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# Surveys

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**Survey of Admitted Students Summary  
Six Cohorts**

The Survey of Admitted Students was administered to students who are admitted to Saint Mary's College by early May of each cohort year. The survey compares responses for those students enrolling at Saint Mary's and those enrolling elsewhere. Summary data is presented below for the last six cohorts.

	Fall 2009	Fall 2010	Fall 2011	Fall 2012	Fall 2013	Fall 2014
<b>Compared to other institutions where you were admitted, Saint Mary's rated better:</b>						
Admissions process	81.5%	83.7%	83.6%	85.4%	86.7%	85.1%
Support for spiritual development	81.4%	80.5%	82.5%	80.7%	82.0%	80.4%
Options for study abroad	--	76.8%	77.2%	79.5%	79.4%	78.9%
Quality of faculty	73.8%	71.7%	72.0%	74.6%	72.7%	75.7%
Reputation	77.1%	74.2%	77.0%	73.8%	76.5%	74.9%
Quality of academic programs	74.1%	73.5%	76.2%	74.6%	77.1%	73.2%
<b>Campus Visit</b>						
<b>Visited Saint Mary's campus</b>	<b>86.8%</b>	<b>87.5%</b>	<b>86.1%</b>	<b>80.5%</b>	<b>80.0%</b>	<b>80.2%</b>
Enrolling	90.4%	92.9%	91.6%	90.4%	88.9%	92.8%
Non-enrolling	75.3%	79.9%	75.8%	68.2%	63.4%	65.4%
Perception of Saint Mary's improved after visit	82.7%	81.9%	81.8%	79.5%	84.6%	85.7%
<b>Financial Aid</b>						
<b>How important was your aid package to your final enrollment decision?</b>						
Not a factor	16.1%	20.3%	15.9%	14.5%	11.8%	13.4%
Deciding factor	16.5%	12.9%	16.3%	18.9%	23.2%	20.1%
<b>Satisfied with aid offer</b>	<b>58.3%</b>	<b>54.4%</b>	<b>62.6%</b>	<b>64.5%</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>60.0%</b>
Enrolling	62.8%	62.0%	68.4%	71.6%	69.6%	67.2%
Non-enrolling	49.3%	43.7%	51.8%	56.9%	53.6%	52.5%
<b>Please indicate how well your aid package met your expectations. (1-7 Scale)</b>						
Much poorer than expected (1-2)	7.2%	10.6%	13.0%	7.5%	7.2%	5.1%
(3-5)	54.6%	47.6%	48.6%	59.0%	53.4%	55.4%
Far surpassed expectations (6-7)	38.2%	41.8%	38.4%	33.5%	39.4%	39.5%
<b>Study Abroad</b>						
<b>The study abroad opportunities were important in making student's college decision.</b>						
<b>All Admitted Students</b>	<b>51.3%</b>	<b>46.8%</b>	<b>52.9%</b>	<b>56.2%</b>	<b>54.6%</b>	<b>51.1%</b>
Enrolling	51.3%	43.0%	58.1%	54.0%	57.3%	50.5%
Non-enrolling	51.0%	52.4%	43.5%	60.4%	50.3%	52.5%
<b>Mission Characteristics</b>						
<b>Please indicate how each of the following characteristics of Saint Mary's impacted your enrollment decision.</b>						
<b>Saint Mary's is a Women's College</b>						
Reduced chance of enrolling	--	--	--	38.9%	35.9%	34.9%
Did not impact chance of enrolling	--	--	--	41.2%	43.8%	41.6%
Increased chance of enrolling	--	--	--	19.9%	20.2%	23.4%
<b>Saint Mary's is a Catholic College</b>						
Reduced chance of enrolling	--	--	--	4.8%	4.2%	4.9%
Did not impact chance of enrolling	--	--	--	27.0%	27.5%	30.4%
Increased chance of enrolling	--	--	--	68.2%	68.2%	64.6%

Source: Survey of Admitted Students (Administration Spring 2009-2014). Next administration – Spring 2015

**CIRP Freshman Survey Summary  
Fall 2013 Cohort**

Since 1973 Saint Mary's College has administered the Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Survey to new students. Summarized below are some of the characteristics of the Class of 2017 with comparisons to the national norms and the norms for women at selective 4-year Catholic colleges (the College's stratification group as defined by the Higher Education Research Institute).

