

## Memorandum

TO: Members of the Saint Mary's College Community

FROM: Mark Figueroa, Director of Institutional Research

DATE: March 3, 2006

SUBJECT: TUG Student Academic Probation

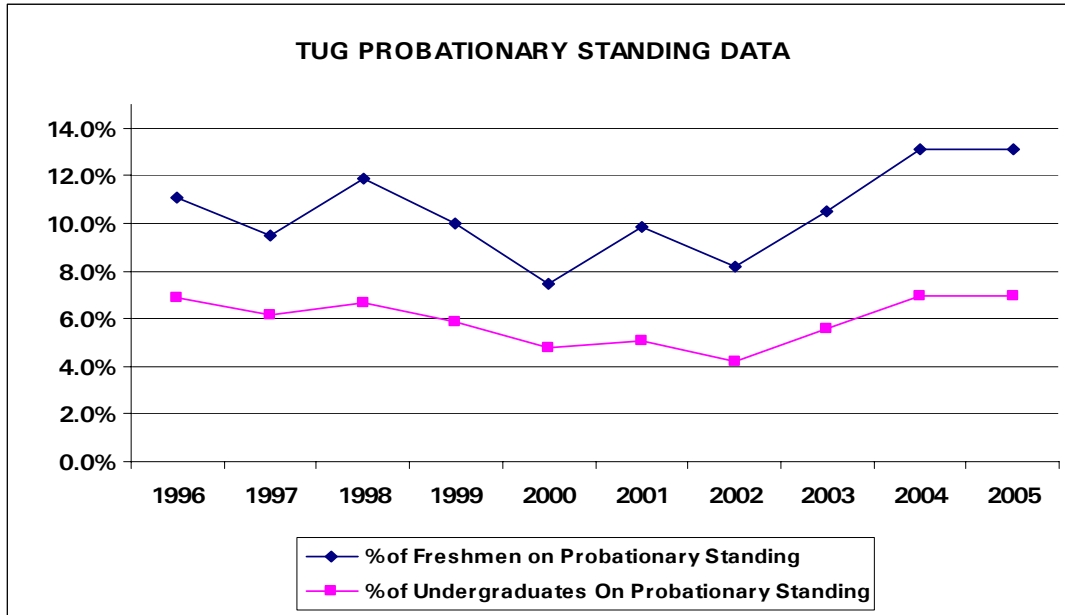
In a continued effort to disseminate and utilize campus data to inform our practice, information regarding TUG students on academic probation follows.

Overall, 6.9% of the SMC TUG population (173/2525) is on probationary standing as of the end of the Fall 2005 Term, 1.0% higher than the 10-year average of 5.9%. For New TUG Freshman (NTF), the percentage on probation has ranged from a low of 7.4 % (46/618) in Fall 2000 to a high of 13.1% (80/611) for Fall 2004. For Fall 2005, 12.3% (83/675) of NTF are currently on probationary standing (Table 1, Chart 1).

**Table 1 TRADITIONAL UNDERGRADUATE PROBATIONARY STANDING DATA  
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA  
END OF FALL TERM  
1996 – 2005**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Total New TUG Freshmen</b>	486	602	572	620	618	580	645	562	611	675
<b>New TUG Freshmen on Probationary Standing</b>	54	57	68	62	46	57	53	59	80	83
<b>% of Freshmen on Probationary Standing</b>	11.1%	9.5%	11.9%	10.0%	7.4%	9.8%	8.2%	10.5%	13.1%	12.3%
<b>Total Fall TUG Enrollment</b>	2113	2200	2283	2330	2492	2497	2572	2494	2440	2525
<b>Undergraduates on Probationary Standing</b>	145	135	153	136	120	126	108	139	169	173
<b>% of Undergraduates On Probationary Standing</b>	6.9%	6.1%	6.7%	5.8%	4.8%	5.0%	4.2%	5.6%	6.9%	6.9%

**Chart 1 TUG Students on Probationary Standing, Fall 96 to Fall 05**



Overall, the NTF class had an average High School GPA of 3.33 and an average SAT score of 1096. With respect to those students on academic probation, both male and female NTF had lower average incoming high school GPAs and total SAT scores compared to the overall NTF. (Table 2)

