

Ready or not, students, here come finals

By Michelle Tan
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Twenty-one percent of students polled in St. Cloud State University's latest student survey said they spend 10 hours a week studying.

That could spike this week as area college students start finals week.

Finals week starts today for the 16,000 students at St. Cloud State and Tuesday for the 3,800 students at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. The 3,000 students at St. Cloud Technical College begin their final exams May 10.

St. Cloud State junior Jeff Reiter said he spends 15 to 20 hours a week studying. He studied at the James W. Miller Learning Resources Center every day last week.

"I'm a little tired," the finance major said. "I just want to get it done."

Reiter, who Sunday was studying for an accounting final, has four final exams this week.

Jadilyn Nguyen, a senior majoring in biomedicine at St. Cloud State, said she enjoys finals week.

"I'm not the typical college student," she said with a smile. "I like the feeling of achieving something, and finals is like wrapping up the school year."

At the end of this week, Nguyen and at least 2,400 college students will complete their college careers.

This spring, 941 students — 473 men and 468 women — make up the largest combined graduating class in St. Ben's and St. John's history, while 41 students will graduate from the School of Theology Seminary.

About 1,400 St. Cloud State students will participate in undergraduate commencement ceremonies this weekend; about 125 will receive their graduate degrees.

Also this weekend, the first graduates of St. Cloud State's two-year bachelor's



Times photo by Kimm Anderson, kanderson@stcloudtimes.com

St. Cloud State University senior Aaron Tschaekofske studies his microbiology notes Friday at the James W. Miller Learning Resources Center.

degree nursing program will receive their diplomas.

According to St. Cloud State's student survey, almost 70 percent of the 505 students polled said they plan to stay in Minnesota after graduation.

Nguyen hopes to attend naturopathic medical school, which gives her more schooling in natural medicine. In the meantime,

she works at the pharmacy at Walgreen Drug Stores.

Nguyen won't attend commencement ceremonies this weekend so she can save money for a trip to Arizona and a two-month vacation in China and Vietnam.

"That's (really) why I'm excited," she said.

■ **List of commencement ceremonies/3B**