

Trends

July 2006
Vol. 6, Issue 14

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

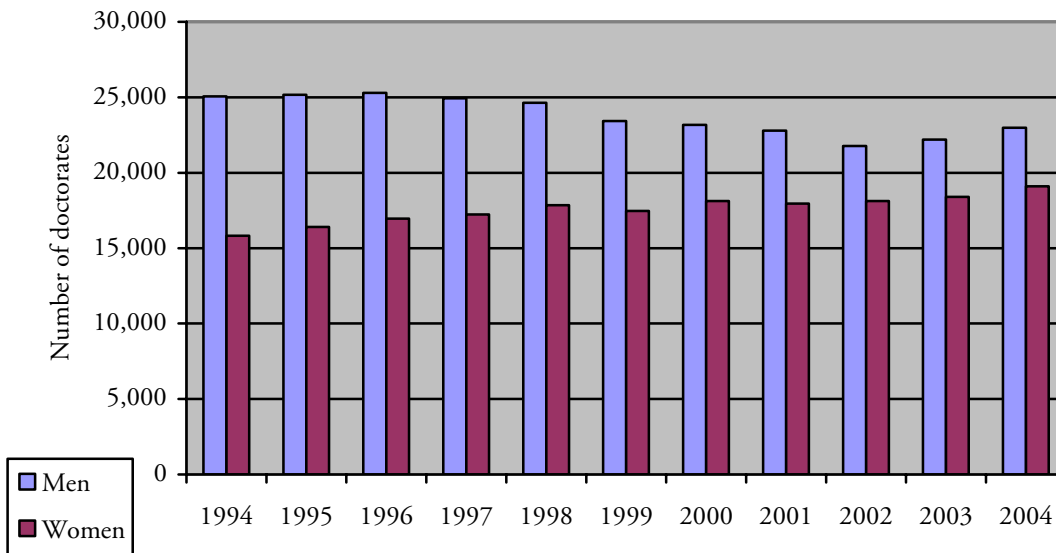
Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities by Gender

National Trends

During the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2004, United States universities awarded 42,155 research doctorate degrees. This represents a 3.4% increase over the previous year, though it is still lower than the all-time high of 42,647 in 1998. Over the last four decades, the number of doctorates granted by U. S. universities has increased by approximately 3.5% per year. The expansion has been characterized by two periods of rapid growth and a few slight declines. Since 1998, the number of doctorates awarded each year has generally declined, reaching a low point in 2002 but showing increases in 2003 and 2004.

The 3.4% overall increase in doctorates awarded reflects increases among both men and women. In 2004, females earned 45% of all doctorates, a percentage virtually unchanged from 2003. In the last thirty years, the percentage of Ph.D.s awarded to women has doubled, though it has leveled off in recent years. Five years ago (1999) females comprised 43% of all doctorate recipients; 10 years ago (1994) they comprised 39%, and 30 years ago (1974) 20%.

Doctorate recipients, by gender, 1994-2004



The proportion of doctorates earned by women has grown steadily within all broad fields of study. Women continue to represent higher proportions of doctoral recipients in education, humanities, and social sciences while representing lower proportions in engineering and the physical sciences. In 2004, females constituted 29% of science and engineering doctorate recipients and 57% of those in non-science and engineering fields.

The number of men earning doctorates decreased throughout most of the last decade, although the number has been rising since 2002. As indicated on the national *The American Freshman* survey, freshmen male interest in obtaining doctorates sagged between 1975 and 1985, perhaps contributing to the lower number of doctorates earned by men throughout the late 1990s. In contrast, freshmen female interest in earning doctorates grew steadily throughout the last thirty years.

While women earned 45% of all doctorates awarded last year, significant gender gaps persist in engineering and physical sciences.

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COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

