

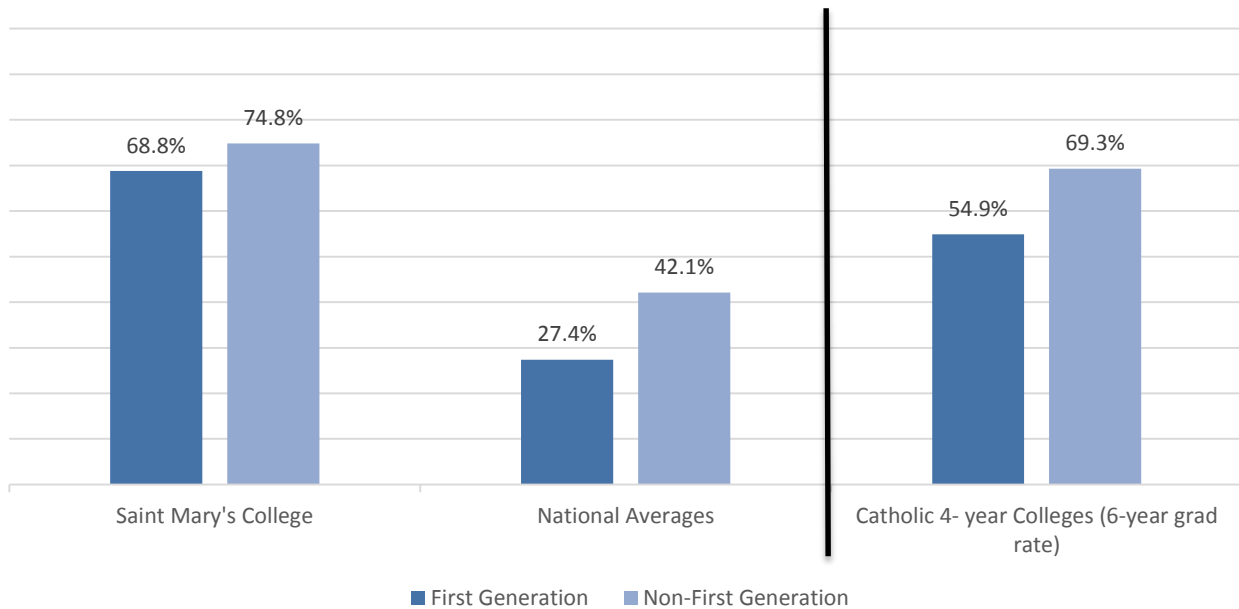
**Institutional Research Update (March 2016)**

This month's Institutional Research Updated focuses on First Generation students at Saint Mary's. At Saint Mary's College, a student is considered a First Generation student when neither of the student's parents have earned a four-year degree. In Fall 2015, 21.1% of undergraduates were considered First-Generation. The tables below examine demographic information regard First-Generation and Non-First Generation students alike.

**Student Demographic Information by Student Type (Fall 2015)**

	First Generation	Non-First Generation
Students of color	39.3%	13.9%
Percent from Indiana	35.7%	24.1%
Percent receiving Pell Grant	50.8%	15.3%
Average High School GPA	3.67	3.74
Average ACT Comp Score	24	26
Average SAT Math Score	505	557
Average SAT Verbal Score	520	567

**Four-Year Graduation Rate Comparisons**  
Fall 2009 - Fall 2011 First-Year Cohorts



Source: Saint Mary's data taken from Banner extract. Comparison data taken from HERI: Completing College<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.heri.ucla.edu/~heri.prev/DARCU/CCReportPressCopy.pdf>  
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, February 2016

- According to the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) the largest gap in graduations rates between First Generation and Non-First Generation students occurs at Catholic four-year colleges (54.9% vs. 69.3%).
- Saint Mary's College **4-year graduation** rates for First-Generation and Non-First Generation students exceeds National **4-year averages** while also exceeding Catholic 4-year Colleges **6-year graduation** rates.
- Additionally, Saint Mary's does well in closing the gap in graduation rate differences between the two student groups. (68.8% vs 74.8%)

**Percentage of Four Year Degrees awarded for the 2009 - 2011 entering cohorts by aggregate major categories**

	First Generation	Non-First Generation
Arts	4.4%	5.2%
Humanities	22.9%	24.0%
Professional - Business	9.7%	13.8%
Professional - Health	16.3%	19.4%
Professional - Social Work / Education	12.8%	13.0%
Social Sciences	16.3%	11.3%
STEM	17.6%	13.3%

**Arts:** Art, Music, Music Education, and Theatre.

**Humanities:** Communication Studies, English, French, Global Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, History, Humanistic Studies, Italian, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Spanish.

