First-generation College Graduates
RACE/ETHNICITY, AGE, AND USE OF CAREER PLANNING SERVICES

Among students who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in academic year 2015–16:

- 42% were first-generation college graduates (parents did not have a bachelor’s degree)
- 58% were continuing-generation college graduates (at least one parent had a bachelor’s degree or higher)

Percentage who were first-generation college graduates, by race/ethnicity and age at graduation:

- AI, AN, NH, or PI: 54%
- Asian: 39%
- Black or African American: 59%
- Hispanic or Latinx/a/o: 60%
- White: 36%
- Age 23 or younger: 31%
- Age 24 or older: 57%

Higher percentages of AI, AN, NH, or PI; Black or African American; and Hispanic or Latinx/a/o college graduates were first-generation than Asian and white graduates.

A higher percentage of graduates who were age 24 or older were first-generation than those who were 23 or younger.

USE OF CAREER PLANNING SERVICES AS AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

- 24% of first-generation college graduates participated in career fairs
- 30% of continuing-generation college graduates participated in career fairs

- 28% of first-generation college graduates received resume or cover letter assistance from career planning services
- 34% of continuing-generation college graduates received resume or cover letter assistance from career planning services

Percentage of first-generation and continuing-generation college graduates who used career planning services, by race/ethnicity:

- AI, AN, NH, or PI:
  - First-generation: 22%
  - Continuing-generation: 14%
- Asian:
  - First-generation: 34%
  - Continuing-generation: 38%
- Black or African American:
  - First-generation: 24%
  - Continuing-generation: 33%
- Hispanic or Latinx/a/o:
  - First-generation: 28%
  - Continuing-generation: 28%
- White:
  - First-generation: 22%
  - Continuing-generation: 29%

- AI, AN, NH, or PI:
  - First-generation: 25%
  - Continuing-generation: 20%
- Asian:
  - First-generation: 34%
  - Continuing-generation: 35%
- Black or African American:
  - First-generation: 32%
  - Continuing-generation: 32%
- Hispanic or Latinx/a/o:
  - First-generation: 30%
  - Continuing-generation: 32%
- White:
  - First-generation: 26%
  - Continuing-generation: 33%

"AI, AN, NH, or PI" refers to American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or other Pacific Islander. "P" means interpret the statistic with caution due to a large standard error. 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.

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