

# First-generation College Students

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT

The percentage of undergraduates who were first-generation college students depends on the definition. As of academic year 2015–16:

# 24%

had parents with **no postsecondary education**.

# 56%

had parents who **did not have a bachelor's degree**. The fact sheet uses this definition of first-generation student.

# 59%

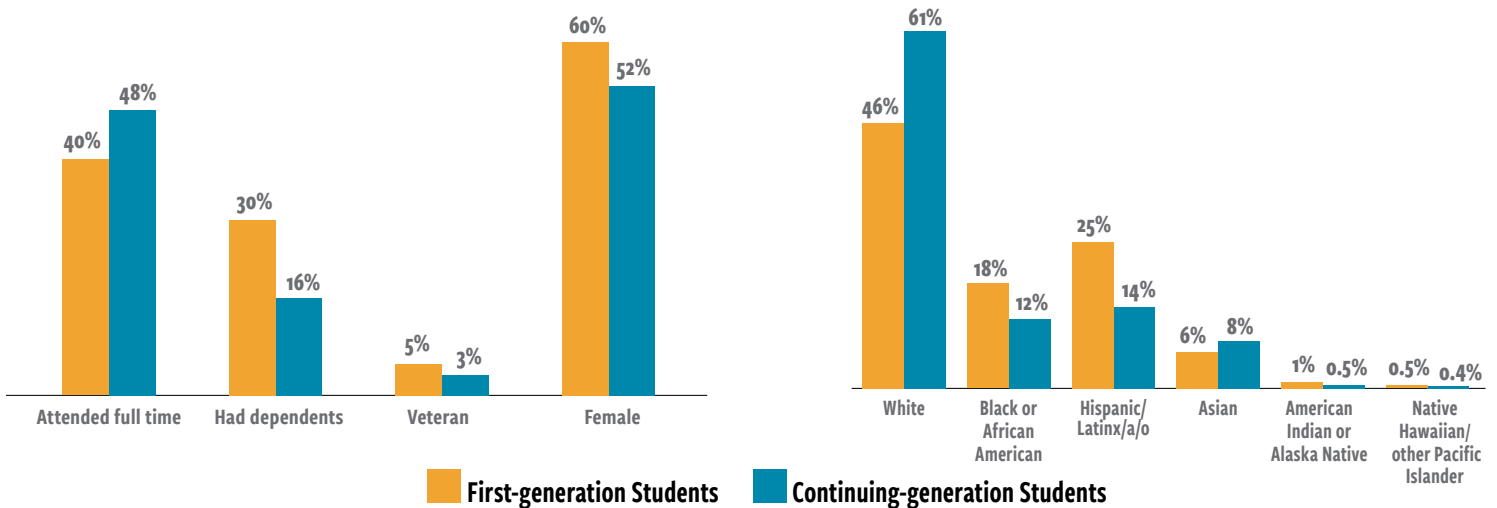
of students whose parents did not have a bachelor's degree **were also the first sibling in their family** to go to college.

### PERCENTAGE WHO WERE AGE 30 OR ABOVE

**28%** of **first-generation** students

**16%** of **continuing-generation** students

### Distribution of Characteristics Among First-generation and Continuing-generation Students



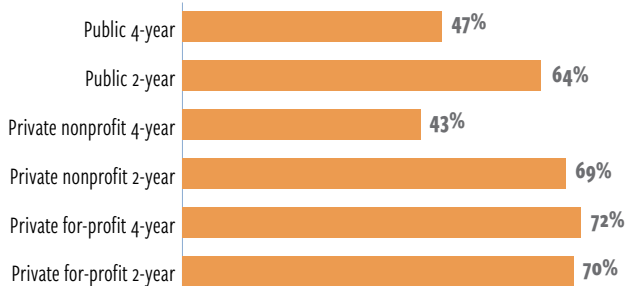
### MEDIAN PARENTAL INCOME AMONG DEPENDENT STUDENTS



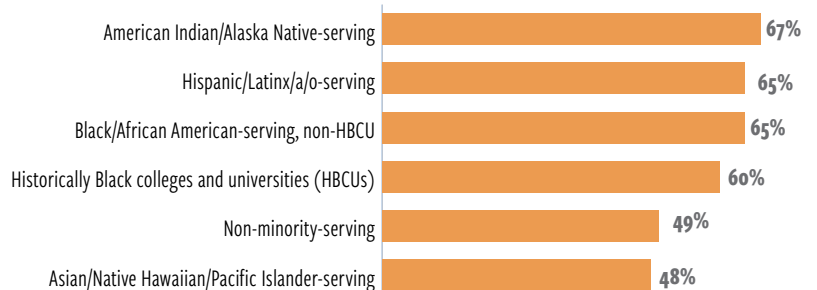
**\$41,000** for **first-generation** students

**\$90,000** for **continuing-generation** students

#### Percentage of Undergraduates Who Were First-generation, by Sector



#### Percentage of Undergraduates Who Were First-generation, by Type of Minority-Serving Institution



# First Year Experience, Persistence, and Attainment of First-generation College Students

## IN THEIR FIRST YEAR IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION:



Enrolled **full-time**

**65%** of **first-generation** students

**75%** of **continuing-generation** students



Completed a **college-level** (but not advanced-level) math course such as **general statistics**