	Saint Mary's	National Norms*	Women at Selective 4-year Catholic Colleges
<b>Miles from home:</b>			
More than 100 miles	68.2%	46.0%	47.9%
<b>Saint Mary's (This College) was student's:</b>			
First choice	60.5%	57.1%	59.3%
Second choice	29.3%	27.1%	26.7%
<b>Reasons noted at "Very Important" in choosing this college (top 7)</b>			
Good academic reputation	78.1%	66.7%	78.2%
Offered financial assistance	73.7%	52.4%	66.6%
Graduates get good jobs	68.9%	54.8%	68.2%
A visit to the campus	63.7%	48.1%	61.6%
Size of college	58.9%	42.8%	61.9%
Percentage of students that graduate from this College	56.3%	33.6%	50.4%
I was attracted by the religious affiliation of this College.	45.2%	9.4%	28.1%
<b>Status of parents</b>			
Both alive and living together	79.2%	67.0%	77.1%
<b>Parental education</b>			
Father has college degree or higher	70.0%	51.7%	64.3%
Mother has college degree or higher	71.7%	55.4%	65.7%
<b>Highest degree planned anywhere</b>			
Degree beyond Bachelor's	86.0%	80.0%	80.2%
<b>Concern regarding ability to finance education?</b>			
None	38.9%	26.9%	27.3%
Some	51.4%	57.8%	58.7%
Major	9.7%	15.3%	13.9%
<b>Student's probable career (top 6)</b>			
Nurse/Health Professional	22.2%	16.5%	16.8%
Undecided	9.8%	10.0%	14.3%
K-12 teacher or administrator	9.2%	6.8%	8.2%
Physician	8.9%	11.8%	10.1%
Social/Non-Profit Services	7.7%	5.1%	4.4%
Business executive/manager	7.1%	9.8%	13.2%
Artist	4.3%	8.1%	5.0%

\*National norms are for women at all baccalaureate institutions.

Source: CIRP Freshman Survey (Fall 2013 Administration). Next administration – Fall 2014.

**CIRP College Senior Survey  
(Administered to May 2014 Graduating Seniors)**

The College Senior Survey (CSS) connects academic, civic, and diversity outcomes with a comprehensive set of college experiences to measure the impact of college. The CSS generates valuable longitudinal data on students' cognitive and affective growth during college.

	Saint Mary's	Women at Selective 4-year Catholic Colleges	National Norms*
<b>How strong or weak do you believe you are in the following areas: (Percent responding "A major strength")</b>			
General Knowledge	37.3%	30.8%	31.1%
Critical Thinking Skills	50.8%	39.7%	41.6%
Problem-solving skills	50.8%	41.1%	43.3%
<b>Rate yourself as compared with the average person your age: (Percent responding "Highest 10%")</b>			
Understanding of others	34.8%	25.8%	26.5%
Writing ability	23.5%	18.0%	18.9%
<b>How often in the past year did you: (Percent responding "Frequently")</b>			
Support your opinions with a logical argument	71.3%	64.6%	66.3%
Seek solutions to problems and explain them to others	70.6%	64.9%	67.0%
Revise your papers to improve your writing	58.8%	63.1%	62.7%
Evaluate the quality/reliability of information received	55.1%	61.0%	62.5%
Performed volunteer or community service work	18.1%	24.2%	25.4%
<b>Since entering college, indicate how often you: (Percent responding "Frequently")</b>			
Performed community service as part of a class	19.5%	22.0%	18.8%
Challenged a professor's ideas in class	6.9%	7.2%	6.5%
<b>Please rate your satisfaction with your college: (Percent responding "Very satisfied")</b>			
General education/Core curriculum	32.2%	27.1%	26.0%
Academic advising	29.3%	28.6%	28.5%
Courses in your major field	53.4%	46.0%	47.8%
Relevance of coursework to future plans	39.7%	31.1%	31.2%
Overall quality of instruction	43.1%	39.2%	40.3%
<b>Please rate your satisfaction with your college: (Percent responding "Very Satisfied")</b>			
Overall sense of community among students	53.4%	39.1%	38.7%
Availability of campus social activities	39.7%	28.4%	30.2%
Respect for the expression of diverse beliefs	31.9%	26.6%	28.2%
<b>Compared with when you first entered this college, how would you now describe your: (Percent responding "A major strength")</b>			
Knowledge of people from different races/cultures	12.7%	16.4%	16.6%
Preparedness for employment after college	35.6%	31.7%	31.7%
Preparedness for graduate/advanced education	41.9%	31.6%	30.5%
<b>Please rate your satisfaction with your college: (Percent responding "Very Satisfied")</b>			
Career-related resources and support	21.6%	23.8%	21.6%
Overall college experience	61.2%	41.8%	43.8%

\*National norms are for women at all baccalaureate institutions.

