



Pathways to College for Potential First-Generation (FG) Students

Characteristics That Profile College Groundwork of High School and College Students Whose Parents' Educational Attainment is Less Than a Bachelor's Degree

COLLEGE/DEGREE EXPECTATIONS AS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS OF POTENTIAL FG STUDENTS (2012):¹



78% expected to achieve a bachelor's degree or higher



86% of their parents expected them to achieve a bachelor's degree or higher

PERSONAL INFLUENCES OF POTENTIAL FG STUDENTS WHEN THEY WERE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS (2012):¹

- 39% were most influenced by parents when thinking about education after high school
- 49% indicated that their parents had the most influence on their thoughts about financial aid
- 34% relied more on themselves and 33% on their parents when thinking about careers
- Although students talked mostly to their parents about their future, a large portion (43%) still included their friends in the discussion

OF THOSE IN TRIO PROGRAMS, PERCENT THAT ARE FG:

- EOC: 85% (2022)⁶
- McNair: 81% (2020)⁷
- SSS: 81% (2016)²

- Talent Search: 87% (2016)³
- Upward Bound: 92% (2018)⁵

- Upward Bound-Math/Science: 91% (2018)⁵
- Upward Bound-Veterans: 86%(2017)⁴

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OF FG STUDENTS THE FALL AFTER HIGH SCHOOL (FALL 2013):¹



90% applied or registered at a college



71% were taking postsecondary classes



53% were enrolled in 4-year institutions and 47% enrolled in 2-year institutions



10% of these students were enrolled at a highly selective 4-year institution



64% were enrolled at inclusive and open enrollment institutions

MINDSET OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, WHO ARE POTENTIAL FG STUDENTS, ON FINANCIAL AID/PAYING FOR COLLEGE (2012):¹



62% completed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), though 40% felt that even if they were accepted, their family couldn't afford to send them



52% were not willing to borrow more than \$15,000 per year to finance their higher education



62% planned on paying their college tuition with grants and/or scholarships



40% believed they would qualify for federal or state loans to pay for college tuition



42% planned to use their family's earnings/savings to pay for tuition

OCCUPATIONS BY AGE 30 POTENTIAL FG STUDENTS EXPECT TO HAVE (2012):¹

28%

Don't know/undecided

20%

Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations

13%

Arts, design, entertainment, sports, & media occupations



SOURCES

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8. U.S. Department of Education. (2022). 20 USC CHAPTER 28, SUBCHAPTER IV, Part A: Federal Early Outreach and Student Services Programs. The text contained those laws in effect on January 7, 2011. Washington, D.C. Retrieved from <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/statute-trio-gu.pdf>