**23%** of **first-generation** students

**24%** of **continuing-generation** students

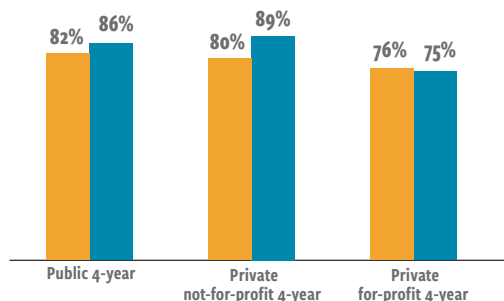


Completed an **advanced-level** math course such as **calculus**

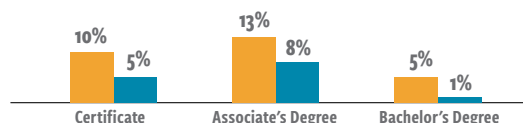
**6%** of **first-generation** students

**18%** of **continuing-generation** students

**Percentage of Bachelor's Degree Students Who Persisted at Their First Institution After the First Year, by Institution Type**

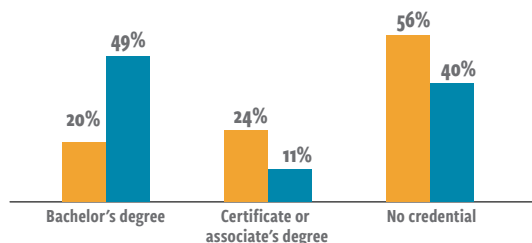


**Percentage Who Departed from Postsecondary Education Without a Credential After the First Year and Did not Enroll Again, by Level of Degree Program**



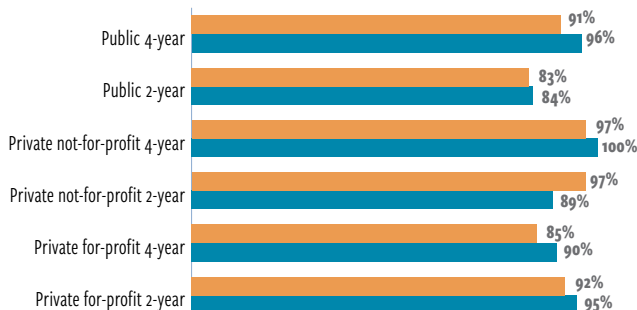
■ First-generation students ■ Continuing-generation students

**Attainment 6 Years After Entering Postsecondary Education\***



\* Higher percentages of first-generation than continuing-generation students first enrolled in certificate and associate degree programs.

**Median Percentage of Attempted Credits Completed 6 Years After Entering Postsecondary Education, by Sector**



■ First-generation students ■ Continuing-generation students



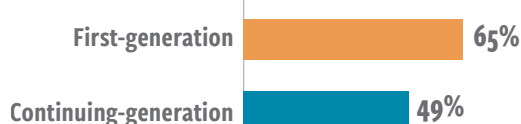
# Use of Student Services among Freshman First-generation College Students

In their first year in postsecondary education, a **higher percentage** of **first-generation** than **continuing-generation** students used financial aid services, but a **lower percentage** used health, academic advising, and academic support services.

## FINANCIAL AID SERVICES



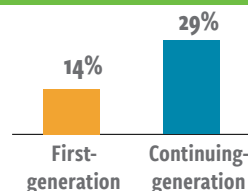
A **higher percentage** of **first-generation** than **continuing-generation** students used financial aid services.



## HEALTH SERVICES



**First-generation** students used student health services at a **lower rate** than **continuing-generation** students.



## ACADEMIC ADVISING



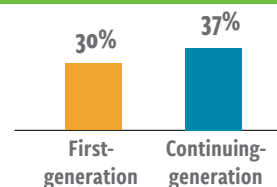
A **lower percentage** of **first-generation** students made use of academic advising services than **continuing-generation** students.



## ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES



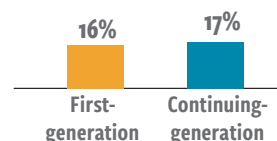
**Fewer first-generation** students sought academic support services than **continuing-generation** students.



## CAREER SERVICES



**Neither first-generation** nor **continuing-generation** students made much use of career services in their first year.



# First-generation College Students' Employment

Among both **first-generation** and **continuing-generation** college students in academic year 2015–16, most had a paid job, internship, or work-study award:

**66%**

of **first-generation** students were employed.

**61%**

of **continuing-generation** students were employed.

**1**

## MEDIAN NUMBER OF JOBS

Neither **first-generation** nor **continuing-generation** students changed jobs frequently while enrolled, nor did they have many jobs at once: both had **1** job, on average, in academic year 2015–16.



## MEDIAN HOURS WORKED

**First-generation** students worked **more** hours while enrolled than **continuing-generation** students.



## JOB RELATED TO MAJOR

Among those who were employed while enrolled: **35%** of **first-generation** students & **34%** of **continuing-generation** students had a job related to their major.



## ON-CAMPUS JOB

Not including work-study jobs, a **lower percentage** of **employed first-generation students** worked on campus than **continuing-generation students**.

