

Memorandum

TO: Members of the Saint Mary's College Community

FROM: Mark Figueroa, Director of Institutional Research

DATE: January 29, 2007

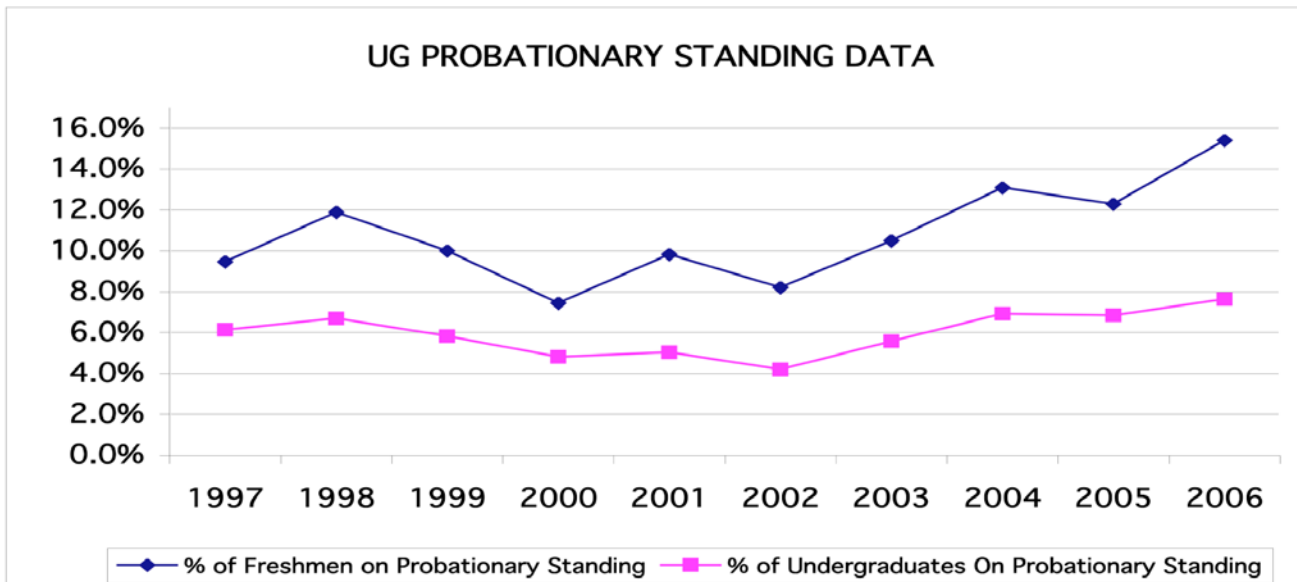
SUBJECT: Undergraduate Student Probationary Status, Fall 2006

Overall, 7.6% of the SMC undergraduate population (190/2489) is on probationary standing as of the end of the Fall 2006 Term, 1.8% higher than the 10-year average of 5.8%. For new first-year students (NFYS), the percentage on 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 2006, 15.4% (94/610) of NFYS are currently on probationary standing (Table 1, Chart 1).

**Table 1 UNDERGRADUATE PROBATIONARY STANDING DATA
END OF FALL TERM, 1997-2006**

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Total NFYS	602	572	620	618	580	645	562	611	675	610
NFYS on Probationary Standing	57	68	62	46	57	53	59	80	83	94
% of NFYS on Probationary Standing	9.5%	11.9%	10.0%	7.4%	9.8%	8.2%	10.5%	13.1%	12.3%	15.4%
Total Fall Enrollment	2200	2283	2330	2492	2497	2572	2494	2440	2525	2489
Undergraduates on Probationary Standing	135	153	136	120	126	108	139	169	173	190
% of Undergraduates On Probationary Standing	6.1%	6.7%	5.8%	4.8%	5.0%	4.2%	5.6%	6.9%	6.9%	7.6%