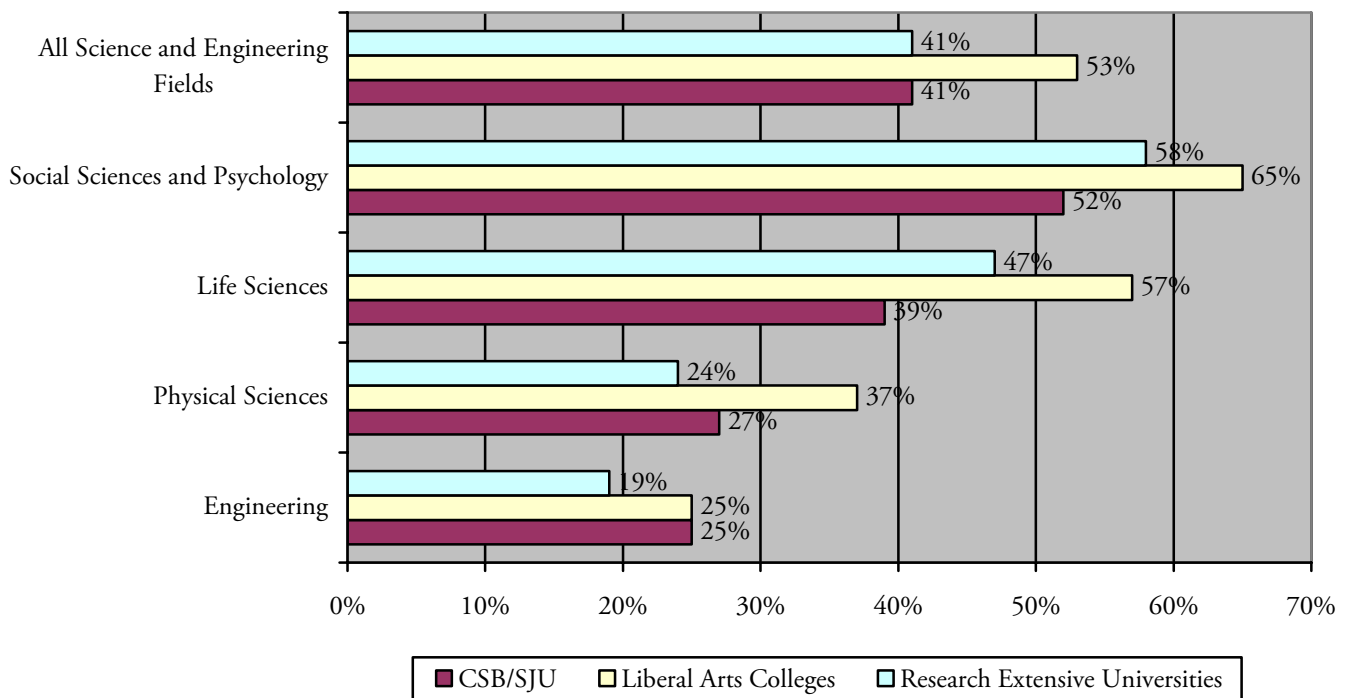
Trends at CSB/SJU

The number of CSB/SJU graduates earning doctoral degrees has increased over the past thirty years. Following national trends, the number of doctorates earned peaked in 1998 and has generally declined since. Although the numbers earning doctorates are small and vary from year to year, all of the growth throughout the past three decades has occurred among CSB graduates. More Saint John's University alumni than College of Saint Benedict alumnae continue to earn doctorates each year, but the gap has narrowed considerably since the mid-1970s. Forty-nine CSB alumnae and 73 SJU alumni earned doctorates between 2000 and 2004. Overall, about 4% of living CSB alumnae hold a doctorate degree, compared to 13% of living SJU alumni. (Degree attainment reflects only those with known degrees. These data likely will understate actual alumni degree attainment.)

Both Saint Benedict alumnae and Saint John's alumni are less likely to earn doctoral graduate degrees than students graduating from other private colleges in Minnesota. Dividing the number of doctorate degrees received by alumnae/i in 2000-2004 by the total undergraduate enrollment in the same period yields percentages of 0.5% at CSB (compared to 0.8% of women at Minnesota's private colleges) and 0.8% at SJU (compared to 1.1% of men at Minnesota's private colleges).

The gender balance among College of Saint Benedict alumnae and Saint John's University alumni receiving doctoral degrees also lags national averages. Among CSB/SJU alumnae/i, 40% of doctorate recipients in all fields were women, compared to 45% women for doctorate recipients nationally. The gap in gender balance is most pronounced when CSB/SJU are compared to other liberal arts colleges. In all fields – and especially the physical sciences, where the percentage of women has historically been the smallest – liberal arts colleges sent a higher percentage of women on to get Ph.D.'s than did doctoral institutions. While CSB/SJU are on par with research extensive universities (e.g. University of Minnesota) in the proportion of doctorates earned by women in science and engineering fields, the institutions lag liberal arts colleges nationally in the proportion of doctorates earned by female graduates in the social sciences, life sciences, and physical sciences. CSB/SJU do confer comparable percentages of science and math degrees to women as other top-ranking liberal arts schools, but those young women are not pursuing doctoral degrees at comparable rates.

Proportion of Doctorates in Science and Engineering Earned by Women, 2000-2004



All data comes from the *Survey of Earned Doctorates*. National data was taken from *Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities: Summary Report 2004*, released by the National Opinion Research Center and available online at <http://www.norc.uchicago.edu/issues/sed-2004.pdf>. Institutional data was accessed at <http://webcaspar.nsf.gov>. For additional information, please contact Kathryn Enger at 5452 (kenger@csbsju.edu). If you would like to read past issues of *Trends*, please visit our website at <http://www.csbsju.edu/institutionalresearch/trends/>.