

Student Persistence Report – Spring 2013

Prepared by the Office of Student Success & First Year Experience

March 6, 2013

Each semester the Persistence Report is created and shared with the University to achieve a campus-wide understanding of the collaborative nature of retention efforts for undergraduate day students.

Below is the persistence data for the current first year students in the Class of 2016 compared to the classes of 2015, 2014, and 2013. The data is summarized from the Discoverer report entitled “Cohort Status” pulled on February 1, 2013.

	Class of 2016			Class of 2015			Class of 2014			Class of 2013		
	Fall 2012	Spring 2013		Fall 2011	Spring 2012		Fall 2010	Spring 2011		Fall 2009	Spring 2010	
Active Registered	1226	1189	96.98%	1132	1094	96.64%	1213	1167	96.21%	1188	1146	96.46%
Active Not Registered		0			6			6			5	
Student Withdrawal University	1	34			31			37			37	
Academic Dismissal		0			0			2			0	
Involuntary Withdrawal		2		1*	0			1			0	
*The involuntary withdrawal in Fall 2011 was registered for the Fall semester and is part of the cohort, the student is not double counted.												

Thirty-five students from the Fall 2012 cohort voluntarily withdrew from SJU before the start of the Spring semester, while 96.98% of the class persisted to the Spring semester. Due to continuous outreach by the Office of Student Success & First Year Experience, there are zero students who are active but not registered.

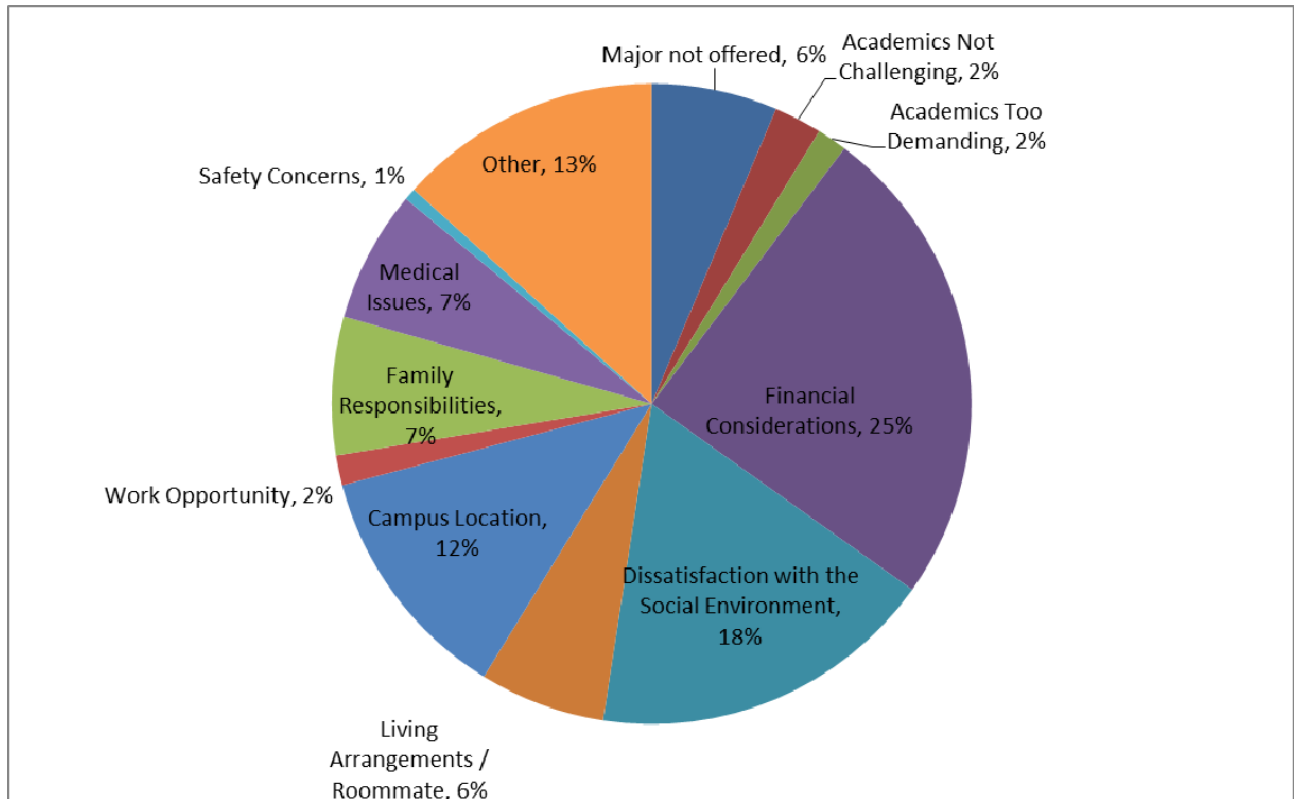
Comparing the first year students in the Class of 2016 to those in the Class of 2015, there is a .34% increase in persistence. It should be noted that the Board of Student Academic Review no longer meets in January. Beginning in 2011, first year students are no longer academically dismissed after one semester.

Reasons students voluntarily withdrew from SJU

During the One Question Exit Interview (1QEI), students were asked to weigh the reasons why they were withdrawing by distributing 10 chips on the withdrawal game board.

On the next page a pie chart displays the reasons why 33 first year students withdrew from Saint Joseph’s University (two students did not answer the 10 chips question).