**Table 2 Fall 2005 New TUG Freshman on Probationary Standing, by Gender\*\***

Gender	% of NTF on Probation	% of Total NTF	Mean Fall 2005 SMC GPA of NTF on Probation	Mean High School GPA of NTF on Probation	Mean SAT Scores of NTF on Probation
Female	37%	61%	1.31	2.89	962
Male	63%	39%	1.38	2.81	1026

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

More specifically, the data reveals that:

- Male students make up a substantially higher percentage of students on probation (63%) as compared to their NTF population (39%).
- Incoming characteristics (average high school GPA and average total SAT scores) are similar for both Male and Female NTF on probation, though Female NTF had a slightly higher high school GPA but lower SAT score, as compared to Male NTF.
- There appears to be no common “profile” for students who may end up on academic probation, particularly with respect to incoming student characteristics such as high school GPA and SAT score. NTF on academic probation had average high school GPAs which ranged from 2.42 to 3.59 for Females and 2.29 to 3.73 for Males. Total SAT Scores ranged from 800 to 1110 for Females and 700 to 1370 for Males.

What, if any, differences exist in the profile of incoming first-year students on probation versus those not on probation? Comparative data are provided in the Table 3:

**Table 3 Fall 2005 NTF Comparative Data, by Gender & Academic Standing\*\*\***

<b>Gender and Academic Standing</b>	<b>Mean Fall 2005 SMC GPA of NTF</b>	<b>Mean High School GPA of NTF</b>	<b>Mean Total SAT Score of NTF</b>
Female, on Probation	1.31	2.89	962
Female, All NTF	2.90	3.37	1078
Male, on Probation	1.38	2.81	1026
Male, All NTF	2.58	3.10	1065

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

In comparing NTF, there are differences between students on probation and students not on probation in terms of incoming characteristics (average high school GPA and average SAT score). However, a further examination of the data revealed that an incoming student’s characteristics are not necessarily a solid indicator of first-term performance. For example:

- An incoming first-year female student (High Potential Program) with a high school GPA of 2.61 and an SAT score of 640 had a higher first-term GPA than an incoming first-year female student (Honors at Entrance) with a high school GPA of 3.91 and an SAT score of 1500, 2.93 and 2.73, respectively.
- A comparison of first-year male students showed that a student (High Potential Program) with a high school GPA of 2.97 and an SAT score of 600 earned a first-term GPA of 2.33 as compared to another first-year male student with a high school GPA of 2.78 and an SAT score of 1370 who earned a first-term GPA of 1.85

With the influx of the largest and one of the most diverse First-Year classes in SMC history, particular attention was paid to subgroup differences for students on probationary standing. In analyzing the data for the Fall 2005 entering class, there is a disproportionate representation of African-American, Asian-American/Pacific Islander and Latino students on probationary standing as compared to their White peers (Table 4).

**Table 4 Fall 2005 NTF on Probationary Standing, Comparative Data, by Ethnic Group\*\*\*\***

<b>Student Reported Ethnicity</b>	<b>Overall % of NTF</b>	<b>% of NTF on Probation</b>	<b>Mean Fall 2005 SMC GPA</b>	<b>Mean High School GPA</b>	<b>Mean Total SAT Score</b>
African American	4.7%	13.6%	1.55	2.78	935
Asian-American/Pacific Islander	11.3%	14.8%	1.30	2.93	984
Latino	23.6%	25.9%	1.26	2.87	980
White	52.2%	33.3%	1.32	2.81	1028

\*\*\*\* Percentages <100% due to exclusion of Native American, International and “non-reporting” students.

- Though African-American students represent 4.7% of the NTF class, they represent 13.6% of students on probation, while White students make up 1/3 of those on probation but are more than ½ of the freshman population.
- Overall, all four student groups had similar incoming characteristics (High School GPA and SAT), though Whites had somewhat higher overall SAT scores.
- For students in the High Potential Program, 1/3 less were on probation this Fall than last.

Further analysis will be conducted in order to determine what other factors contribute to the likelihood of First-Year students ending up on academic probation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call (x4754) or email ([mfiguero@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:mfiguero@stmarys-ca.edu)).