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[Front Page](#) » [Top Stories](#) » [Miami Dade College sees large fall enrollment gains](#)

Miami Dade College sees large fall enrollment gains

Written by [Abraham Galvan](#) on July 5, 2022



Miami Dade College (MDC) is seeing a 6.6% increase in enrollment credit hours and headcount for the fall 2022 term year-over-year in comparison to fall 2021.

MDC's campuses are currently in high gear trending upward with positive enrollment figures for fall, said Dr. Malou C. Harrison, the college's executive vice president and provost.

"The college continues to offer short-term training programs in emerging technologies such as cloud computing, AI and cybersecurity that lead to college credit certificate credentials and subsequently stack upwards to an associate degree and finally a baccalaureate degree," she said.

MDC has pledged to play a major role in addressing the nursing shortage in South Florida by aligning its talent development initiatives.

"Our newly minted Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program is a true gem, where we've entertained a robust waiting list of students with a real commitment on our part to enroll every single student on the list at our Homestead, medical and north campuses," Dr. Harrison said.

A brand new Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program is slated to begin this fall as well, she said, which will not only provide a seamless path for CNA graduates to move forward in the profession, but will also create a pipeline to college's RN and BSN programs.

"Creating a pipeline of highly trained, compassionate nurses is among the strategic imperatives at the college as we continue to provide educational opportunities for members of our community" Dr. Harrison added.

Also, on the horizon is a brand-new Commercial Vehicle Driving Program, the first of its kind at Miami Dade College, she said.

"This is in direct response to the shortage of truck and other commercial vehicle drivers that are in high demand and a critical solution to our local and national supply chain issues," she said. "Even school bus and other bus drivers are in high demand, and our program will provide the opportunity to add trained individuals to the industry."

MDC just started a "learn and earn" automotive technician apprenticeship program in partnership with Warren Henry Automotive and Career Source South Florida, where 25 apprentices began their paid training for the next two years. Students will have the opportunity to earn several automotive certifications along the way.

Expanded access and advancing equity for student success continue to serve as a cornerstone for MDC. The second cohort is at Liberty Square housing development in Liberty City where 15 residents are enrolled, onsite in their community room, for a Miami Dade College delivered property management courses that leads to the opportunity of state certification and a job upon course completion. The first cohort of 25 students concluded in December.

One of the gains being seen early on in the fall registration period includes a greater number of FTIC Direct-Entry students enrolled versus this time last year, which gained over 800 students, Dr. Harrison said.

“This is attributed to the large number of students applying to ‘early start’ and other prominent programs at the college,” she said.

Those programs include Fast Track Sharks, Rising Black Scholars, Presidential Scholars Program, Honors College and American Dream Scholarship.

These programs offer comprehensive wrap-around services to students, including orientation, advisor assignment and frequent communications related to holistic support services available.

Another factor that has led to more exposure to MDC and awareness of opportunities available is the growth of dual enrollment, Dr. Harrison explained. For instance, during this summer term, MDC has almost reached its best enrollment headcount figure in the last five years with 3,197 during summer 2022 compared to 3,373 during summer 2017.

The fall 2021 dual enrollment headcount was 9,425 compared to 8,597 for fall 2020.

“With the optimization of our dual enrollment admission process, the establishment of a one-stop dual enrollment portal, and the targeted outreach to school leaders and CAP advisors, we expect our fall 2022 dual enrollment to surpass that of fall 2021,” Dr. Harrison said.

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