The reasons why 33 first year students withdrew from SJU



Comparing the reasons for withdrawing after the fall semester

	Class of 2016	Class of 2015	Class of 2014	Class of 2013	Class of 2012
Financial Considerations	25%	30%	15%	21%	22%
Dissatisfaction with the Social	18%	17%	15%	12%	11%
Other	13%	15%	9%	16%	11%
Campus Location	12%	10%	15%	14%	10%
Family Responsibilities	7%	6%	10%	7%	7%
Medical Issues	7%	3%	8%	0%	5%
Major not offered	6%	7%	10%	12%	7%
Living Arrangements	6%	5%	9%	6%	10%

In the grid above, color coding indicates at least a 4% change from the previous year. **Red** indicates an increase in frequency and **Green** indicates a decrease in frequency. “Financial Considerations” had a significant decrease from last year’s high of 30%. However, 8 of the 33 students who completed the 10 Chips exercise put at least half (5 or more) of their chips on “financial considerations”. The response of “dissatisfaction with the social atmosphere” has increased every year since 2009, while “major not offered” has decreased three years in a row. To explain the increase in “Medical Issues” from last year, 2 students put all 10 chips on “medical issues”.

Some responses for “Other” include: did not make the Lacrosse team, not doing as well academically as I would like, want to be closer to home, not the right fit, SJU is too small, and will attend first choice school.

The majors first year students were seeking at other institutions: Nursing (2), Digital Arts/Graphic Design (1), Secondary Education (1), and Urban Planning (1).

What are the educational plans of the first year students who withdrew?

	Class of 2016	% of 35	Class of 2015	% of 31	Class of 2014	% of 37	Class of 2013	% of 37
Will attend private universities	3	8%	7	23%	8	22%	12	32%
Will attend public universities (including Temple and Penn State)	12	34%	11	35%	10	27%	14	38%
Will attend community colleges	10	29%	7	23%	10	27%	7	19%
Did not share educational plans	10	29%	6	19%	9	24%	4	11%
Total	35		31		37		37	

The percentage of students attending private Universities is significantly lower than in recent years. The overall percentage of students attending public Universities and community colleges is 63% (compared to 58% in 2012, 54% in 2011, and 57% in 2010). The Office of Student Success shares the contact information of the students who are transferring to a community college with Undergraduate Admissions so that they are included in our Transfer Admissions outreach program.

Persistence Rates comparing Spring semesters

	Class of 2016	Class of 2015	Class of 2014	Class of 2013	Class of 2012	Class of 2011	Class of 2010	Class of 2009	Class of 2008	5 year average	Overall Average
2nd Semester	96.98%	96.73%	96.29%	96.46%	95.79%	96.33%	95.86%	96.10%	95.86%	96.45%	96.27%
4th Semester		87.46%	85.90%	86.62%	82.55%	85.40%	85.31%	84.12%	86.68%	85.59%	85.50%
6th Semester			82.34%	82.66%	77.33%	81.18%	81.36%	78.88%	81.39%	80.97%	80.73%
8th Semester				80.13%	74.88%	78.70%	80.18%	76.13%	78.83%	78.00%	78.14%
						Data updated on February 1st annually					

Data updated on February 1st annually

The persistence rate of the current seniors (Class of 2013) has bounced back to 80% after last year's class (Class of 2012, aka the "big class") dropped off significantly.

The persistence rate of the current juniors (Class of 2014) is at the second highest level in recent history, after last year's juniors set the bar for the highest recorded level.

8th Semester Retention and Graduation Rates

	Class of 2005	Class of 2006	Class of 2007	Class of 2008	Class of 2009	Class of 2010	Class of 2011	Class of 2012	Class of 2013	5 year Average	Overall Average
8th Semester	76.1%	81.1%	78.9%	78.8%	76.1%	80.2%	78.7%	74.9%	80.1%	78.0%	78.3%
4 Year graduation rate	68.2%	73.7%	70.7%	72.9%	70.5%	74.0%	70.3%	66.8%		70.9%	70.9%
5 year graduation rate	74.3%	78.7%	76.1%	77.9%	75.4%	78.6%	77.6%	68.6%		77.1%	76.9%
6 Year graduation rate	75.4%	79.5%	77.5%	78.5%	75.8%	79.1%	78.0%			78.1%	77.6%
Difference between 8th semester and 6 year graduation	-0.73%	-1.62%	-1.41%	-0.33%	-0.33%	-1.08%				-0.95%	-0.92%
							Updated 2.6.2013				
							Not finalized, year continues, not in averages				

Analysis of the data above shows that the 5 year average difference between 8th semester retention and 6 year graduation rates is less than 1% (as close as .33% for the Classes of 2008 and 2009).

The 4 year graduation rate for the Class of 2012 (the big class) was below 70% for the first time since the Class of 2005. 90 students from that class were registered during Fall 2012 (6% of the cohort) and 48 students are registered this Spring (3% of the cohort).

The Office of Student Success & First Year Experience continues outreach to students who did not graduate with their class to help them reconnect with SJU for an additional 2 years.

The next Persistence Report will be compiled during the Fall 2013 semester and will include first year to sophomore retention rates, year to year persistence rates, and graduation rates.

If you have questions about this report, please contact Kim Allen-Stuck or Dan McDevitt from the Office of Student Success & First Year Experience, success@sju.edu or 610-660-1339.