC) is a comprehensive community college based in Omaha, Nebraska. Serving the state's largest city, MCC is the state's largest community college, with an enrollment of over 36,000 credit and non-credit students in 2017. It serves a four-county region from its network of nine campuses, centers, and "express" locations.

MCC was established in 1971 as Metropolitan Technical College, from the consolidation of eight pre-existing technical colleges in the Omaha metropolitan region. It became a community college in 1992, reflecting its expanded offerings. Since then the college has expanded to include a total of nine campuses and other locations, including campuses in Fort Omaha, South Omaha, and Elkhorn, as well as centers in Bellevue, La Vista, and Fremont. The college also offers classes at Offutt Air Force Base, and other offsite locations. The recently added "express" locations provide a "mini-campus" experience at two locations in downtown Omaha.

Today, MCC students participate in classes pursuing degrees and certificates in over 100 different programs and subjects. Most MCC students are attending in pursuit of a transfer degree to continue a four-year degree at a university. But the college also offers a wide variety of technical and vocational programs: construction training, IT degrees, healthcare, human services, and much more. For shorter term training there are also workforce development classes and many other non-credit and personal enrichment programs.

MCC EMPLOYEE AND FINANCE DATA

The study uses two general types of information: 1) data collected from the college and 2) regional economic data obtained from various public sources and Emsi's propri-

etary data modeling tools.¹ This section presents the basic underlying information from MCC used in this analysis and provides an overview of the MCC Four County Service Area economy.

Employee data

Data provided by MCC include information on faculty and staff by place of work and by place of residence. These data appear in Table 1.1. As shown, MCC employed 771 full-time and 1,011 part-time faculty and staff, including student workers, in FY 2015-16. Of these, 99% worked in the region and 89% lived in the region. These data are used to isolate the portion of the employees' payroll and household expenses that remains in the regional economy.

TABLE 1.1: Employee data, FY 2015-16

Full-time faculty and staff	771
Part-time faculty and staff	1,011
Total faculty and staff	1,782
% of employees that work in the region	99%
% of employees that live in the region	89%

Source: Data supplied by MCC.

¹ See Appendix 4 for a detailed description of the data sources used in the Emsi modeling tools.

Revenues

Table 1.2 shows the college's annual revenues by funding source – a total of \$134 million in FY 2015-16. As indicated, tuition and fees comprised 14% of total revenue, and revenues from local, state, and federal government sources comprised another 78%. All other revenue (i.e., auxiliary rev-

TABLE 1.2: Revenue by source, FY 2015-16

FUNDING SOURCE	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Tuition and fees	\$18,269,139	14%
Local government	\$50,624,774	38%
State government*	\$33,058,706	25%
Federal government	\$21,633,042	16%
All other revenue	\$10,366,294	8%
Total revenues	\$133,951,955	100%

* Revenue from state and local government includes capital appropriations.
Source: Data supplied by MCC.

TABLE 1.3: Expenses by function, FY 2015-16

EXPENSE ITEM	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL
Employee salaries, wages, and benefits	\$75,414,559	51%
Capital depreciation	\$6,512,037	4%
Construction	\$33,323,815	22%
All other expenditures	\$34,950,589	23%
Total expenses	\$150,201,000	100%

Source: Data supplied by MCC.

TABLE 1.4: Breakdown of student headcount and CHE production by education level, FY 2015-16

CATEGORY	HEADCOUNT	TOTAL CHEs	AVERAGE CHEs
Associate degree graduates	1,129	25,759	22.8
Certificate graduates	143	4,112	28.8
Continuing students	22,355	389,278	17.4
Dual credit students	2,355	25,064	10.6
Personal enrichment students	9,805	7,439	0.8
Workforce and all other students	1,136	0	0.0
Total, all students	36,923	451,652	12.2
Total, less personal enrichment students	27,118	444,213	16.4

Source: Data supplied by MCC.

enue, sales and services, interest, and donations) comprised the remaining 8%. These data are critical in identifying the annual costs of educating the student body from the perspectives of students, taxpayers, and society.

