

Trends

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A Research Newsletter Prepared by the Office of Enrollment, Planning and Public Affairs

Profile of CSB and SJU Students, Fall 2008.

Each fall the College of St. Benedict and Saint John's University survey new entering students. The *New Entering Student Survey* provides the colleges with an opportunity to identify student characteristics, experiences, and expectations. This issue of *Trends* examines the personal characteristics and aspirations of our new students.

Self Confidence

Eighty-seven percent of new entering students at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University rated their abilities as above average or in the highest 10% in relation to their peers. However, men and women evaluated their abilities differently. Similar to responses in recent years, new SJU students rated their leadership ability, intellectual self-confidence and social self-confidence higher than new CSB students. For the first time since the survey's inception in fall 2004 both women and men rated themselves equally in academic ability. The highest achieving students also rated their academic ability and intellectual self-confidence most highly.

New Saint Benedict students in fall 2008 rated themselves higher than women attending highly selective, private institutions nationally in academic ability, leadership ability, intellectual self-confidence and social self-confidence. Similarly, ratings of leadership ability, intellectual self-confidence and social self-confidence among new SJU students were higher than national averages for men attending highly selective, private colleges nationally.

Percent of New Entering Students Rating Themselves as Above Average or in the Top 10% Versus their Peers at Highly Selective, Private Colleges Nationally				
	CSB	Women*	SJU	Men*
Academic Ability	87%	86%	87%	89%
Leadership Ability	68%	66%	76%	70%
Intellectual Self-Confidence	70%	62%	76%	76%
Social Self-Confidence	58%	50%	63%	57%

Source: NESS, 2008, CIRP Survey of American Freshman

New Students Post Graduate Aspirations

Forty-three percent of our new entering students intend to pursue full-time employment immediately after graduation: 41% intend to enroll in graduate school, 7% plan to volunteer and 2% indicated that they would like to pursue military service. Regarding the highest level of degrees they plan to obtain, more women than men indicated that they planned to obtain Master's degrees (43% vs. 37%). New CSB and SJU students were equally likely to indicate an interest in a doctoral degree (17% vs. 16%). However, men were somewhat more likely than women to indicate interest in professional degrees such as MD's, JD's, DDS's, etc. (19% vs. 14%).

New CSB Students:

- 43% plan to pursue Master's Degrees.
- 64% plan to Study Abroad through CSB/SJU.

New SJU Students:

- 37% plan to pursue Master's Degrees.
- 41% Plan to Study Abroad through CSB/SJU.

Diversity:

- 5.7% International Students.
- 6.7% American students of color.

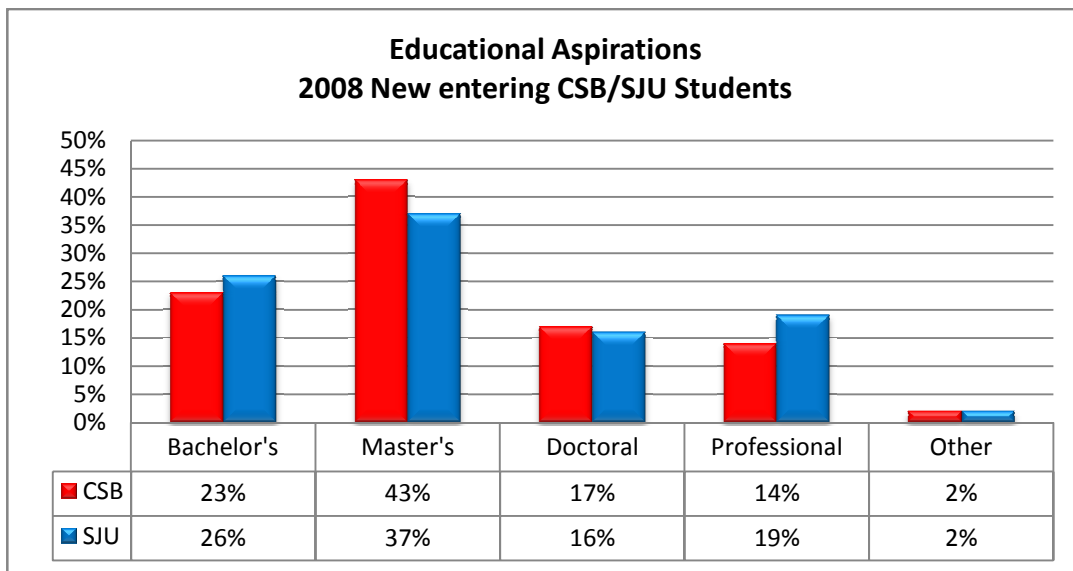
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Institutional Planning and
Research

COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY



Source: NESS, 2008.

Global Minded

The new entering class of 2008 is well-traveled. More than four in ten new students said they had traveled or studied outside the United States while in high school. More incoming young women (47%) than men (37%) traveled abroad while in high school, a trend which continues in college. Reports in previous New Entering Student Surveys have pointed towards women indicating a higher aspiration to study abroad than men. This trend continued for the Fall 2008 new entering class. Sixty-four percent of new entering CSB students last fall indicated a very good chance of studying abroad in college, compared to 41% of new entering SJU students.

Fully seven in ten new entering students reported that opportunities to study internationally were an important factor in their college selection process, and 86% of students rated these opportunities as very good or excellent at Saint Benedict and Saint John's. It is not surprising that eight in 10 new Saint Benedict and Saint John's students indicated there was at least some chance they would participate in a study abroad program at CSB/SJU.

Study abroad participation rates at CSB/SJU continue to be significantly higher than national averages. This percent is higher than those reported at highly selective private colleges nationally, where approximately 44% of new students expected to study abroad.

Student Body Profile

The geographic profile of new entering students was nearly identical for both CSB and SJU. The new class last fall was more geographically diverse than the prior year, including students from four additional states. The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University enrolled a total of 980 new students (CSB 519) and (SJU 461) from 27 states and 16 foreign countries in fall 2008.

At CSB, non-Minnesota students made up 18% of all new entering students. International students comprised 5.8% of new students. At SJU, non-Minnesotans made up 20% of all new students and international students 5.6%. A large portion of the new entering students came from Minnesota. Students from Minnesota made up 81% of all new first-year students in fall 2008. Fully four in 10 Minnesota students came from the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area and 15% came from Central Minnesota (Stearns, Sherburne and Benton counties.)

The ethnic makeup of the new entering class consisted of 65 new American students of color. Students of color represented 6.7% of all new entering students the highest combined percentage ever at CSB/SJU. Since fall 2002, enrollment of new entering students of color has increased by approximately 47%. There also has been a significant increase in the number of new entering international students as well. International students comprised 5.7% (56 students) of all new entering CSB/SJU students in the fall of 2008, compared to 3.8% (40 students) a year ago. The total number of new entering international students at CSB and SJU has risen by more than 50 percent since fall 2002.

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