Source: CIRP College Senior Survey (Spring 2014 administration). Next administration – Spring 2015.

**National Survey of Student Engagement  
First-Year Survey Summary (2012 Cohort)**

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was administered in Spring 2013 to first-year and senior students. Summarized below are some of the select questions with comparisons to national peers and Carnegie peer groups.

	Saint Mary's	Carnegie Peers	National Sample
<b>Academic Challenge (% often or very often)</b>			
Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments	56%	58%	56%
Connected your learning to societal problems or issues	60%	59%	53%
Connected ideas from courses to prior experiences/knowledge	85%	83%	78%
Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information	50%	50%	51%
<b>Learning with Peers (% often or very often)</b>			
Asked another student to help you understand course material	61%	55%	48%
Explained course material to one or more students	64%	61%	56%
Had discussions with people from a race/ethnicity other than own	68%	73%	71%
Had discussions with people from an economic background other than own	75%	78%	73%
<b>Experiences with Faculty (% Very much or quite a bit)</b>			
Talked about career plans with a faculty member ( <i>% often/very</i> )	41%	36%	32%
Faculty clearly explained course goals and requirements	88%	86%	82%
Faculty taught course sessions in an organized way	89%	85%	80%
Faculty provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	77%	72%	65%
<b>Campus Environment</b>			
Quality of interactions with other students (6 or 7 on a scale from 1=poor to 7=excellent)	63%	66%	60%
Quality of interactions with faculty members (6 or 7 on a scale from 1=poor to 7=excellent)	59%	61%	51%
Quality of interactions with administrative staff (6 or 7 on a scale from 1=poor to 7=excellent)	49%	48%	42%
<b>Other (non-benchmark components) Saint Mary's has contributed to: (% quite a bit or very much)</b>			
Writing clearly and effectively	74%	72%	67%
Thinking critically and analytically	84%	82%	78%
Developing or clarifying a personal code of ethics/values	66%	65%	59%
Solving complex real-world problems	60%	57%	55%
Being an informed and active citizen	63%	62%	57%
<b>Evaluation of entire educational experience: (% good or excellent)</b>			
% Good or Excellent	95%	90%	88%
<b>If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending? (%Probably/Definitely Yes)</b>			
% Probably/Definitely Yes	88%	86%	84%

Source: National Survey of Student Engagement (2013 Administration). Next administration – Spring 2016.

**National Survey of Student Engagement  
Senior Survey Summary (2013 Graduates)**

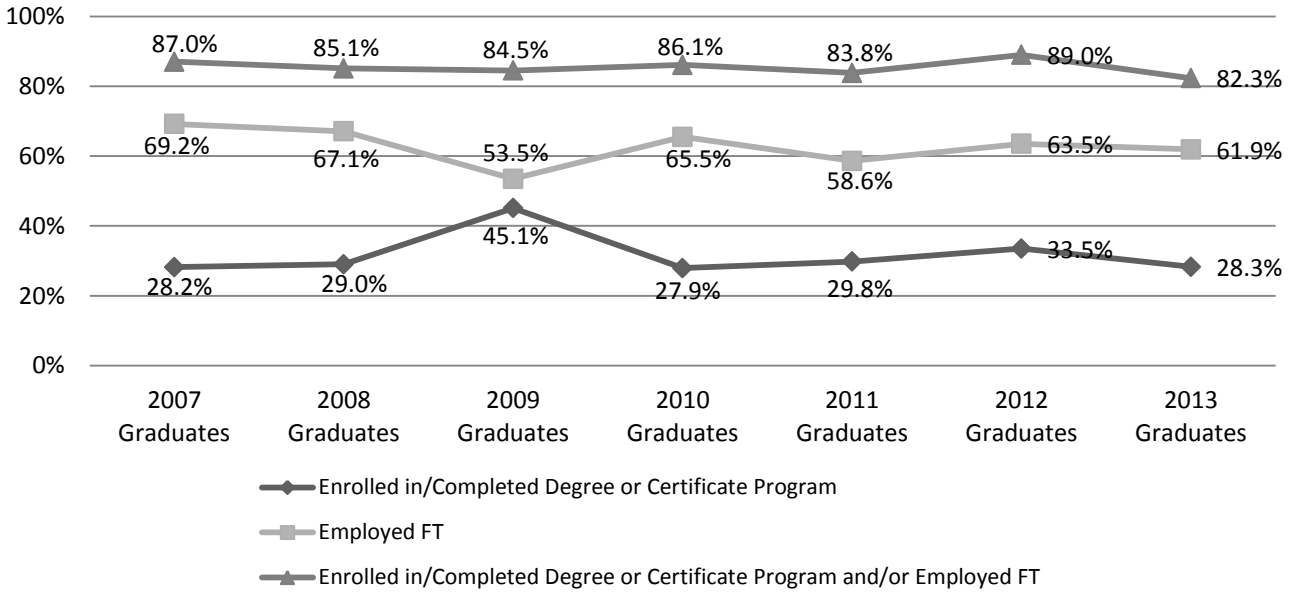
The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) was administered in Spring 2013 to first-year and senior students. Summarized below are some of the select questions with comparisons to national peers and Carnegie peer groups.

