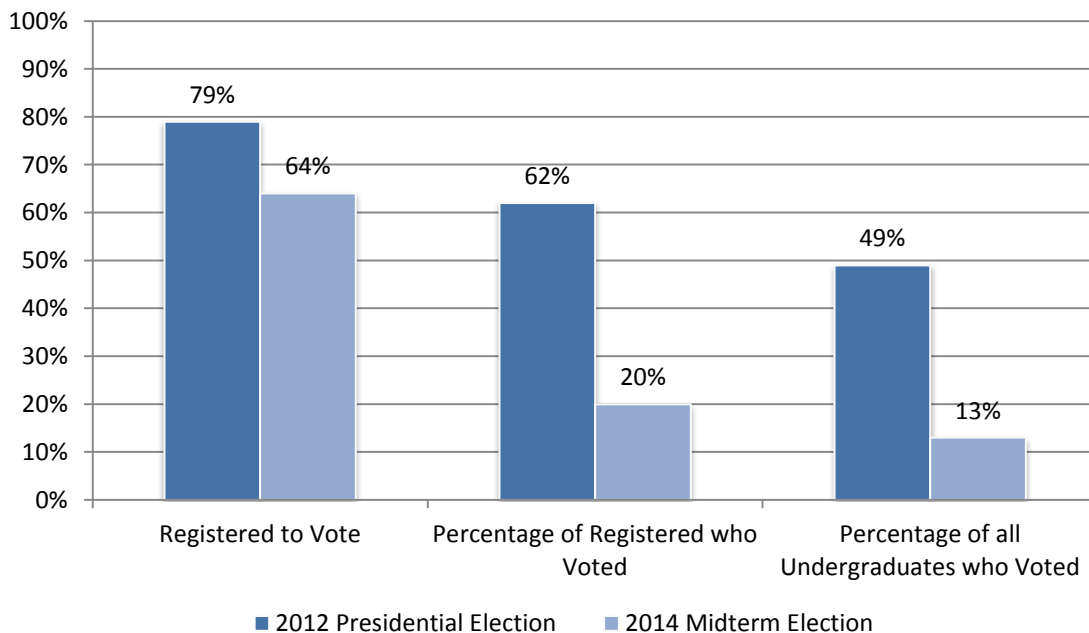


**Institutional Research Update (December 2015)**

Voting rates of Saint Mary's undergraduates in recent civic elections are explored in this research note. The data comes from the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) at Tufts University utilizing publicly available voting records from Catalist and National Student Clearinghouse data. Further information on the methodology is outlined at the end of this note. Results indicate greater engagement at Saint Mary's and nationally in the 2012 general election compared to the 2014 mid-term mirroring national voting trends for all age groups. In 2012, 79% of Saint Mary's undergraduates were registered to vote and 62% of those registered voted. Overall, 49% of all Saint Mary's undergraduates voted. Rates were significantly lower both in terms of registrations and actual voting in the 2014 Midterm election. Compared to other institutions nationally, Saint Mary's undergraduates were slightly more likely to vote in the 2012 election while less likely to vote in the 2014 midterms.

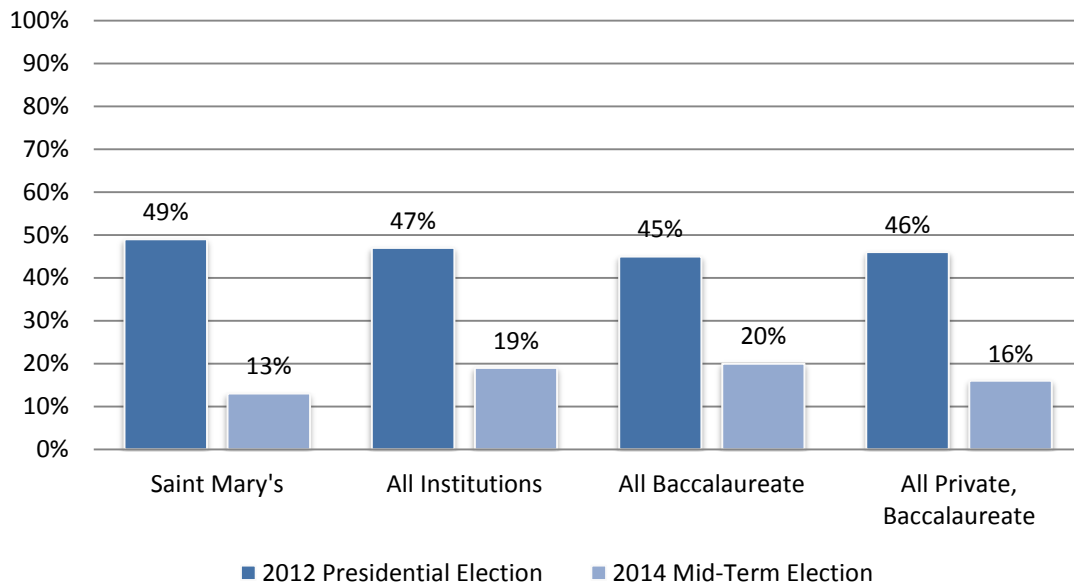
The study also broke Saint Mary's rates out by selected broad fields of study, and those students with majors in the Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences voted at higher rates in 2012. This data provides important insights into the civic engagement of Saint Mary's students as we continue to encourage our students to become engaged civically and socially by voting. The percentage of students registered to vote highlights an area of opportunity to inform and encourage students to register as a notable percentage of our students were not registered to vote in 2012 and especially in 2014.

