

First Scholars Frequently Asked Questions

- What are the benefits of being part of the First Scholars Network?
 - First Scholars' benefits are numerous and a list can be found [here](#). Not all institutional benefits are listed. Because institutions, their student bodies, faculty, and staff are unique, benefits from engagement will differ from one institution to the next.
- What are the requirements to participate in the First Scholars Network?
 - Preliminary participation requirements can be found [here](#). More extensive requirements related to senior leadership commitment, engagement involvement, data collection and assessment are provided to institutions who are offered admission to the cohort.
- Can any institutional type participate in the First Scholars Network?
 - Yes, accredited two- and four-year institutions are welcome to submit an [interest form](#).
- How do I become a NASPA Institutional/Professional Member?
 - Visit <https://www.naspa.org/about/membership/institutions>, to review the benefits. Also, the benefit of becoming a NASPA Institutional Member reduces the cost of a professional member. [Here](#) you will see many more benefits.
- Can I become a NASPA member after I am selected?
 - Yes. It is preferred that the institution already be an Institutional Member and the primary institution contact be a professional member to be considered. However, we will work with those institutions interested to gain membership.
- How many institutions will you accept?
 - Each cohort will be capped at 18 institutions. Each cohort, and the institutions contained within, will be involved in the larger First Scholars Network.
 - This will remain a competitive experience.
- How many individuals from our institution can participate in First Scholars monthly cohort virtual meetings, Network engagements, and unique conference experiences?

- First Scholars monthly cohort virtual meetings require steering committee representatives from each institution, but if desired, more individuals can participate in monthly calls, and engage in Network engagements, and unique conference experiences.
- How frequently will the virtual meetings occur?
 - Roughly every month a virtual meeting with the entire cohort will occur. Across the course of a year, there will be 12 total virtual meetings. These virtual meetings will begin in July 2021.
 - The calls will use the RingCentral platform.
- How long does my institution's First Scholars structured cohort engagement last?
 - The structured engagement with the First Scholars cohort will last 24 months (2 years).
 - At the conclusion of the cohort engagement, institutions may elect to continue to remain in the First Scholars Network at a membership rate and will receive discounts on fee-for-service engagements.
- Will NASPA make an announcement about my institutional selection?
 - We are targeting to notify institutions by early-April.
 - We will share a press release that may be used to share broadly with your institutional partners and external stakeholders as appropriate.
- How much money will be required from my institution to fully participate in First Scholars?
 - Institutions are asked to pay a commitment fee to participate.
 - Time and personnel to complete the participation requirements will be a required resource.
- How does First Scholars relate to being a First-gen Forward institution?
 - The First Scholars Network and First-gen Forward are separate entities administered through the Center for First-generation Student Success at NASPA. Participation in one does not assume or preclude participation in the other.