

AGENDA ITEM 6.

**CHARACTERISTICS OF
MONETARY AWARD PROGRAM RECIPIENTS**

Submitted for: Information

Summary: The following is a snapshot of our Monetary Award Program (MAP) recipients. MAP recipients vary by race, gender, aptitudes and goals, but all are from low or lower-income families and have great difficulty paying for college.

Although there is no “typical” MAP recipient, the majority are female (60%), dependent (55%) and a plurality are white (47%.) MAP recipients attend schools in all higher education sectors and graduate at about the same rate as their non-MAP eligible counterparts.

Action requested: None

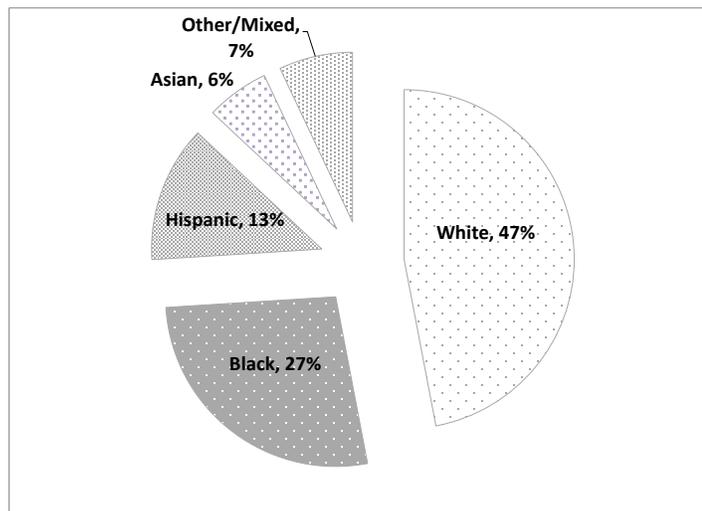
ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION CHARACTERISTICS OF MAP RECIPIENTS

The following is a snapshot of our Monetary Award Program (MAP) recipients. MAP recipients vary by race, gender, aptitudes and goals, but all are from low or lower-income families and have great difficulty paying for college.

Who are MAP Recipients?

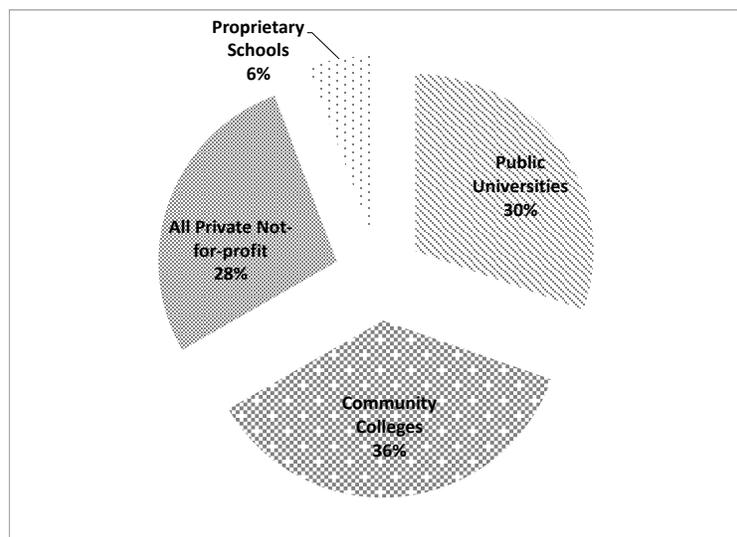
- About a quarter of undergraduate students in Illinois receive a MAP grant. They are part of the 80 percent of all undergraduate students in Illinois that receive some form of financial aid (including loans.)
- About 60% of MAP recipients are female.
- About 45% of MAP recipients are independent, non-traditional students who do not depend on their families for support. Students are considered independent if they are 24 or older, married, an orphan, in the military, or have a child and contribute more than half to the child's support.
- About 47% of MAP recipients are white, 27 percent are black, 13 percent are Hispanic, 6 percent are Asian, and the remaining 7 percent are other races/ethnicities, mixed race or unknown.

Figure 1: Race/Ethnicity of MAP Recipients



- Half of our MAP recipients have no resources at all to pay for college. About 85 percent are eligible for the federally funded Pell grant, which is limited to the neediest students.
- The parents of dependent MAP recipients have an average taxable income of about \$31,000, while independent MAP recipients have an average income of \$17,800.
- In FY2010, 36 percent of MAP recipients attended a public 2-year school with an average award of \$1,012; 30 percent attended a public 4-year institution with an average award of \$3,627; 26 percent attended a private 4-year school with an average award of \$4,174; 6 percent attended a proprietary institution with an average award of \$3,003; and the remaining 2 percent attended a private 2-year or other not-for-profit institution.

