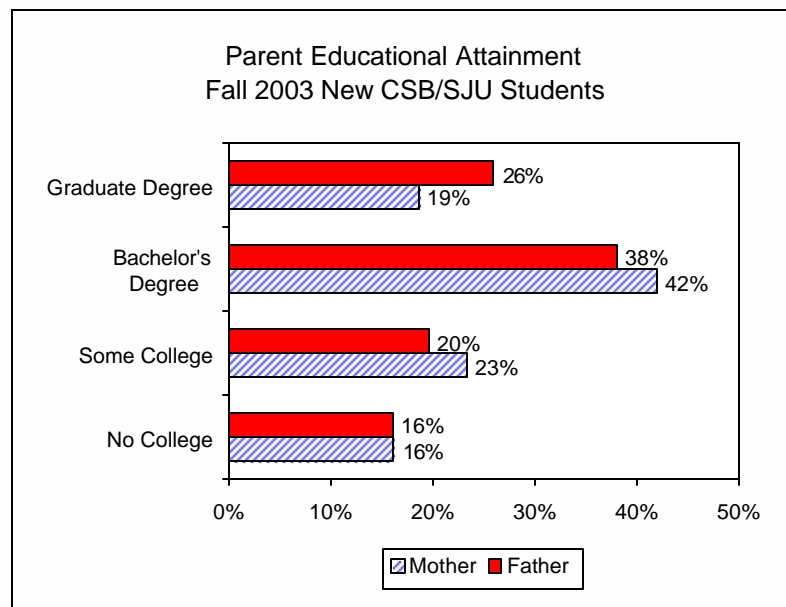


The typical new CSB/SJU student comes from a highly educated, middle- or upper-middle income family

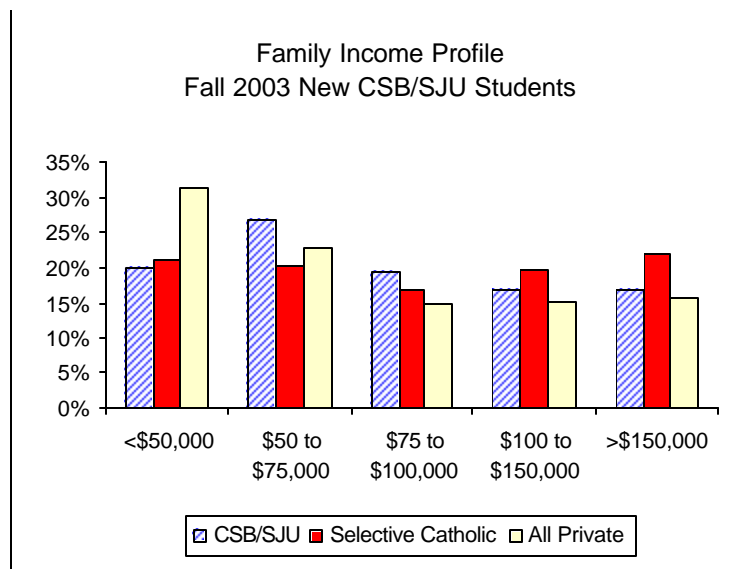
Educational, Occupational, and Income Profile of new CSB/SJU Students

Parent Educational Attainment. New Saint Benedict and Saint John's students today typically come from highly educated families. Last fall, 49% of all new CSB/SJU students reported that both of their parents had earned at least a baccalaureate degree. Only 8% said that neither parent had any education beyond high school (compared to 20% in fall 1990). In total, almost two-thirds of all new Saint Benedict and Saint John's students report that at least one of their parents has earned a baccalaureate degree. As has been the case for many years, Saint John's students come from families with higher levels of education than Saint Benedict students. In fall 2003, 54% of all new SJU students indicated that both parents had a college degree, compared to 44% of all new CSB students. In general, CSB/SJU students come from more highly educated families than their private college peers across the country.



Parent Occupation Profile. The overwhelming majority of new CSB/SJU students – 86% – come from families where both parents are in the labor force. Business occupations are the most commonly reported occupations among parents of new Saint Benedict and Saint John's students. In fall 2003, 45% of all new entering students indicated that their mother or father was employed in a business-related occupation. An additional 20% reported that one or both of their parents was a teacher or college professor. The parent occupational profile reported by our students is similar to what is reported by private college students nationally.

Family Income Profile. Reflecting both the educational profile and the occupational status of their parents, new Saint Benedict and Saint John's students typically come from middle-income or upper-middle-income families. In fall 2003, the median family income of new CSB/SJU students was approximately \$80,900, higher than the median reported by students at private and Catholic four-year colleges nationally (\$70,000), but lower than the median reported by students enrolled at highly selective Catholic colleges across the country (\$86,000). Since 1992, median family income among new CSB/SJU students has risen by nearly 70% (in nominal dollars). The median income for new Saint Benedict and Saint John's students is approximately 10% higher than median four-person family income in Minnesota, estimated at \$72,635 in 2001.



Paying for College. The rate of increase in college tuition has drawn increasing popular and Congressional attention and scrutiny. However, only 1 in 8 new CSB/SJU students last fall reported they had major concerns about their ability to pay for college. Nearly 1 in 5 CSB students, and fully one-third of SJU students, indicated they had no concerns about their (or their family's) ability to finance their college education. Not surprisingly, students from lower income families expressed more concern about paying for college than those from higher income families. Even so, only one-quarter of all new students with family incomes under \$50,000 expressed major concern about paying for their CSB or SJU education.

The percentage of new students indicating serious concerns about how to finance their education has decreased in the last two decades, even though tuition has increased significantly faster than average income. New students in 1984 were twice as likely as new students in 2003 to report major concern about their ability to pay for college, even though tuition increased by nearly five times over that same period. That most students today do not report significant concerns about how to pay for their Saint Benedict or Saint John's education reflects not only the effect of a rising family income profile, but also the impact of institutional grant aid, which has increased at twice the rate of tuition in the last decade alone.

Family Support for College Expenses. Parents of new Saint Benedict and Saint John's students are significantly more likely to help finance their children's college education than parents of students at private or Catholic colleges nationally. Last fall, more than 90% of all new entering CSB/SJU students reported that their parents were paying for at least a portion of their college costs. More than half indicated that their family's contribution would total more than \$6,000 during the 2003-04 academic year. By comparison, 1 in 5 private and Catholic college students nationally said their parents were providing no financial support, and less than half reported family support of more than \$6,000.

New CSB and SJU students also expect to contribute significantly more from their own resources (principally savings and work) than private college students nationally. Last fall, more than 90% of all new CSB/SJU students said they expected to finance a portion of their educational expenses from work earnings or savings. More than one-third expected to contribute at least \$3,000. Nationally, only 11% of all new students at private four-year colleges said they expected to contribute \$3,000 or more from work or savings, and an astonishing 40% said they planned to contribute nothing. Not surprisingly, private college students nationally are much more likely to indicate a preference for borrowing than CSB/SJU students.

For additional information, please contact Jon McGee at 5287 or at jmcgee@csbsju.edu. If you would like to read past issues of *Trends*, please visit our website at <http://www.csbsju.edu/institutionalresearch/Trends/trends.htm>.