**STEM:** Biology, Chemistry, Engineering, and Math.

**Professional (Business):** Accounting, Business Administration and Management Information Systems.

**Professional (Health):** Nursing and Communicative Sciences and Disorders

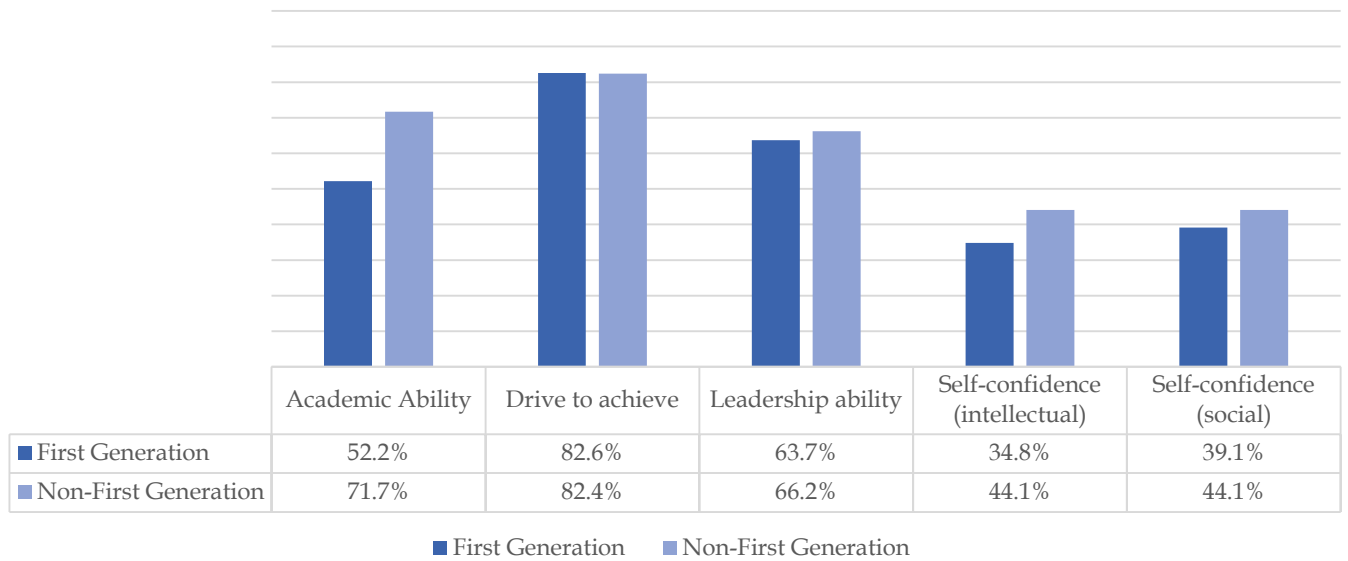
**Professional (Social Work and Education):** Education and Social Work.

**Social Sciences:** Economics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

- First Generation students are more likely to major in STEM fields and the Social Sciences than Non-First Generation Students.
- Non-First Generation Students are more likely to major in the Professional - Business field.

The following data analysis examines student self-rating, future plans, and overall satisfaction differences between First Generation and Non-First Generation seniors at Saint Mary's. The data used in this analysis is taken from the most recent administration of the **CIRP College Senior Survey (CSS)**, which was administered in the spring of 2015. In total, 112 (29 First Generation students) graduating seniors completed the College Senior Survey.