	Saint Mary's	Carnegie Peers	National Sample
<b>Academic Challenge (% often or very often)</b>			
Combined ideas from different courses when completing assignments	77%	76%	71%
Connected your learning to societal problems or issues	80%	71%	64%
Connected ideas from courses to prior experiences/knowledge	91%	89%	84%
Reached conclusions based on your own analysis of numerical information	56%	52%	54%
<b>Learning with Peers (% often or very often)</b>			
Asked another student to help you understand course material	54%	45%	38%
Explained course material to one or more students	70%	65%	57%
Had discussions with people from a race/ethnicity other than own	57%	69%	72%
Had discussions with people from an economic background other than own	78%	76%	75%
<b>Experiences with Faculty (% Very much or quite a bit)</b>			
Talked about career plans with a faculty member ( <i>% often/very</i> )	69%	57%	42%
Faculty clearly explained course goals and requirements	91%	87%	83%
Faculty taught course sessions in an organized way	91%	86%	82%
Faculty provided feedback on a draft or work in progress	77%	70%	62%
<b>Campus Environment</b>			
Quality of interactions with other students (6 or 7 on a scale from 1=poor to 7=excellent)	78%	68%	65%
Quality of interactions with faculty members (6 or 7 on a scale from 1=poor to 7=excellent)	73%	70%	61%
Quality of interactions with administrative staff (6 or 7 on a scale from 1=poor to 7=excellent)	45%	41%	43%
<b>Other (non-benchmark components) Saint Mary's has contributed to: (% quite a bit or very much)</b>			
Writing clearly and effectively	90%	83%	74%
Thinking critically and analytically	92%	91%	86%
Developing or clarifying a personal code of ethics/values	79%	71%	63%
Solving complex real-world problems	71%	65%	63%
Being an informed and active citizen	72%	66%	59%
<b>Evaluation of entire educational experience: (% good or excellent)</b>			
% Good or Excellent	93%	91%	87%
<b>If you could start over again, would you go to the same institution you are now attending? (%Probably/Definitely Yes)</b>			
% Probably/Definitely Yes	89%	84%	84%

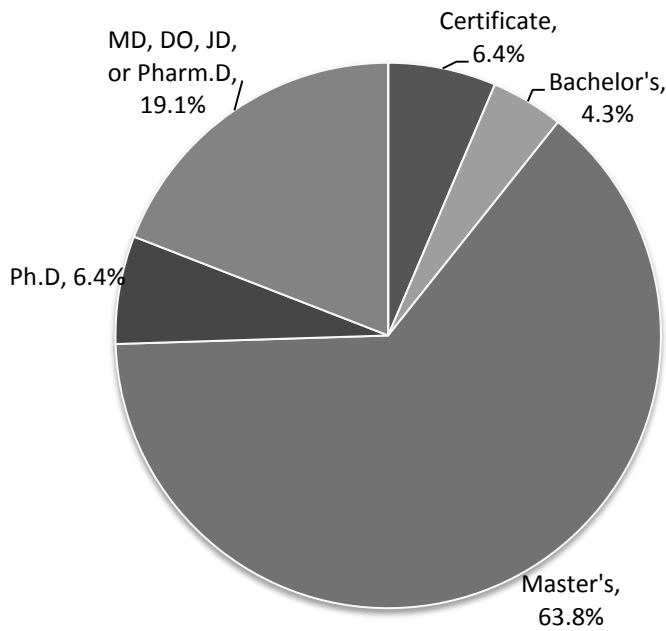
Source: National Survey of Student Engagement (2013 Administration). Next administration – Spring 2016.