Expenditures

The combined payroll at MCC, including student salaries and wages, amounted to \$75.4 million. This was equal to 51% of the college's total expenses for FY 2015-16. Other expenditures, including capital depreciation, construction, and purchases of supplies and services, made up \$74.8 million. These budget data appear in Table 1.3.

Students

MCC served 25,982 students taking courses for credit and 10,941 non-credit students in FY 2015-16. These numbers represent unduplicated student headcounts. The breakdown of the student body by gender was 46% male and 54% female. The breakdown by ethnicity was 61% white, 32% minority, and 7% unknown. The students' overall average age was 27 years old.² An estimated 78% of students remain in the MCC Four County Service Area after finishing their time at MCC, and the remaining 22% settle outside the state.³

Table 1.4 summarizes the breakdown of the student population and their corresponding awards and credits by education level. In FY 2015-16, MCC served 1,129 associate degree graduates and 143 certificate graduates. Another 22,355 students enrolled in courses for credit but did not complete a degree during the reporting year. The college offered dual credit courses to high schools, serving a total of 2,355 students over the course of the year. The college also served 9,805 personal enrichment students enrolled in non-credit courses. Students not allocated to the other categories – including non-degree-seeking workforce students – comprised the remaining 1,136 students.

We use credit hour equivalents (CHEs) to track the educational workload of the students. One CHE is equal to 10 contact hours of classroom instruction per semester. In the analysis, we exclude the CHE production of personal enrichment students under the assumption that they do

2 Unduplicated headcount, gender, ethnicity, and age data provided by MCC.

3 Settlement data provided by MCC.

not attain knowledge, skills, and abilities that will increase their earnings. The average number of CHEs per student (excluding personal enrichment students) was 16.4.

THE MCC FOUR COUNTY SERVICE AREA ECONOMY

MCC serves a region referred to as the MCC Four County Service Area in Nebraska.⁴ Since the college was first established, it has been serving the MCC Four County Service Area by enhancing the workforce, providing local residents with easy access to higher education opportunities, and

4 The following counties comprise the MCC Four County Service Area: Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington.

preparing students for highly-skilled, technical professions. Table 1.5 summarizes the breakdown of the regional economy by major industrial sector, with details on labor and non-labor income. Labor income refers to wages, salaries, and proprietors' income. Non-labor income refers to profits, rents, and other forms of investment income. Together, labor and non-labor income comprise the region's total income, which can also be considered as the region's gross regional product (GRP).

As shown in Table 1.5, the total income, or GRP, of the MCC Four County Service Area is approximately \$52.3 billion, equal to the sum of labor income (\$30 billion) and non-labor income (\$22.2 billion). In Chapter 2, we use the total added income as the measure of the relative impacts of the college on the regional economy.

TABLE 1.5: Labor and non-labor income by major industry sector in the MCC Four County Service Area, 2016*

INDUSTRY SECTOR	LABOR INCOME (MILLIONS)	NON-LABOR INCOME (MILLIONS)	TOTAL INCOME (MILLIONS)†	% OF TOTAL INCOME	SALES (MILLIONS)
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	\$122	\$56	\$179	0.3%	\$500
Mining	\$14	\$32	\$46	<0.1%	\$73
Utilities	\$62	\$209	\$272	0.5%	\$418
Construction	\$1,808	\$854	\$2,662	5.1%	\$4,890
Manufacturing	\$1,898	\$2,369	\$4,266	8.2%	\$14,495
Wholesale Trade	\$1,539	\$1,733	\$3,272	6.3%	\$4,629
Retail Trade	\$1,787	\$955	\$2,742	5.2%	\$4,449
Transportation & Warehousing	\$1,489	\$869	\$2,357	4.5%	\$4,825
Information	\$1,002	\$1,047	\$2,049	3.9%	\$4,190
Finance & Insurance	\$3,170	\$2,954	\$6,125	11.7%	\$10,742
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	\$907	\$1,635	\$2,542	4.9%	\$5,590
Professional & Technical Services	\$2,528	\$478	\$3,007	5.8%	\$4,463
Management of Companies & Enterprises	\$1,927	\$368	\$2,295	4.4%	\$3,999
Administrative & Waste Services	\$1,632	\$443	\$2,075	4.0%	\$3,340
Educational Services, Private	\$491	\$56	\$546	1.0%	\$884
Health Care & Social Assistance	\$3,607	\$342	\$3,949	7.6%	\$6,833
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$237	\$112	\$350	0.7%	\$652
Accommodation & Food Services	\$756	\$366	\$1,122	2.1%	\$2,214
Other Services (except Public Administration)	\$686	\$5,655	\$6,341	12.1%	\$8,569
Government, Non-Education	\$2,557	\$1,608	\$4,166	8.0%	\$20,456
Government, Education	\$1,813	\$109	\$1,921	3.7%	\$2,170
Total	\$30,034	\$22,249	\$52,283	100.0%	\$108,381

