

Trends

September 2009
Vol. 10, Issue 1

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

Graduate Profile

In September, the CSB/SJU Office of Institutional Planning and Research released the findings of the Graduate Survey (*Post College Status of 2007-2008 CSB/SJU Graduates*). The CSB/SJU Career Services Office contacted all alumnae/i in the class of 2008 within twelve months of graduation and asked questions about their post graduation employment, education, volunteering or military service. The data was analyzed and compiled by the Office of Institutional Planning and Research in conjunction with the Office of Career Services.

The survey of 811 graduates (a 94% response rate) revealed that nearly all (99%) of the class of 2008 was employed, continuing education, volunteering full-time or serving in the military within one year of graduation.

Summary

The overwhelming majority of Saint Benedict and Saint John's students entered the labor force immediately after graduation. The job market for recent college graduates was very strong in 2008, according to the *National Association of Colleges and Employers' Job Outlook 2008 Spring Update*. In reporting completed before the economic downturn, surveyed employers said they planned to hire 16% more new college graduates that year, marking the fifth consecutive year of employers projecting double-digit increases. Hiring expectations were particularly strong in the Midwest as employers anticipated hiring 25% more college students that year.

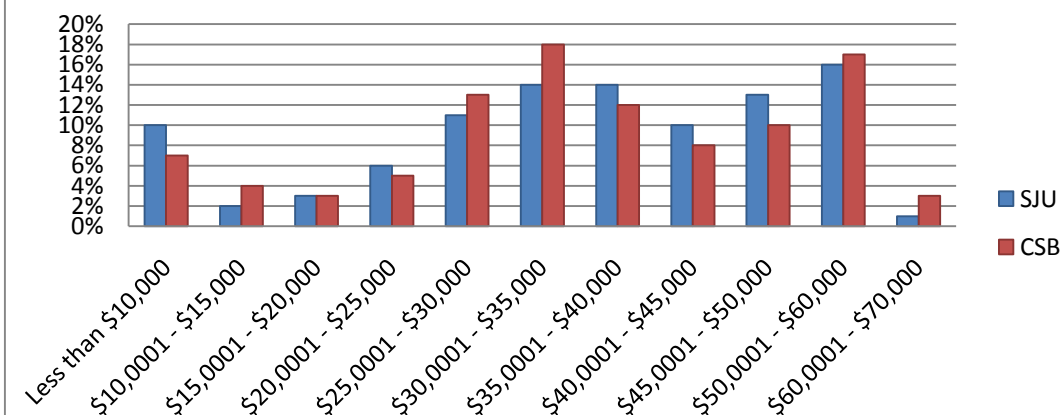
Graduates Employed Full-time

Over 75% of CSB/SJU graduates entered the workforce within one year of graduation. United Health Group employed more 2008 CSB/SJU graduates than any other company with a total of 19. Target Corporation, who employed the most CSB/SJU graduates in 2007, also was a top employer, hiring 18 graduates. The United States Army, Saint Cloud Hospital and General Mills rounded out the top five. CSB/SJU graduates fared much better than their peers across the country, with less than 1% of 2008 graduates still seeking additional employment one year after graduation. Nationally, almost 5% of females and 6.4% of males 20-to-24 years old were unemployed.¹

Nearly all (99%) of the class of 2008 was employed, continuing education, volunteering full-time or serving in the military within one year after graduation

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**Annual Income Ranges of 2008 CSB/SJU Graduates
Working Full Time**



COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



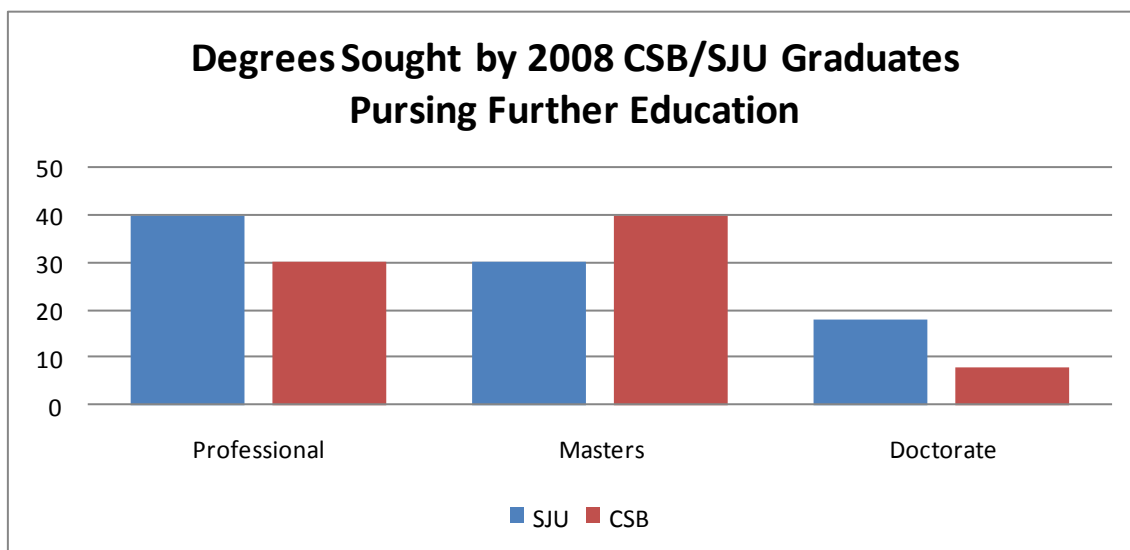
Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

2008 CSB/SJU graduates reported higher annual incomes than in the past. CSB graduates (18%) most frequently reported incomes between \$30,001 and \$35,000 annually. Forty-two 2008 CSB graduates, a significantly greater number than 2007 (26), reported incomes over \$50,000, an increase of 60% in that income bracket compared to last year. SJU graduates (16%) most frequently reported annual incomes between \$50,001 and \$60,000, a significant change compared to 2007, when the most frequently reported annual salaries were \$30,000-40,000 (35%).

Alumnae/i reported employment in a variety of occupational fields. Employment in private sector occupations was the most common choice among graduates, with 45% of men and 29% of women choosing to work for private businesses or organizations. Eight percent of CSB and SJU graduates reported working in the non-profit sector. Sixteen percent of women and one in ten men also worked in educational organizations.

Fully eight in 10 CSB and more than five in 10 SJU 2008 graduates reported working in Minnesota. CSB graduates were more likely to stay in Minnesota than their SJU colleagues. SJU graduates made choices similar to their colleagues at other private colleges, who were more likely to work out of state or abroad.²

Continuing Education



The percentage of CSB graduates who pursued continuing education (21%) within one year of graduation exceeded SJU graduates (15%) for the second consecutive year. Nearly forty percent of CSB students were seeking a Masters Degree, with 30% seeking professional degrees and 8% seeking doctorates. Forty percent of SJU students indicated they were seeking a professional degree, 30% a Masters Degree, and 18% doctoral degrees.

The highest percentages of graduates pursuing additional education were natural and social science majors. Over half of the 2008 graduates from CSB going on to graduate school majored in Biology (25%), Psychology (16%), Dietetics (7%) or English (7%). The most common majors for SJU students were Biology, Chemistry, Nutrition, Political Science, Psychology and Theology. Both CSB and SJU graduates pursuing graduate school had significantly higher grade point averages than their peers. The average for a CSB student pursuing graduate school was 3.48 compared to 3.38 overall, and 3.35 compared to 3.17 overall at SJU.

More than 80% of 2008 CSB/SJU students furthering their education were doing so full-time. The most common fields of study were medicine, law, dentistry, dietetics, optometry, chiropractics and school counseling. Similar to other Minnesota private college graduates, nearly one in five graduates who continue their education attend the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities.

Volunteering

More than 6% of all 2008 CSB/SJU graduates chose to volunteer after graduation. The rate of volunteerism between CSB and SJU students is approximately equal. Those choosing to volunteer after graduation reported a variety of disciplines including Spanish, English, Biology, Environmental Studies, Management, Peace Studies, Art and Political Science. Our graduates volunteer all around the world, from Minneapolis to Tanzania and Guatemala, often through The Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, and Benedictine Volunteer Corps. Rates of volunteerism one year post graduation have remained between 5% and 10% since 2004.

¹ Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *Digest of Education Statistics: 2008, Table 382*, "Unemployment rate of persons 16 years old and over, by age, sex, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment: 2005, 2006, and 2007" http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d08/tables/dt08_382.asp?referrer=list

² Comparative information for Minnesota's private colleges was available for 2006-2007 graduates only. Summary statistics for 2007-2008 graduates will be available sometime in the winter of 2009.