Figure 2: Where MAP Recipients Go to School

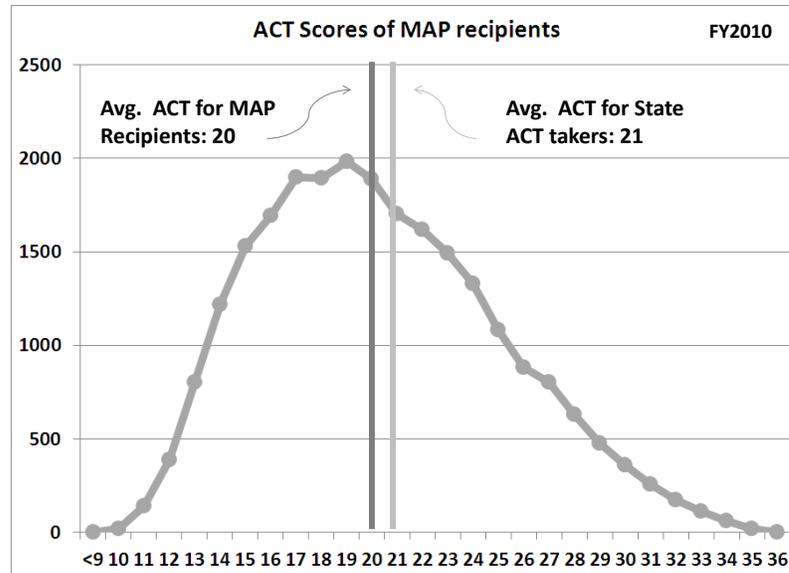


- Thirty-eight percent of MAP recipients are freshmen, 25 percent are sophomores, and the remaining 37 percent represent juniors and seniors.
- MAP recipients choose practical majors. A recent survey of dependent MAP recipients found that about two-thirds chose “in-demand” majors: applied sciences (including health care fields, 26%); business (16%); education (13%) and social work (8%).
- About 60 percent of all black students, 40 percent of all Hispanic students, and 20 percent of all white students at public universities receive a MAP grant.

Are MAP recipients succeeding?

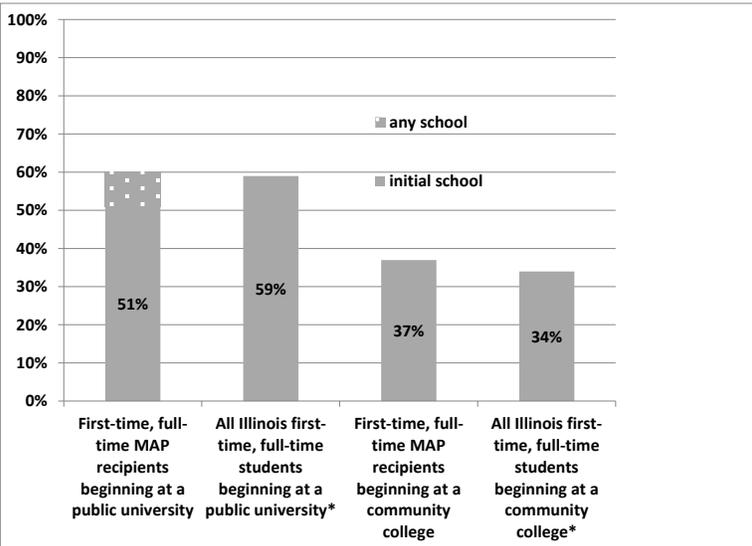
- ACT scores of MAP dependent recipients are comparable to Illinois students overall. The average ACT score of MAP recipients is 20; for Illinois ACT takers, the average is 21. The composite ACT score is only one measure of college readiness but it is the measure currently most complete and available to ISAC. A fuller picture of college readiness would include high school grade point averages and ACT subscores (college readiness benchmarks.)

Figure 3: ACT Scores of MAP Recipients



- MAP recipients graduate college at rates similar to other students. Of dependent, first-time freshman MAP recipients starting at a public university in 2004, 51 percent had attained a bachelor's degree at their original school by 2009 and another 9 percent had received a credential from a school different than the one at which they started. The 9 percent is understated due to our inability to track students who transfer to private or proprietary institutions. This compares favorably to the national six-year graduation rate of 59 percent overall for Illinois students. Of MAP recipients who began their studies at community colleges who were full-time, first-time, dependent freshmen in 2004, 37 percent had completed a credential from a community college or a public university by 2009. Nationally, 34 percent of 2003-04 beginning students who first enrolled in a public two-year institution graduated within six years from any institution.

Figure 4: MAP Recipient Graduation Rates Compared to All Illinois Students



*State data for single school only; from National Center for Higher Education Management Systems