



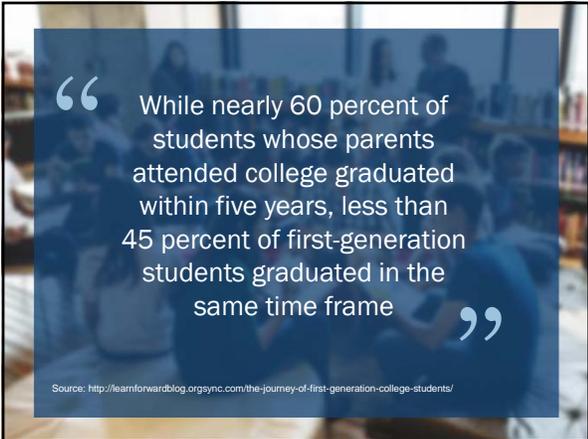
First Generation Students: Opportunities to Encourage Student Success

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How does your institution identify first-generation students?

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“ While nearly 60 percent of students whose parents attended college graduated within five years, less than 45 percent of first-generation students graduated in the same time frame ”

Source: <http://learnforwardblog.orgsync.com/the-journey-of-first-generation-college-students/>

Today's Objectives

1. Define first-generation students
2. Examine barriers
3. Identify ways for students to be successful
4. Explore ways to reach out



Who are First-Generation Students?



What Does it Mean to be a First-generation Student?

- First person in the immediate family to attend college
- Highest degree attained by either parent was a high school diploma or equivalent or less
- Can come from low-, middle- or higher-income families



Source: collegeboard.org



First-generation Students

- Demographically, low-income, first-generation students are more likely than their most advantaged peers to:

- Be older
- Be female
- Have a disability
- Come from minority backgrounds
- Be non-native English speakers and born outside of the U.S.

- Have dependent children and be single parents
- Have earned a high school equivalency diploma
- Be financially independent from their parents

Source: files.eric.ed.gov



First-generation Students

- Low-income, first-generation college students are also more likely than their most advantaged peers to:

- Delay entry into postsecondary education after high school
- Attend college closer to home

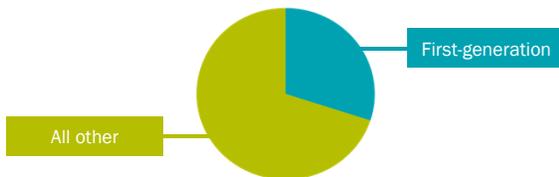
- Live off-campus
- Attend part-time
- Work full-time while enrolled

Source: files.eric.ed.gov



Did You Know...

Roughly one-third of undergraduates are first-generation college students

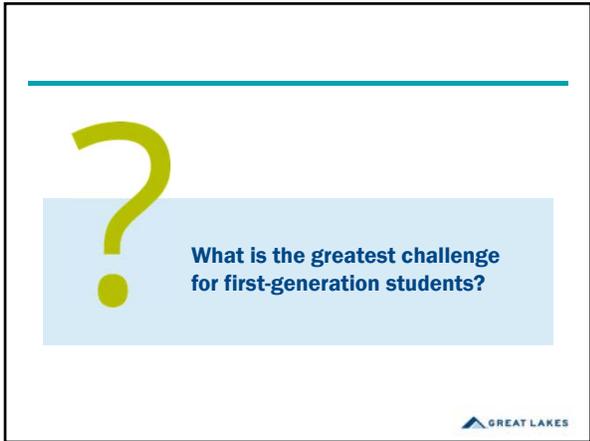


Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS), 2012



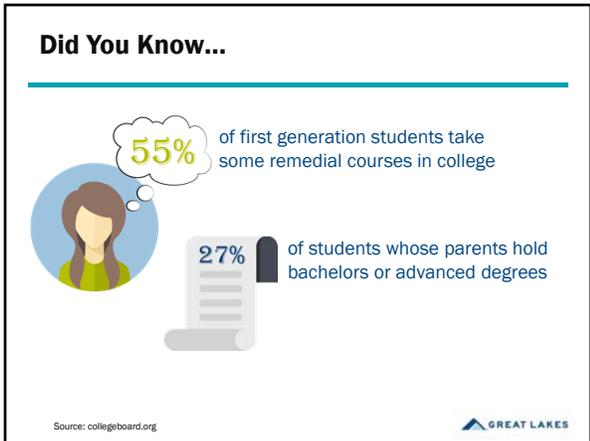


What are the Barriers and Ways to Overcome Them?