Chart 1 New First-Year Students on Probationary Standing, Fall 97 to Fall 06



First Term Performance

Overall, the NFYS class had an average High School GPA of 3.33 and an average SAT score of 1080. 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 2006 New First Year Students on Probationary Standing, by Gender**

Gender	% of Total NFYS	% of NFYS on Probation	Mean Fall 2006 SMC GPA of NFYS on Probation	Mean High School GPA of NFYS on Probation	Mean SAT Scores of NTF on Probation
Female	64%	51%	1.31	2.99	951
Male	36%	49%	1.38	2.82	999

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

More specifically, the data reveals that:

- Male students make up a higher percentage of students on probation (49%) as compared to their NFYS population (49%).
- Female NFYS on probation had a slightly higher high school GPA and lower total SAT score, as compared to Male NFYS.

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. 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	3.35	2.99		3.21	2.82
HS GPA, Minimum	2.32	2.32		2.32	2.32
HS GPA, Maximum	4.79	3.78		4.54	3.37
SAT Verbal, Average	527	474		536	486
SAT Verbal, Minimum	270	310		310	310
SAT Verbal, Maximum	790	690		800	680
SAT Math, Average	521	470		557	511
SAT Math, Minimum	310	310		310	310
SAT Math, Maximum	770	650		790	790

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

NFYS on academic probation had average high school GPAs that ranged from 2.32 to 3.78 for females and 2.32 to 3.37 for males. SAT Verbal scores ranged from 310 to 690 for females and 310 to 800 for males. SAT Math scores ranged from 310 to 790 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 (approximately 0.4 grade points) and lower SAT scores (approximately 100 points) 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. 33 NFYS are part of the HP program. Of those 33, 11 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 2006 New First Year Students on Probationary Standing, by Gender and Admissions Status**

Gender	Mean High School GPA	Mean SAT Score Total
Female, Total	2.99	951
Female, HP	2.79	782
Male, Total	2.82	999
Male, HP	2.80	774

** 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 2006 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	46	8%		13	14%	28%
Native American	8	1%		1	1%	13%
Asian /Pacific Islander	87	14%		13	14%	15%
Latino	128	21%		25	27%	20%
White	307	50%		38	40%	12%
Other	34	6%		4	4%	12%
Total	610	100%		94	100%	15%

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

From this table, the following data points are highlighted for the NFYS who began in Fall 2006:

- 15% 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 8% of the class but represent 14% of students on probation.
- Latino students make up 21% of the class but represent 27% of the students on probation.
- White students make up 50% of the class, but represent 40% of student on probation.
- 1 out of every 4 African Americans and 1 out of every 5 Latinos is on probationary standing, as compared to 1 out of every 8 Whites..

Course Grade Distribution

Table 6 below highlights the grade distribution of the 5 most frequently taken course, which represents 63% of all course taken by NFYS on probationary standing.

Table 6 Grade Distribution of All NFYS on Probationary Standing, Fall 2006

Course #	Course Title	% of Grades Earned (include + and –)						% who took course	% of total courses taken
		As	Bs	Cs	Ds	Fs	Is		
SEM-020	Greek Thought	1%	6%	55%	16%	11%	10%	94%	27%
ENGL-004	Composition		12%	41%	14%	20%	9%	73%	21%
ECON-003	Principles of Micro-Economics		6%	22%	61%	11%	0%	19%	6%
ENGL-003	Practice in Writing		12%	65%	0%	24%	0%	18%	5%
COMM-002	Comm & Social Understanding		0%	58%	8%	33%	0%	13%	4%

Table 7 below provides an expanded distribution, which includes all course taken by NFYS on probation.

