

## Memorandum

To: Members of the Saint Mary's College Community

From: Mark Figueroa, Director of Institutional Research

Date: May 30, 2006

Subject: Undergraduate First-Year Student Attrition Report, Fall 2005

Though attrition data is usually reviewed and reported on a year-to-year basis (from fall term to fall term), we elected to study characteristics of first-year, non-transfer students who enrolled in fall 2005 and did not return for the Spring 2006 semester. Of 675 new first-year students (NFYS) enrolled for the fall 2005 semester, 25 did not return in the spring. Of those, 11 left campus during the first week of the fall term; the other 14 completed the fall semester. We examined the 14 students who were here through the fall semester; therefore, the fall-to-spring attrition rate of 2.1% is based on a fall NFYS population of 664 (minus the 11 who were here a week or less).

The below data chart contrasts student background characteristics (key variables related to student departure) of non-returning students to those who returned for the Spring semester.

	<b>Non-returning NFYS Characteristics (N=14)</b>	<b>Returning NFYS Class Characteristics (N=664)</b>
<b>% Residing on campus</b>	93%	88%
<b>% Female</b>	79%	61%
<b>% Male</b>	21%	39%
<b>Average High School GPA</b>	3.20	3.33
<b>Average Combined SAT Score</b>	987	1096
<b>% who received some need-based aid</b>	79%	85%
<b>Median Family Yearly Income*</b>	\$74,874	\$73,249
<b>Median Estimated Family Contribution*</b>	\$12,672	\$10,462
<b>Median Unmet Need*</b>	\$28,894	\$30,322

\*For those students who applied for Financial Aid

The below data reveals that a greater proportion of African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander and Latino students than Caucasian students (compared to their proportional representation in the freshman class as a whole), chose not to return for the Spring 06 term.

<b>Student Ethnicity</b>	<b>% of Non-returning NFYS</b>	<b>% of overall NFYS Class</b>
<b>African American</b>	7.1 %	4.7 %
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	14.3%	11.3 %
<b>Latino</b>	28.6 %	23.6 %
<b>Native American</b>	0 %	0.4 %
<b>White</b>	42.9%	52.2 %
<b>Non-reported</b>	7.1 %	5.9 %

Results of a more detailed analysis of fall to fall first-year student attrition will be provided during the Fall 2006 semester. Please feel free to contact me with any question or comments regarding the data.