

Memorandum

TO: Members of the Saint Mary's College Community

FROM: Mark Figueroa, Director of Institutional Research

DATE: April 11, 2008

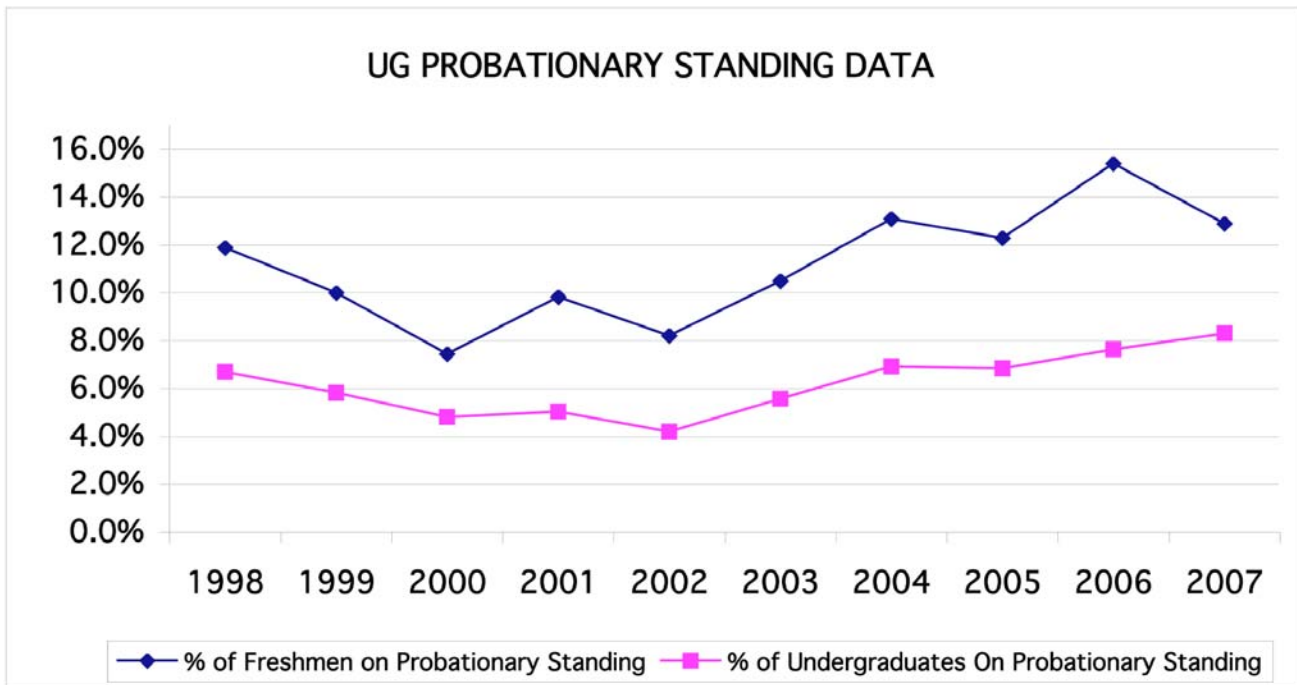
SUBJECT: Undergraduate Student Probationary Status, Fall 2007

Overall, 8.3% of the SMC undergraduate population (207/2504) is on probationary standing (term, major or cumulative GPA below 2.0) as of the end of the Fall 2007 Term, 2.5% higher than the 10-year average of 5.8%. For new first-year students (NFYS), the percentage on academic probation has ranged from a low of 7.4 % (46/618) in Fall 2000 to a high of 15.4% (94/610) for Fall 2006. For Fall 2007, this percentage dropped 2.3% to 13.1% (79/603*).

Table 1 UNDERGRADUATE PROBATIONARY STANDING DATA
END OF FALL TERM, 1998-2007

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total NFYS	572	620	618	580	645	562	611	675	610	603
NFYS on Probationary Standing	68	62	46	57	53	59	80	83	94	79
% of NFYS on Probationary Standing	11.9%	10.0%	7.4%	9.8%	8.2%	10.5%	13.1%	12.3%	15.4%	13.1%
Total Fall Enrollment	2283	2330	2492	2497	2572	2494	2440	2525	2489	2504
Undergraduates on Probationary Standing	153	136	120	126	108	139	169	173	190	207
% of Undergraduates On Probationary Standing	6.7%	5.8%	4.8%	5.0%	4.2%	5.6%	6.9%	6.9%	7.6%	8.3%

Chart 1 New First-Year Students on Probationary Standing, Fall 98 to Fall 07



First Term Performance

Overall, the NFYS class had an average High School GPA of 3.33 and an average SAT score of 1079. With respect to those students on academic probation, both male and female NFYS had lower average high school GPAs and total SAT scores compared to the overall NFYS. (Table 2)

Table 2 Fall 2007 New First Year Students on Probationary Standing, by Gender**

Gender	% of Total NFYS	% of NFYS on Probation	Mean Fall 2007 SMC GPA of NFYS on Probation	Mean High School GPA of NFYS on Probation	Mean SAT Scores of NTF on Probation
Female	61.2%	48%	1.47	2.90	967
Male	38.8%	52%	1.49	2.94	1012

** International and “non-reporting” students excluded.

More specifically, the data reveals that:

- Male students make up a higher percentage of students on probation (52%) as compared to their NFYS population (38.8%).
- Female NFYS on probation had a slightly lower high school GPA and lower total SAT score, as compared to Male NFYS.
- The term GPA of NFYS on probation was higher for both females and males (0.16 and 0.11) for the Fall 2007 term as compared to NFYS on probation in the Fall 2006 term.
- The mean High School GPA and SAT scores of NFYS on probation were higher for both females and males as compared to the NFYS on probation Fall 2006 term.