* Data reflect the most recent year for which data are available. Emsi data are updated quarterly.

† Numbers may not add due to rounding.

Source: Emsi.



Table 1.6 provides the breakdown of jobs by industry in the MCC Four County Service Area. Among the region's non-government industry sectors, the Health Care & Social Assistance sector is the largest employer, supporting 66,569 jobs or 11.8% of total employment in the region. The second largest employer is the Retail Trade sector, supporting 56,811 jobs or 10.1% of the region's total employment. Altogether, the region supports 563,809 jobs.⁵

Table 1.7 and Figure 1.1, on the next page, present the mean earnings by education level in the MCC Four County Service Area and the state of Nebraska at the midpoint of the average-aged worker's career. These numbers are derived from Emsi's complete employment data on average earnings per worker in the region and the state.⁶ The numbers are then weighted by the college's demographic profile. As shown, students have the potential to earn more as they achieve higher levels of education compared to maintaining a high school diploma. Students who achieve an associate degree from MCC can expect approximate wages of \$41,900 per year within the MCC Four County Service Area, approximately \$9,900 more than someone with a high school diploma.

- 5 Job numbers reflect Emsi's complete employment data, which includes the following four job classes: 1) employees that are counted in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), 2) employees that are not covered by the federal or state unemployment insurance (UI) system and are thus excluded from QCEW, 3) self-employed workers, and 4) extended proprietors.
- 6 Wage rates in the Emsi MR-SAM model combine state and federal sources to provide earnings that reflect complete employment in the state, including proprietors, self-employed workers, and others not typically included in regional or state data, as well as benefits and all forms of employer contributions. As such, Emsi industry earnings-per-worker numbers are generally higher than those reported by other sources.

TABLE 1.6: Jobs by major industry sector in the MCC Four County Service Area, 2016*

INDUSTRY SECTOR	TOTAL JOBS	% OF TOTAL
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	3,293	0.6%
Mining	254	<0.1%
Utilities	360	<0.1%
Construction	32,925	5.8%
Manufacturing	31,526	5.6%
Wholesale Trade	19,247	3.4%
Retail Trade	56,811	10.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	26,960	4.8%
Information	13,194	2.3%
Finance & Insurance	42,498	7.5%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	21,897	3.9%
Professional & Technical Services	35,996	6.4%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	16,590	2.9%
Administrative & Waste Services	38,574	6.8%
Educational Services, Private	14,478	2.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	66,569	11.8%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12,040	2.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	37,612	6.7%
Other Services (except Public Administration)	26,641	4.7%
Government, Non-Education	34,068	6.0%
Government, Education	32,273	5.7%
Total	563,809	100.0%

* Data reflect the most recent year for which data are available. Emsi data are updated quarterly.

Source: Emsi complete employment data.



TABLE 1.7: Expected earnings by education level at the midpoint of a MCC student’s working career

EDUCATION LEVEL	REGIONAL EARNINGS	DIFFERENCE FROM NEXT LOWEST DEGREE	STATE EARNINGS	DIFFERENCE FROM NEXT LOWEST DEGREE
Less than high school	\$22,400	n/a	\$22,400	n/a
High school or equivalent	\$32,000	\$9,600	\$32,000	\$9,600
Certificate	\$36,400	\$4,400	\$36,400	\$4,400
Associate degree	\$41,900	\$5,500	\$41,900	\$5,500
Bachelor’s degree	\$56,700	\$14,800	\$56,700	\$14,800

Source: Emsi complete employment data.

FIGURE 1.1: Expected earnings by education level at a MCC student’s career midpoint