Table 7 Grade Distribution of All NFYS on Probationary Standing, Fall 2006

Course #	Course Title	% of Grades Earned (include + and –)						Grand Total	% who took course	% of total courses taken
		%As	%Bs	%Cs	%Ds	%Fs	%Is			
SEM-020	Greek Thought	1%	6%	55%	16%	11%	10%	88	94%	27%
ENGL-004	Composition		12%	41%	14%	20%	9%	69	73%	21%
ECON-003	Principles of Micro-Economics		6%	22%	61%	11%	0%	18	19%	6%
ENGL-003	Practice in Writing		12%	65%	0%	24%	0%	17	18%	5%
COMM-002	Comm & Social Understanding		0%	58%	8%	33%	0%	12	13%	4%
AN/SO-004	Social Problems		11%	33%	33%	22%	0%	9	10%	3%
ACCTG-001	Financial Accounting		25%	38%	25%	13%	0%	8	9%	2%
CHEM-007	Introductory Chemistry		0%	0%	57%	43%	0%	7	7%	2%
AN/SO-001	Social & Cultural Anthropology		0%	33%	17%	50%	0%	6	6%	2%
PSYCH-001	Intro to Personal-Social Psych		0%	17%	67%	17%	0%	6	6%	2%
HIST-017	US History to 1877		40%	40%	20%	0%	0%	5	5%	2%
MATH-013	Calculus with Elem Functions		0%	40%	0%	60%	0%	5	5%	2%
PSYCH-010	Introduction to Psychology		0%	20%	60%	20%	0%	5	5%	2%
MATH-027	Calculus I		0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	4	4%	1%
RELST-001	Intro to Biblical Literature		0%	75%	25%	0%	0%	4	4%	1%
AN/SO-002	Introduction to Sociology		0%	33%	33%	0%	33%	3	3%	1%
BIOL-010	Introduction to Biology		0%	0%	67%	33%	0%	3	3%	1%
BIOL-050	General Biology		0%	33%	33%	33%	0%	3	3%	1%
CHEM-008	General Chemistry I		0%	67%	0%	33%	0%	3	3%	1%
HIST-001	World History to 1500		0%	33%	0%	67%	0%	3	3%	1%
HIST-004	History of Western Civilization		33%	0%	67%	0%	0%	3	3%	1%
AH-001	Survey World Art		0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	2	2%	1%
AH-025	Survey of Asian Art		0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	2	2%	1%
ART-050	Digital Media		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	2	2%	1%
BUSAD-040	Business Statistics		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	2	2%	1%
COMM-003	Communication Inquiry		0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	2	2%	1%
COMM-112	Interpersonal Communication		0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	2	2%	1%

Grade Distribution of All First-Year Students on Probation, Fall 2006

Course #	Course Title	% of Grades Earned (include + and –)						Grand Total	% who took course	% of total courses taken
		%As	%Bs	%Cs	%Ds	%Fs	%Is			
COMM-163	Rhetoric of War		50%	0%	50%	0%	0%	2	2%	1%
KINES-010	Introduction to Kinesiology		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	2	2%	1%
KINES-012	Health Education		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	2	2%	1%
PHIL-011	Aristotle		0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	2	2%	1%
PHYSI-001	Introduction to Physics I		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	2	2%	1%
POL-003	Intro to Political Theory		0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	2	2%	1%
PSYCH-002	Intro Physio-Experimental Psyc		0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	2	2%	1%
SPAN-003	Intermediate Spanish		0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	2	2%	1%
CHEM-030	Science & Tech. of Warfare		0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%
COMM-010	Argument & Advocacy		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	1%	0%
ECON-004	Principles of Macro-Economics		0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%
FREN-001	Elementary French		0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%
FREN-003	Intermediate French		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	1%	0%
FREN-010	Conversation/Composition		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	1%	0%
GERM-001	Elementary German	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%
INTEG-011	Freshman Seminar		0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%
INTEG-031	Freshman Mathematics		0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	1	1%	0%
INTEG-051	Freshman Language		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	1%	0%
INTEG-071	Freshman Laboratory		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	1%	0%
MATH-003	Finite Mathematics		0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	1	1%	0%
MATH-004	Intro Probability & Statistics		0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%
POL-001	Intro to Comparative Politics		0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%
POL-002	Intro to American Politics		0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%
SIS-004	Continuing Elementary Spanish		0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1	1%	0%