

Trends

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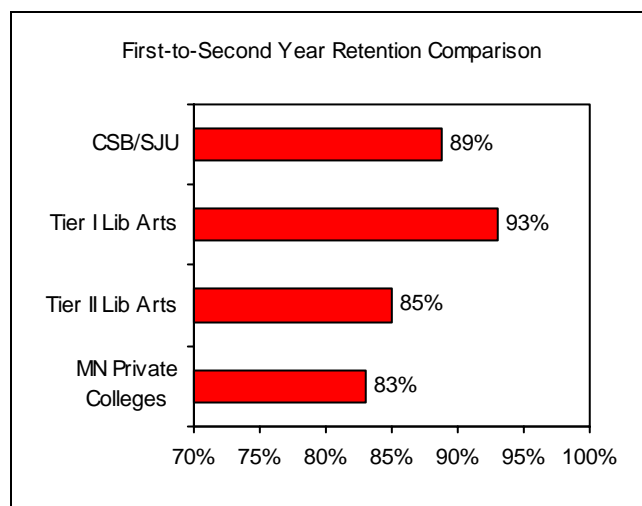
A Research Newsletter Prepared by the Office of Institutional Planning, Research, and Communication

Fall 2004 Enrollment Summary

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University together enrolled 3,828 first-year to senior students this fall, the fifth consecutive year total combined undergraduate enrollment has exceeded 3,800 students. Enrollment of new first-year students totaled 995, nearly identical to the total last year and similar to entering class totals since fall 1999. Enrollment data for Minnesota's private colleges have not yet been reported. However, preliminary data indicate that first-time new student enrollment will rise by less than 1% this year over last year, the smallest increase since fall 2000.

Enrollment highlights

- Total first-year to senior enrollment at CSB/SJU this fall was 1.7% less (66 students) than in fall 2003. The decline was shared at both Saint Benedict and Saint John's. Total undergraduate enrollment declined by approximately 2% at each college. Both institutions had planned for smaller enrollment, and actual enrollment was within budgeted expectations. Though enrollment declined slightly at both the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, among Minnesota's private colleges, only the University of St. Thomas will enroll more undergraduate students this fall.
- The first-year to second-year retention rate, an important indicator of academic quality and satisfaction, remained very high this fall (89%). Since 1998, first-year to second-year retention rates at CSB/SJU have averaged nearly 90%, 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.



Source: US News and World Report, 2004

- Similar to the experience at most of Minnesota's private colleges, enrollment of new entering men was up at Saint John's (+4.5%), while the number of new entering women declined at Saint Benedict (-3.8%). New student enrollment was lower at CSB this fall even though applications for admission were 13% higher than the prior year – a strong indication of the competitive enrollment environment for high achieving female students. Applications for

The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University together enroll 12% of all new private college students in Minnesota.

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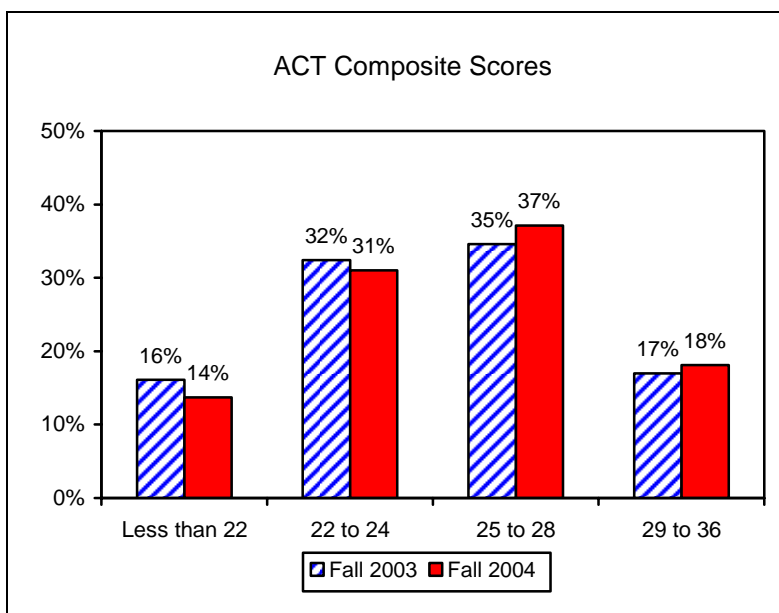
COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

admission to Minnesota's private colleges from prospective female students totaled more than 20,000 this year, an increase of almost 9% from the previous year and the highest number of female applications ever received by members of the Minnesota Private College Council. Nonetheless, enrollment of new entering female students at private colleges in the state is expected to be smaller in fall 2004 than in fall 2003. More than half of Minnesota's private colleges will enroll fewer new female students this fall than last fall. On the other hand, enrollment of new entering men is expected to top 3,500, the highest total ever at private colleges in the state.

- The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University together will enroll nearly 12% of all new entering private college students in Minnesota in fall 2004, a market share that has remained virtually unchanged over the last five years.
- The mean ACT college entrance exam score among new entering CSB/SJU students was 25.2, slightly higher than last year, but similar to the average for the last five years. The average ACT score placed new Saint Benedict and Saint John's students among the top 18% of all test-takers nationally. Nearly 1 in 5 new CSB/SJU students (18%) reported ACT scores that were in the top 5% nationally.



- The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University enrolled new students from 26 states and 14 foreign countries this fall. Students from Minnesota made up 84% of all new first-year students, a higher percentage than last year, but similar to the proportion for the last five years. Almost half of all Minnesota students came from the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, the highest percentage since fall 2000. Students from Central Minnesota (Stearns, Sherburne, and Benton counties) made up 17% of all new Minnesota-resident students.
- Nearly half of all new entering students this fall (49%) reported a family connection to one or the other college, most often a parent or sibling. Saint John's students were more likely than Saint Benedict students to report a legacy connection with the colleges (52% vs. 46%).
- American multicultural students made up 4.3% of all new entering CSB/SJU students in fall 2004, similar to the percentage a year ago. However, international students comprised just 1.9% of all new students, a significantly smaller percentage than a year ago, and a result likely to be common at colleges across the country as a result of world events and new legal requirements associated with international student enrollment. The new entering class this fall included only 19 international students, compared to 31 a year ago.

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