Background Characteristics

In an attempt to identify commonalities amongst NFYS on probationary standing, student background characteristics (High School GPA and SAT Scores) were analyzed. There appears to be no common “profile” for students who on probationary standing, though students on academic probation, on average, tend to have lower High School GPAs and SAT scores than the overall NFYS population. Table 3 provides a breakdown of high school GPA and SAT scores, by gender, for the overall NFYS population as well as those NFYS on probationary standing.

Table 3 Fall 2006 NFYS Comparative Data, by Gender & Academic Standing***

	Female, Total	Female, On Probation		Male, Total	Male, On Probation
HS GPA, Average	3.36	2.89		3.18	2.94
HS GPA, Minimum	2.27	2.33		2.3	2.03
HS GPA, Maximum	4.82	3.60		4.56	3.94
SAT Verbal, Average	524	480		536	500
SAT Verbal, Minimum	330	370		370	380
SAT Verbal, Maximum	770	590		800	690
SAT Math, Average	513	483		542	512
SAT Math, Minimum	330	360		320	380
SAT Math, Maximum	750	630		770	710

*** International and “non-reporting” students excluded.

NFYS on academic probation had average high school GPAs that ranged from 2.33 to 3.60 for females and 2.03 to 3.94 for males. SAT Verbal scores ranged from 370 to 590 for females and 380 to 690 for males. SAT Math scores ranged from 360 to 630 for females and 380 to 710 for males. The one commonality across both groups is, on average, students on probationary standing after their first term at SMC have lower average high school GPAs and lower SAT scores than the overall incoming class.

An additional inquiry was made as to the status of students who are part of the High Potential (HP) program. 40 NFYS are part of the HP program. Of those 40, 14 are on probationary standing after their first term. Table 4 contains comparative data between NFYS overall and NFYS who are in HP.

Table 4 Fall 2007 New First Year Students on Probationary Standing, by Gender and Admissions Status**

Gender	Mean High School GPA	Mean SAT Score Total
Female, Total	3.36	1037
Female, HP	2.70	908
Male, Total	3.18	1078
Male, HP	2.30	837

** International and “non-reporting” students excluded.

As the incoming first-year classes continue to diversify ethnically, particular attention was paid to subgroup differences for students on probationary standing. Table 5 provides data on the distribution of the NFYS by ethnic group.

Table 5 Breakdown of Fall 2007 NFYS on Probationary Standing, by Ethnicity

	Total Number of NFYS	% of NFYS Population		Total Number of NFYS on Probation	% of NFYS on probation	% of Total Ethnic Group on Probation
African American	29	4.7%		7	9%	24.1%
Native American	7	1.1%		0	0%	0%
Asian /Pacific Islander	67	11%		4	5.1%	6%
Latino	129	21.1%		21	26.6%	16.3%
White	344	56.3%		44	55.7%	12.8%
Other	35	5.7%		3	3.8%	8.6%
Total	611	100%		79	100%	12.9%

**Other includes International and “non-reporting” students.

From this table, the following data points are highlighted for the NFYS who began in Fall 2007:

- Approximately 13% of the class is on probationary standing - about 1 out of every 7 students. Or, 3 students in a Seminar class of 20.
- African-American students make up 4.7% of the class but represent 9% of students on probation.
- Latino students make up 21.1% of the class but represent 26.6% of the students on probation.
- Asian/Pacific Islander students make up 11% of the class, but represent only 5.1% of the students on probation.
- A proportionate number of White students are on probationary standing.

- Approximately 1 out of every 4 African Americans is on probationary standing, as compared to 1 out of every 8 Whites, similar to last year's figures. The ratio of Latino students decreased to 1 out of 6, from 1 out of 5 in 2006.

Mid-Term Grades

- Of the 79 students on academic probation, 72 had a D or F grade at Midterm. Of those, 30 had 2 or more D or F grades, 16 had 3 or more D or F grades, and 2 had 4 or more D or F grades. 24 had only 1 D or F grade.
- At the midterm grading period, these 79 students on probationary standing were enrolled for a total of 307 courses (1.0 unit courses only). 25 of those courses were dropped between midterm grading and the end of the term.
- Of the 282 courses which students completed, 112 had a grade of D or F at midterm. The resulting final grade for those 112 courses with D or F midterm grade follows: 33 F grades, 38 D grades, 36 C grades, 1 B grade, 1 Withdraw, 3 Incompletes. Approximately 63% of students who had a D or F grade at midterm received a D or F for their final grade in the course.

Term GPA

Table 6 provides comparative data on the breakdown of term GPAs for students on probationary standing. Overall, the Fall 2007 data represents a decrease in students at the lowest GPA level (0.00) as well as a decrease in the number of students who are Subject to Disqualification (SD), as compared to the data of Fall 2006.

Table 6 Term GPA Comparison, Fall 2006 & Fall 2007

Term GPA	# of NFYS Fall 2006 N = 94	# of NFYS Fall 2007 N = 79
0.00	9	2
0.01-0.99	16	11
1.0-1.25	11	7
1.26-1.50	14	10
1.51-1.75	13	22
1.76-1.99	31	27
# SD	46	26

Residence and Disciplinary Violations

- 92 % of the students on academic probation lived on campus. 8 of the 79 students had been found in violation of the disciplinary code during the Fall 2007 term.

*This figure is based on the number of enrolled students "counted" after our Fall census date. We began the term with 611 students, but 8 left prior to the census date: 611-8= 603.

Please feel free to contact me at x4754 or via email at mfiguero@stmarys-ca.edu with any questions.