

Fall 2006 Undergraduate Enrollment Summary

**Prepared by the
Office of Institutional Planning and Research**

September 2006

COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict

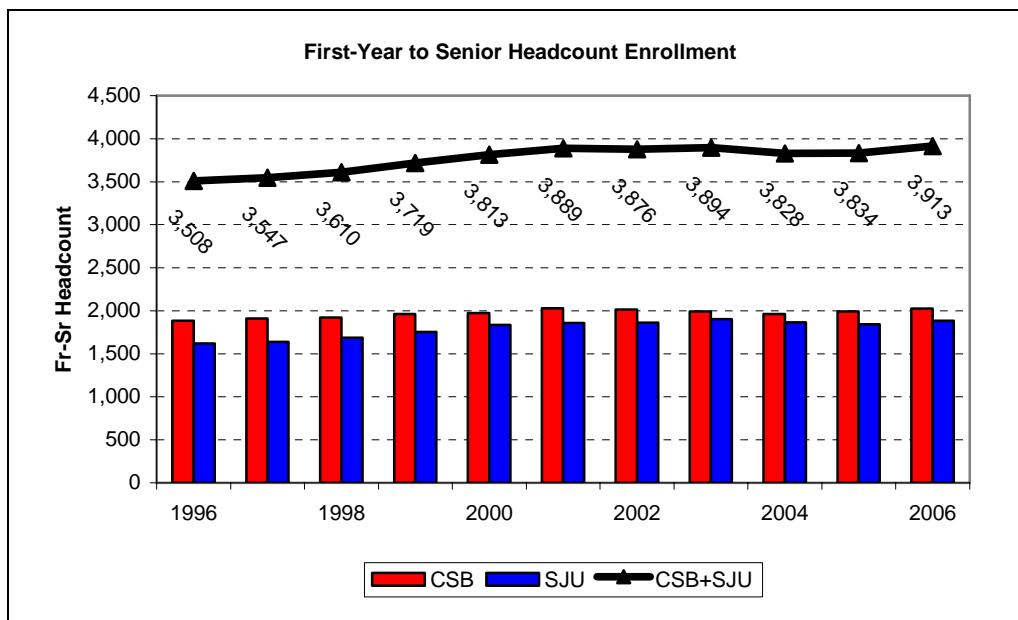


Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

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The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University together enrolled 3,913 first-year to senior students this fall, the first time enrollment has exceeded 3,900. Undergraduate enrollment totaled 2,013 at CSB and 1,886 at SJU. Combined enrollment of new first-year students totaled 1,046, compared to 1,023 last year. This fall's new entering class was the largest ever.



Enrollment highlights

Total first-year to senior enrollment at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in fall 2006 was 2.2 percent greater (23 students) than in fall 2005. With a combined undergraduate enrollment of 3,913, CSB/SJU is the largest liberal arts college in the nation. Among Minnesota's private colleges, only the University of St. Thomas will enroll more undergraduate students this fall.

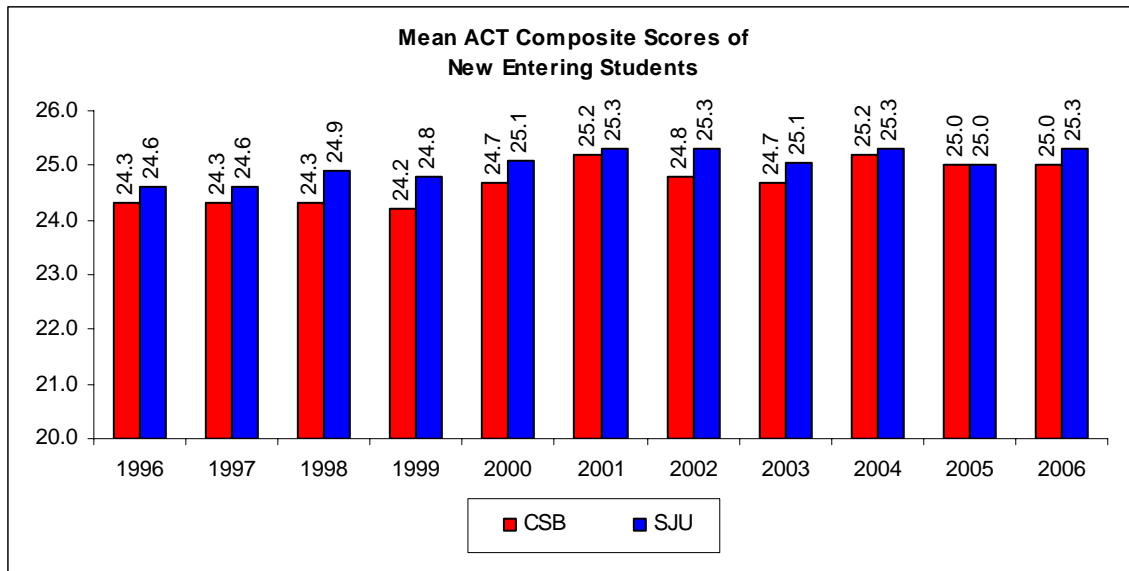
Final fall 2006 enrollment figures for Minnesota's private colleges are not yet available. However, preliminary data indicate that first-time new entering student enrollment will rise by less than one-half percent this year over last year, the smallest increase since fall 2000. The slight increase is due to an increase in male enrollment (six percent) – a gain sufficient to offset a four percent decline in female enrollment. Enrollment of men at private colleges in Minnesota this fall is expected to reach 3,800 (the highest ever), while female enrollment will drop by nearly four percent to 5,000. Enrollment of new entering female students at private colleges dropped even though female applications for admission increased by four percent. Applications for admission from men rose by five percent. Women will comprise 57 percent of all new entering private college students this fall, compared to 59 percent in fall 2005.

