

Trends

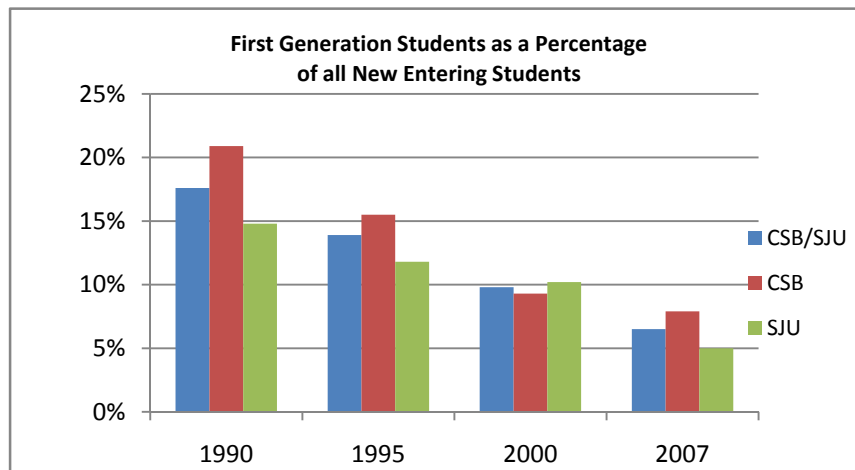
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First Generation College Students at CSB and SJU

First-generation college students (those whose parents have no education beyond high school) will be one of the fastest growing segments of the traditional college-age population for at least the next decade, both regionally and nationally. They will be highly concentrated among students of color, and many will be new immigrants to the United States.

Similar to experiences at many other private and public colleges across the country, the family educational profile of the student population at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University has gentrified significantly over the last 15 years. Today, first-generation students represent just 6.5% of all new entering CSB/SJU students (5% at SJU and 8% at CSB), compared to nearly 20% in fall 1990.



The data that follow summarize some of the key family and educational characteristics of new entering first-generation students at CSB and SJU in fall 2007 – comparing them to students who have parents with at least some post-secondary education.

Family Characteristics

- First-generation students at CSB and SJU report lower family incomes than their peers with college-educated parents. The median family income reported by new first-generation students last fall totaled \$47,400, compared to \$98,400 for all other students (and nearly \$113,000 for students from families where both parents had earned at least a baccalaureate degree – who collectively comprised almost half of all new entering CSB/SJU students last fall).
- First-generation students are much more likely than all other students to express concern about their ability to finance a CSB or SJU education. More than 1 in 5 new first-generation students last fall said that they had “major” concerns about their ability to pay for their education at the College of Saint Benedict or Saint John's University compared to 11% of all other students. The average first-generation student last fall could afford to pay less than 15% of the total cost of education at CSB and SJU (as derived from the FAFSA).

The educational profile of our student body – and at four-year colleges around the country – has gentrified significantly in the last two decades.

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COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict

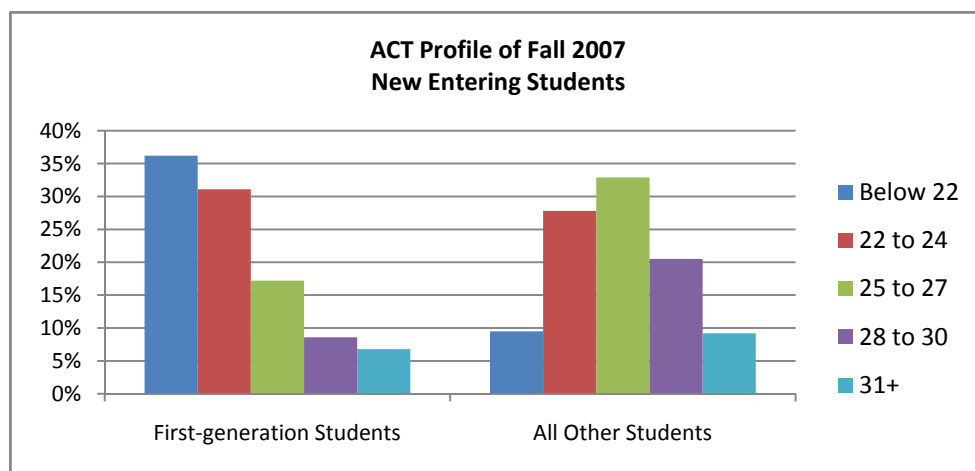


Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

- Nearly 4 in 10 new entering first-generation students at CSB and SJU last fall was either an American student of color or an international student – compared to less than 10% of all students whose parents had been to college. In total, almost one-third of first generation students at Saint Benedict and Saint John’s are non-white. First-generation students made up approximately one-third of all new students of color at CSB and SJU last fall.
- New first-generation students are somewhat more likely to come from outside of Minnesota than all other students. Last fall, more than one-quarter of all new first-generation students at CSB and SJU were from another state or country, compared to only 18% of all other students. Among those from Minnesota, more than half (53%) live outside of the seven county Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Academic Characteristics and Expectations

- More than three-quarters of all new first-generation students last fall indicated that CSB or SJU was their first choice college – a response similar to all other students. In spite of their concerns about their ability to pay for their education here, most first-generation students expect to complete their degree at the College of Saint Benedict or Saint John’s University. More than one-third said there was “no chance” they would transfer to another college prior to completing their degree, and only 15% said there was even “some chance” they would transfer.
- Though first-generation students reported similar high school grade point averages to their peers (3.62 vs. 3.74 for all other students), the mean ACT score among new first-generation students was lower than scores submitted by students whose parents had at least some college – 23 vs. 25.8. Still, more than half (55%) said there is a very good chance they will earn at least a “B” average at CSB or SJU (and another 44% said there is at least some chance they will earn a “B” average). New first-generation students at CSB and SJU also were significantly less likely than all other students to indicate that they likely would change their academic major (less than half of all first-generation students said there is even a small chance they will change their academic major, compared to almost two-thirds of all other students).



- First-generation students are as likely as all other students to expect to be satisfied with their CSB/SJU experience. And, in spite of what may be significant differences in their family backgrounds, they overwhelmingly indicate that they expect to develop close friendships with other students here.
- First-generation and non-first-generation students share similar overall degree aspirations. Approximately three-quarters of each group expects to eventually earn a graduate or professional degree. However, while students whose parents have at least some college education are more than three times as likely to pursue a professional degree (MD, JD, DDS, etc.) – 18% vs. 5% – first-generation students are twice as likely as all other students to indicate that they plan to pursue a doctoral degree (30% vs. 15%).