

First-Generation College Student Stats

High School

The potential for first-generation to college has declined.

- **NCES**
 - **1972:** 79%
 - **2002:** 62%
 - **2009:** 47%
- **NCES/Census Bureau**
 - **2010:** 64%
 - **2021:** 53%

College/Undergrad

Enrollment of first-generation has declined over the years, but this could be due to an increase in the US population with higher degrees.

- **1990:** 64% (Some College, 23% & No College, 41%)
- **2000:** 62% (Some College, 22% & No College, 40%)
- **2016:** 56% (Some College, 32% & No College, 24%)

First-generation students are more likely to enroll in for-profit institutions or 2-year institutions. (2016)

- **Private non-profit 4-Year:** 43%
- **Public 4-Year:** 47%
- **Public 2-Year:** 64%
- **Private non-profit 2-Year:** 69%
- **Private for-profit 2-Year:** 70%
- **Private for-profit 4-Year:** 72%

Continuing-generation students are more likely to persist and attain a degree than first-generation students. (2012/2017)

6 Years After College Entry:

- **No credential:**
 - **First-Generation:** 52%
 - **Continuing-Generation:** 30%
- **Bachelor's degree attainment:**
 - **First-Generation:** 24%
 - **Continuing-Generation:** 59%

After Undergraduate Completion

Attained any additional degrees after bachelor's degree completion. (2019)

- **First-Generation:** 35%
- **Not First-Generation:** 43%

Average amount owed (including those with zero debt) 4 years (2012) after bachelor's graduation in 2008.

- **First-Generation:** \$32,141
- **Not First-Generation:** \$36,089

Annualized earned income from most recent full-time job 12 months after bachelor's degree completion. (2016/2017)

Median Income:

- **First-Generation:** \$38,500
- **Not First-Generation:** \$40,000



References

First Generation Status:

2000-2001. U.S. Department of Education, Office of Federal TRIO Programs, Figure 9. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/trioupbound/ubprofile-00-01.pdf>. Tabulated from the National Longitudinal Study of 1972 (NLS-72) and Educational Longitudinal Study of Youth (ELS:2002/2004). U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), 2010 and 2019 as included in U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (2020). Digest of Education Statistics 2020, [Table 104.70]. Retrieved from https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d21/tables/dt21_104.70.asp.

Enrollment:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:16) as tabulated from information in the Center for First-Generation Student Success <https://firstgen.naspa.org>. (1990 & 2000, tabulated using NCES PowerStats.)

By Institution Type:

RTI International. (2019). *First-generation College Students: Demographic Characteristics and Postsecondary Enrollment*. Washington, DC: NASPA. Retrieved from <https://firstgen.naspa.org/files/dmfile/FactSheet-01.pdf>.

Persistence/Attainment:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Beginning Postsecondary Students (BPS:2012/2017). Tabulated using NCES PowerStats. <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab/start>.

Additional Degrees:

Fry, R. (2021, May 28). *First-generation college graduates lag behind their peers on key economic outcomes*. Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project. Retrieved October 26, 2022, from <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2021/05/18/first-generation-college-graduates-lag-behind-their-peers-on-key-economic-outcomes>.

Loans/Debt:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Beginning Postsecondary Students (B&B:2008/2012). Tabulated using NCES PowerStats. <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab/start>.

Income:

Velez, E.D., Lew, T., Thomsen, E., Johnson, K., Wine, J. & Cooney, J. (2019). *Baccalaureate and Beyond B&B:16/17: A First Look at the Employment and Educational Experiences of College Graduates, 1 Year Later*. National Center for Education Statistics, NCES 2019. Retrieved from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019241>.