

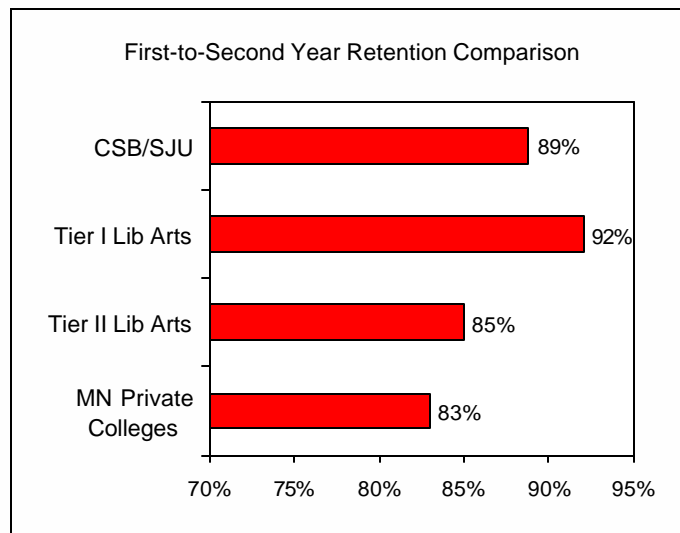
CSB and SJU enrolled 12% of all first-time new entering private college students in Minnesota this fall.

Fall 2004 Enrollment Largest Ever

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University together enrolled 3,894 first-year to senior students this fall, the largest combined enrollment in the colleges' history. Saint John's enrollment of 1,903 undergraduate students is the second highest total ever at the University and almost 13% more than enrollment in fall 1998. First-time new entering student enrollment at CSB/SJU totaled 992 this fall, a figure similar to entering class totals since fall 1999. Though enrollment data for Minnesota's private colleges have not yet formally been reported, it appears that first-time new student enrollment for the 17 members of the Minnesota Private College Council will rise by nearly 2% this fall over fall 2002.

Enrollment Highlights

- Total first-year to senior enrollment at CSB/SJU this fall rose by .4% (18 students) over fall 2002. Since fall 1994, combined undergraduate enrollment has risen by almost 16%. In Minnesota, only the University of St. Thomas enrolls more undergraduate students than the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University.
- First-year to second-year retention rates remained very high (89%). Since 1998, first-year to second-year retention rates at CSB/SJU have averaged nearly 90%, significantly higher than averages for private and public colleges both locally and nationally, and similar to rates for the most highly selective colleges in the country.



Source: US News and World Report, 2003

- The mean ACT college entrance exam score among new entering CSB and SJU students this fall was 24.9, nearly identical to the average for the last five years. Mean ACT scores among new students have risen significantly since 1990 (when the average score was 22.5). The gap between the average ACT score for new entering CSB/SJU students and the average for all Minnesota and national test-takers has more than doubled since 1990.
- The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University enrolled new entering students

from 25 states and 15 foreign countries this fall. Colorado was the largest source of non-Minnesota students. In total, 26 new entering students this fall came from Colorado. Students from Minnesota made up 81% of all new first-year students, their lowest share of total enrollment in a decade. Among new entering Minnesota resident students, 46% came from the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, the highest percentage since fall 2000. Students from Stearns, Sherburne, and Benton counties provided nearly 18% of all new Minnesota students, their highest share since fall 1998.

- For the first time ever, more than half of all new students at both CSB and SJU reported a family connection to one or the other college, most often a parent or sibling. The percentage of students indicating an alumni or alumnae family connection to the colleges has increased consistently throughout the last decade.
- American multicultural students made up 4.7% of all new entering CSB/SJU students this fall, the highest percentage in ten years. In addition, international students comprised 3.1% of all new students, also their highest share in a decade.
- This fall, CSB and SJU together enrolled approximately 12% of all new entering private college students in Minnesota, a market share nearly identical to the average for the last five years. No other private college enrolled as many new entering male students as Saint John's, and only the University of St. Thomas and Concordia College enrolled more new entering women than Saint Benedict.
- Approximately 68% of all new entering students this fall identified themselves as Roman Catholic. Fewer than 10% indicated no religious preference. The most common religious preference after Catholicism was Lutheran. Almost 12% of all new students identified themselves as Lutheran. The percentage of CSB/SJU students who are Catholic has declined dramatically in the last 25 years. In 1980, fully nine in ten new students indicated that they were Catholic. As recently as 1995, more than three-quarters of all new Saint Benedict and Saint John's students identified themselves as Catholic. Today, the percentage of CSB/SJU students who are Catholic is similar to the percentage at highly selective Catholic four-year colleges nationally.

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