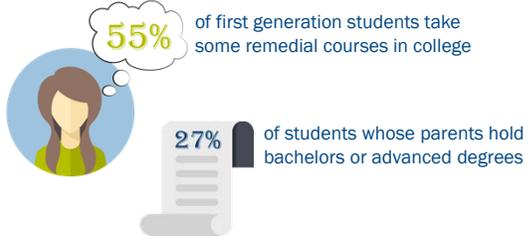


What is the greatest challenge for first-generation students?





Did You Know...



Source: collegeboard.org



A Student's Perspective



"My biggest challenge was the lack of insight my parents had on the college experience as a whole – and the task of picking a major.

Also, I was very unaware of the burden my student loans would have on my future." - James

Source: theguardian.com



A Student's Perspective



"The biggest struggle was the looming fear of failure based on the notion that if I were to fail, I wouldn't have anyone else in my family to rely on." - Reaz

Source: theguardian.com



Barriers to Success

- May not know where to find help with admissions applications and financial aid forms
- They're less likely to live on campus
- Many are less engaged with faculty
- May lack study skills

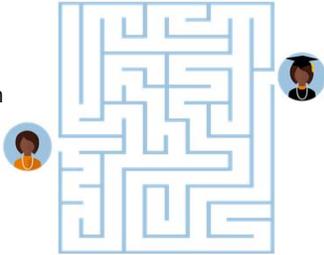


Source: ihcp.org



Barriers to Success

- Few realize the resources available
- Pressure of others' expectations of them
- Understanding available choices
- Balancing freedom and flexibility



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Barriers to Success

- Some may only have a one year plan for paying for college
 - One-year, non-renewable scholarship(s)
 - May not meet the GPA cut-off
 - Initial family/friends support gone

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Barriers to Success

- Many don't know what they don't know
 - Can lead to poor choices
- Parents may be unable to assist
- They are often under-prepared for college life
- Many lack important life skills
- College and university bureaucracy can be intimidating



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Ways to Overcome Barriers

- Proactive mentorship and tutoring
- Provide courses associated with life skills
- Help students develop goals and self-evaluate
- Regularly communicate with students and parents about the value of the education they are receiving



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Guide Them to Available Resources

- Financial aid
- Time management
- Campus involvement
- Study strategies
- Diversity and multiculturalism
- Course selection
- Career exploration
- Studying abroad
- Residential life
- Stress management



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How Can You Reach Out to Students?





What initiatives does your institution have in place to assist first-generation students?



Develop a Multi-Pronged Approach

- Identify them and reach out early
- Suggest they take advantage of career assessment tools
- Encourage strong relationships with their academic advisor
- Involve the family




Develop a Multi-Pronged Approach

- Reassure students that it's okay to ask questions if they don't understand something
- Provide peer mentors who were also first-generation students
- Visit high schools and explain:
 - Admissions process
 - Financial aid
 - How to choose a major
 - Services available




Develop a Multi-Pronged Approach

- Implement a system that monitors first-generation students
 - Check academic standing mid-term
 - Provide supplemental financial wellness counseling



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Develop a Multi-Pronged Approach

- Identifying existing or new opportunities for staff to work collaboratively with faculty and others in supporting first-generation students
- Determine required benchmarks for success
 - Have “safety nets” to prevent them from falling between the cracks



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Wrap-Up



In Conclusion

- Offer a student-centric approach
- Be a student advocate
- Look ahead and look in the rearview mirror
- Avoid making assumptions
- Provide a pathway to success
- Encourage engagement



Resources

- imfirst.org
- llep.org
- collegetrack.org
- collegeboard.org
- firstgenerationstudent.com
- firstgenerationfilm.com/filmmakers.php

