

First-Gen Undergraduate Student Parents

This summary profiles undergraduate college students with dependent children across the United States who were enrolled in the 2019–20 academic year and whose parents did not enroll in college (“first-gen”).



28%
of first-gen undergraduates are parents
1.51 million

Dependent Children

43% of first-gen student parents have one child
57% have two or more children
47% have at least one child under age 6

Gender



58% of nonparenting first-gen students are female, 41% are male, and 1% have another gender identity

Age



69% of nonparenting first-gen students are under age 25, 14% are 25–29, 8% are 30–39, and 8% are 40 or older

Race and Ethnicity



32% of nonparenting first-gen students are white, 38% are Latine, 14% are Black, 10% are Asian, 2% are American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN) or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (NHPI), and 5% are multiple races or ethnicities

Enrollment



72% of nonparenting first-gen students are enrolled full time and 28% are enrolled part time

Institutions



50% of nonparenting first-gen students are enrolled in a community or technical college, 29% in a public baccalaureate institution, 12% in a private nonprofit, and 9% in a private for-profit institution

Social

Married: 46%

10% of nonparenting first-gen students are married

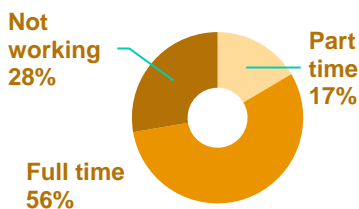
First-gen: 100%

100% of nonparenting first-gen students are first-generation college students

Veteran: 9%

3% of nonparenting first-gen students are veterans

Employment and Economic Well-Being While Enrolled



29% of nonparenting first-gen students are not working, 31% are working part time, and 40% are working full time



30%

could not come up with \$500 in the next month

23% of nonparenting first-gen students could not come up with \$500



7%

were recently homeless

9% of nonparenting first-gen students were recently homeless



30%

are food insecure

27% of nonparenting first-gen students are food insecure



32%

participate in SNAP

15% of nonparenting first-gen students participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

For more information and to pull similar statistics, explore the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study: 2020 Undergraduate Students in the National Center for Education Statistics’ DataLab tool at <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab>.

Note: Data collection was interrupted by COVID-19 shutdowns, so parenting students might be underrepresented in this data source. Dependent children may be up to age 25. Enrollment intensity represents fall enrollment among those enrolled in the fall term. College types are recategorized using a detailed sector variable. Values may not sum to 100 because of rounding.

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