**First-generation College Students in 2020**

**DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS AND POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT**

- **26%** of undergraduates had parents with no postsecondary education.
- **54%** of undergraduates had parents who did not have a bachelor's degree. This is the definition of first-generation that is used in this fact sheet.
- **60%** of undergraduates whose parents did not have a bachelor's degree were also the first sibling in their family to go to college.

**MEDIAN PARENTAL INCOME OF FINANCIALLY DEPENDENT STUDENTS**

- First-generation students' parents' median income was $41,000 in both 2016 and 2020.
- Continuing-generation students' parents' income increased from $90,000 in 2016 to $103,000 in 2020.

**Percentage of Undergraduates with Selected Characteristics**

- **47%** attended college full time
- **27%** had dependents
- **11%** were veteran
- **2%** were female

**Percentage of Undergraduates who were First-generation, by Race/ethnicity**

- **73%** Hispanic or Latinx/a/o
- **65%** Black or African American
- **64%** AI, AN, NH, or PI*
- **46%** White
- **44%** Asian

**Percentage of Undergraduates who were First-generation, by Type of Minority-serving Institution**

- **80%** American Indian/Alaska Native-serving
- **72%** Black/African American-serving, non-HBCU
- **70%** Hispanic/Latinx/a/o-serving
- **64%** Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- **60%** Not minority-serving
- **48%** Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander-serving
- **41%** Private nonprofit 4-year

---

“AI, AN, NH, or PI” is American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander. First-generation student is defined as an undergraduate whose parents do not have a bachelor’s degree. Parents’ median income is based on financially dependent students only. Fact sheet represents undergraduate students enrolled in Title IV eligible postsecondary institutions in academic year 2019–20. Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive. NASPA recognizes that each racial identity is defined by diverse populations. While aggregation is a useful tool to understand patterns, there are opportunities for continued study to disaggregate the data further. Percentages are rounded. Data sources are 2019–20 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:20), National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and 2015–16 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:16), National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. NPSAS:20 was released in 2023 and is the most recent iteration of NPSAS. The number of survey respondents was about 81,000, representing a population of 17.1 million undergraduates. Fact sheet produced by RTI International.