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University together will enroll nearly 12 percent of all new entering private college students in Minnesota in fall 2006, a market share that has remained virtually unchanged over the last five years.

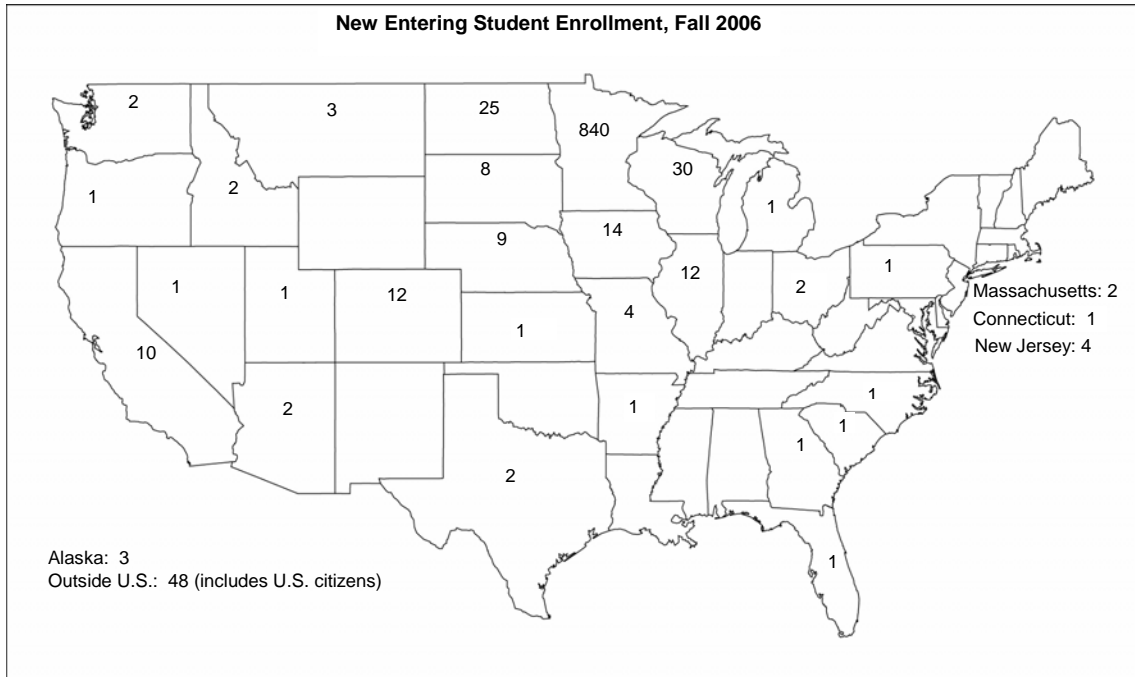
New Entering Class Profile

The new entering class is nearly identical in academic quality to last year’s entering class but is more geographically and racially and ethnically diverse. In total, American students of color and international students made up more than 10 percent of all new students this fall, the highest percentage ever at CSB/SJU. Both institutions exceeded their new student, diversity and retention goals.