**One-Year-Out Employment Summary  
2013 Graduates Surveyed in 2014**

**Employment and Graduate School Rate Trends One-Year Out**



**Degree Pursued**



**Top Employment Fields**

Education	26.1%
Health/Medical	24.2%
Business and Industry	12.7%
Communications	4.2%

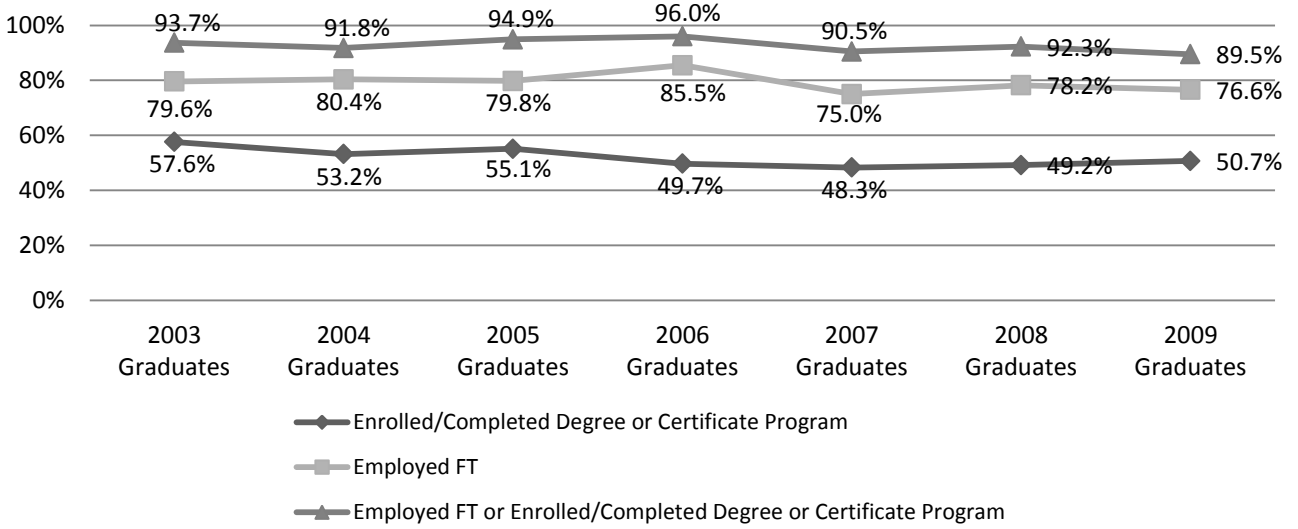
**Top Degree Fields**

Social Work	16.0%
Education	10.0%
Law	10.0%

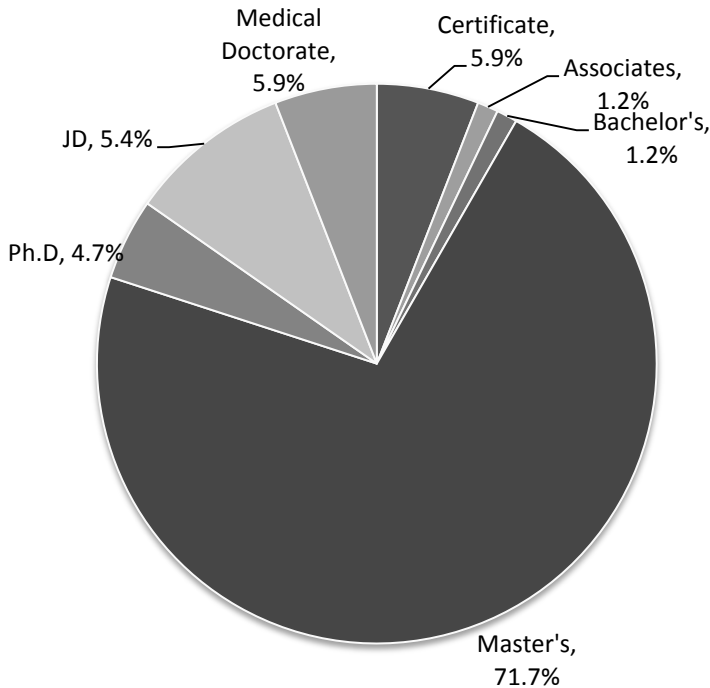
Source: Institutional Research – One-Year Out Employment Survey (Summer 2014 Administration). Next Administration – Summer 2015

**Five-Years-Out Employment Summary  
2009 Graduates Surveyed in 2014**

**Employment and Graduate School Rate Trends**



**Degree Pursued**



**Top Employment Fields**

Education	30.1%
Business/Industry	17.6%
Health/Medical	15.4%
Law	4.4%

**Top Degree Fields**

Education	26.8%
Medicine/Healthcare	20.7%
Law	9.8%
Social Work	7.3%

Source: Institutional Research – One-Year Out Employment Survey (Summer 2014 Administration). Next Administration – Summer 2015