**CSS Student Self Ratings**  
Percent responding (Above Average and Top 10%)



- When combining the “above average” and “top 10%” response options when comparing themselves to their peers, Non-First Generation students rate themselves higher in academic ability, and intellectual and social self-confidence.
- Although First Generation and Non-First Generation students rate themselves similarly in their leadership abilities, First Generation students rates themselves in the top 10% of their peer group at a much higher rate than that of their Non-First Generation counterparts (45.5% vs 32.4%).

**Highest degree planned:**

	First Generation	Non-First Generation
Bachelor’s degree	14.3%	12.1%
Master’s degree	54.2%	50.0%
Ph.D.	19.0%	15.5%
Medical Doctor	4.8%	13.8%
Juris Doctor	4.8%	6.9%

- According to those responding to the **CIRP College Senior Survey**, Non-First Generation students are more likely to indicate plans to obtain a professional doctorate degree than their First-Generation counterparts.
- First-Generation students are slightly more likely to indicate plants to pursue a Ph.D.

**CSS Overall ratings:**

Satisfied or Very Satisfied	First Generation	Non-First Generation
Relevance of coursework to future career plans	91.6%	81.4%
Overall quality of instruction.	83.3%	95.8%
Overall sense of community among students.	87.5%	85.7%
Overall college experience	91.7%	89.8%

- Satisfaction with the overall college experience rating is comparable between Non-First Generation and First Generation respondents, while differences can be seen in relevance of coursework and overall quality of instruction.

The following data is taken from the Saint Mary’s College Employment Survey, which is administered one year after a class’s graduation. Data from the 2011 - 2014 graduating classes.

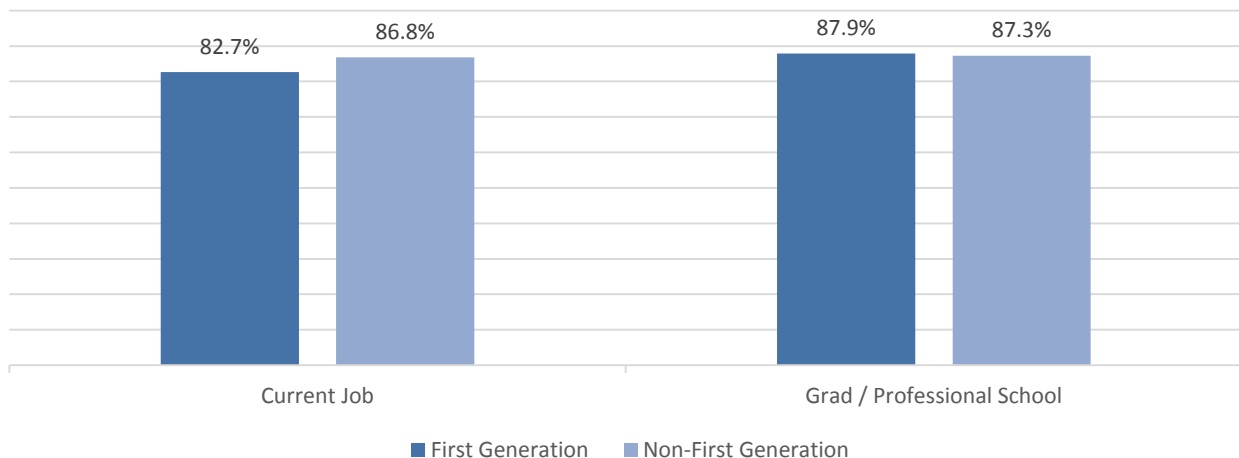
**Please describe your current employment or enrollment status, one year after graduation.**

	First Generation	Non-First Generation
Enrolled in or have completed graduate / professional school.	40.6%	30.3%
Employed, full-time	55.1%	67.1%

- One possible explanation for the higher rates of graduate school attendance among First Generation students is due to their concentrations in the humanities and STEM majors, which tend to have higher rates of advanced degree placement.

**How well do you believe your education at Saint Mary’s prepared you for the following?<sup>2</sup>  
(Percent responding “Well” and “Very Well”)**

Level of Preparation provided by Saint Mary's  
2013 - 2014 Graduating Classes



<sup>2</sup> Preparation data from 2011-2012 is not available due to a change in the Likert Scale.  
Prepared by the Office of Institutional Research, February 2016