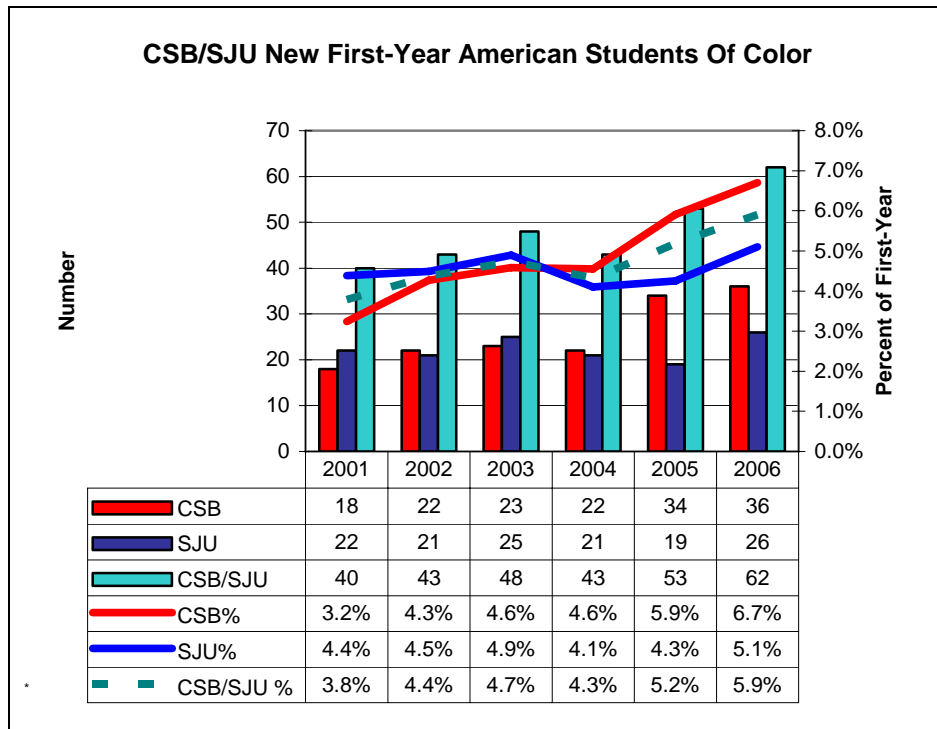
- The mean ACT college entrance exam score among new entering CSB/SJU students was 25, identical to the average for the last five years. The average ACT score placed new Saint Benedict and Saint John’s students among the top 20 percent of all test-takers nationally. Nearly 1 in 5 new CSB/SJU students (17 percent) reported ACT scores that were in the top five percent nationally.



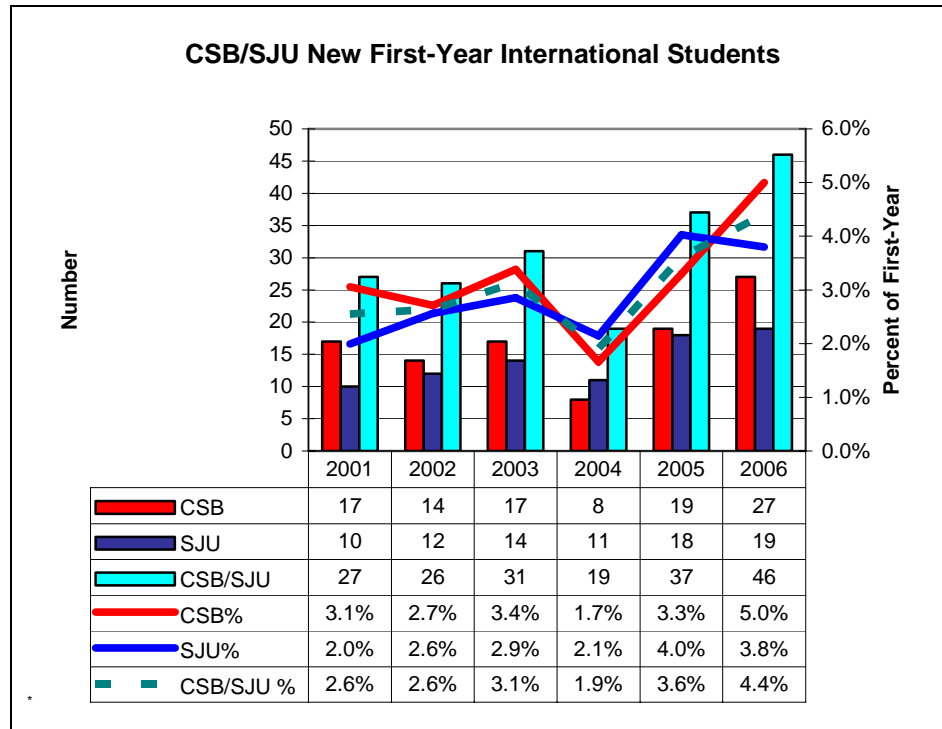
- The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John’s University enrolled new students from 32 states and 17 foreign countries this fall. Students from Minnesota made up 80 percent of all new first-year students – the lowest proportion in the last 15 years. Almost half of all Minnesota students came from the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. Students from Central Minnesota (Stearns, Sherburne, and Benton counties) made up 16 percent of all new Minnesota-resident students.



