First-generation College Graduates’ Participation in Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities as Undergraduate Students

Among students who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in academic year 2015–16, fewer first-generation graduates had participated in extracurricular and co-curricular activities than continuing-generation graduates.

Participated in an extracurricular club as undergraduate students:

- 46% of first-generation college graduates
- 65% of continuing-generation college graduates

Percentage of first-generation and continuing-generation college graduates who participated in an extracurricular club as undergraduate students, by race/ethnicity and age at graduation:

- First-generation College Graduates
- Continuing-generation College Graduates

Held a formal leadership role:

- 31% of first-generation college graduates
- 44% of continuing-generation college graduates

Participated in a research project with a faculty member:

- 23% of first-generation college graduates
- 30% of continuing-generation college graduates

Had a paid internship:

- 23% of first-generation college graduates
- 33% of continuing-generation college graduates

Studied abroad:

- 8% of first-generation college graduates
- 17% of continuing-generation college graduates

“AI, AN, NH, or PI” refers to American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander. “†” means interpret the statistic with caution due to a large standard error. “‡” indicates that data could not be reported due to low sample size or a coefficient of variation of 50 percent or greater. Fact sheet represents individuals who received a bachelor’s degree in academic year 2015–16 from a Title IV postsecondary institution. A first-generation college student/graduate is an individual whose parents do not have a bachelor’s or higher degree. A continuing-generation college student/graduate is an individual who has at least one parent with a bachelor’s or higher degree. Percentages are rounded. Data source is U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2016/17 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:16/17). B&B:16/17 was released in 2019 and is the most recent cohort of B&B. Total sample size is 19,490. Weighted sample size (population size) is 2 million. Fact sheet produced by RTI International.