**Chart 1: Registration and Voting Rates in the 2012 General Election (Presidential) and 2014 Midterm Election for Saint Mary's Undergraduates**



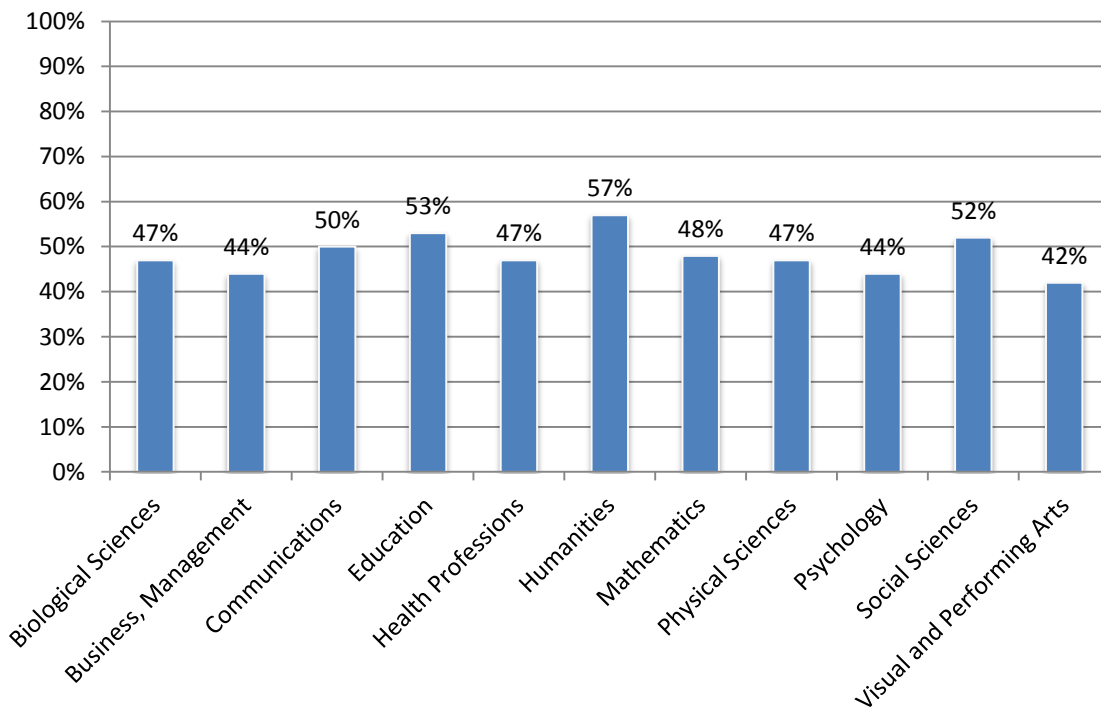
Source: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (Tufts University).

**Chart 2: Percentage of Undergraduates Voting in 2012 and 2014 Elections by Institution Type Nationally**



Source: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (Tufts University).

**Chart 3: Percentage of Saint Mary's Undergraduates Voting in the 2012 Election by Selected Broad Fields of Study**



Source: National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (Tufts University)

## Conclusion

In 2012, nearly 80% of undergraduates at Saint Mary's were registered to vote while 62% of those registered voted. In whole, about half (49%) of all Saint Mary's undergraduates, including those registered and not registered, voted in 2012. This exceeded the national voting rate in 2012 for all institutions nationally and for baccalaureate institutions. While the percentage of Saint Mary's undergraduates voting in the 2012 election exceeded national averages for undergraduates, 21% of Saint Mary's undergraduates were still not registered to vote. Likewise, more than a third of undergraduates in 2014 were not registered to vote. Compared to national figures, Saint Mary's undergraduates were less likely to vote than undergraduates nationally in 2014. This suggests the importance of continued efforts to educate Saint Mary's students on registering to vote and encouraging participation in the civic process.

## About the Data (As cited in the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement)

*Data in this research note is provided by the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) through Tufts University. The voter registration and voting rates in this report reflect the percentage of students who were eligible to vote and who actually voted in the 2012 and 2014 elections. These data are based on enrollment records submitted to the National Student Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") and publicly available voting records collected by Catalist.*

*Using enrollment records submitted on a date closest to the election, we removed students under 18 on Election Day. We also deducted an estimated number of students identified by your institution as non-resident aliens. This is based on the percentage of non-resident aliens reported by your institution to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS), and is more reliable than the demographic data campuses provide to the Clearinghouse at this time. Please note that students who blocked the use of their information under FERPA were also removed from the enrollment lists by the Clearinghouse. When combining two datasets, matching errors can occur. That said, for each record, we receive a "confidence score." The average confidence score for the student records in our database is 96.6%.*