- American students of color made up 5.9 percent (62 students) of all new entering CSB/SJU students this fall, compared to 5.2 percent (53 students) in fall 2005. *Strategic Directions 2010* directs the colleges to increase enrollment of students of color to six percent of total undergraduate enrollment by 2010. Since fall 2001, enrollment of new entering students of color has increased by 55 percent.

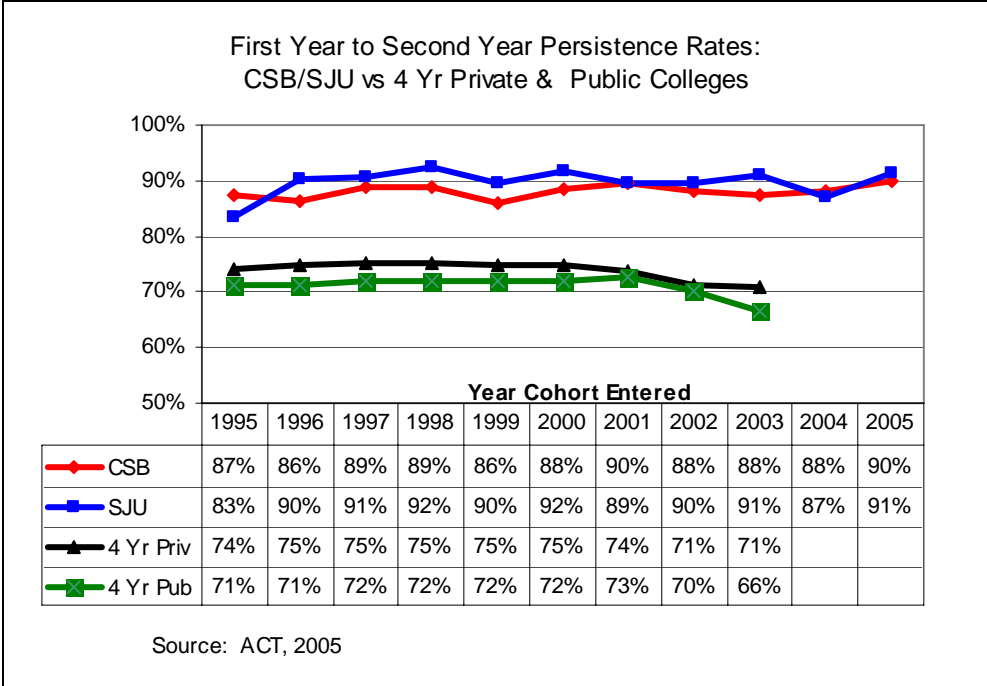


- International students comprised 4.4 percent (46 students) of all new entering CSB/SJU students this fall, compared to 3.6 percent (37 students) a year ago. New international student enrollment this fall is the highest it has been in ten years – and has grown by 70 percent since 2001. Among Minnesota’s private colleges, only Macalester College enrolls more international students than CSB/SJU.



Retention Summary

The first-year to second-year retention rate, an important indicator of academic quality and student satisfaction, remained very high this fall (90 percent of first-year students in fall 2005 returned for their second year this fall). Since 1997, first-year to second-year retention rates at CSB/SJU have averaged nearly 90 percent, significantly higher than averages for public and private colleges locally and nationally, and similar to rates for the most selective liberal arts colleges in the country. Retention rates at Saint Benedict and Saint John’s rank in the top quartile of Minnesota’s private colleges. Overall retention, measuring the return rate among all continuing students, increased at both institutions: by three percentage points at CSB to 75 percent and by two percentage points at SJU to 75 percent. Year-to-year retention rates at CSB/SJU are among the highest in the country.



For additional information about fall 2006 10th day undergraduate enrollment, please contact Karen Knutson in the Office of Institutional Planning and Research at kknutson@csbsju.edu or at 5922. For information about fall term enrollment at the Saint John’s School of Theology•Seminary, please contact Brendan Duffy at the School of Theology at bduffy@csbsju.edu.