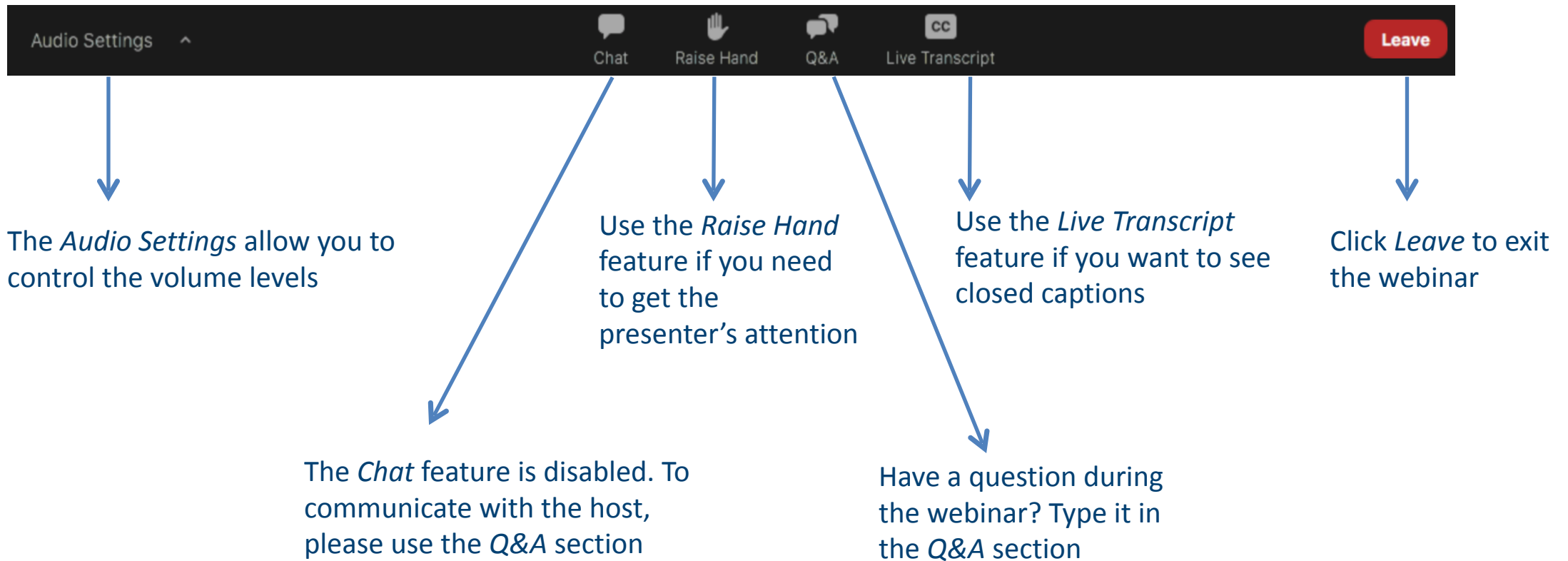


Getting First-Generation Students to the End

mefa[®]

How to Participate



Your Presenters



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Getting First Gen To The End

Presented by Jaron Tucker & Natalie Wong

Agenda

- What Is A First-Generation College Student?
- The Variance That Exist Within The Population
- The Issues Students Face Before and After Acceptance
- The Hurdles They May Encounter During Their Journey To Graduation
- How We Can Support First Gen & Ensure They Are Armed With The Tools To Survive & Thrive!





Defining a First-Generation Student



By definition, a first-generation student is born to parents who have not graduated college.

This means a student whose parent attended college for 3 years but did not graduate would be considered a first generational student.



The Population

Different Type of FirstGen Students

Student Group 1

- Parents have no college experience at all.
- Parents are documented Immigrants and have no U.S college experience.
- Student has not been a part of a college readiness program.



Student Group 2

- Parent went to college but did not graduate.
- Student has a family member outside of their immediate household that attended or graduated from a U.S college.
- Student has participated in a college prep program.



Student Group 3

- Eligible Non-Citizens
- Parents may be undocumented immigrants
- Dependency Overrides
- Student is an Orphan



Student Group 4

- Student is DACA
- International Students



The Issues At Hand

While there are many contributing factors, the main reasons first generation students leave without a degree are for the following:




Financial
Burdens

Low-Income Households

Affordability


Dependency



Lack Of
Support

All school systems and districts
are not created equal.

Households vary in many
situations.



Inequitable
Access To
Resources

Many students are not aware of
the resources as others.

Lack of community resources

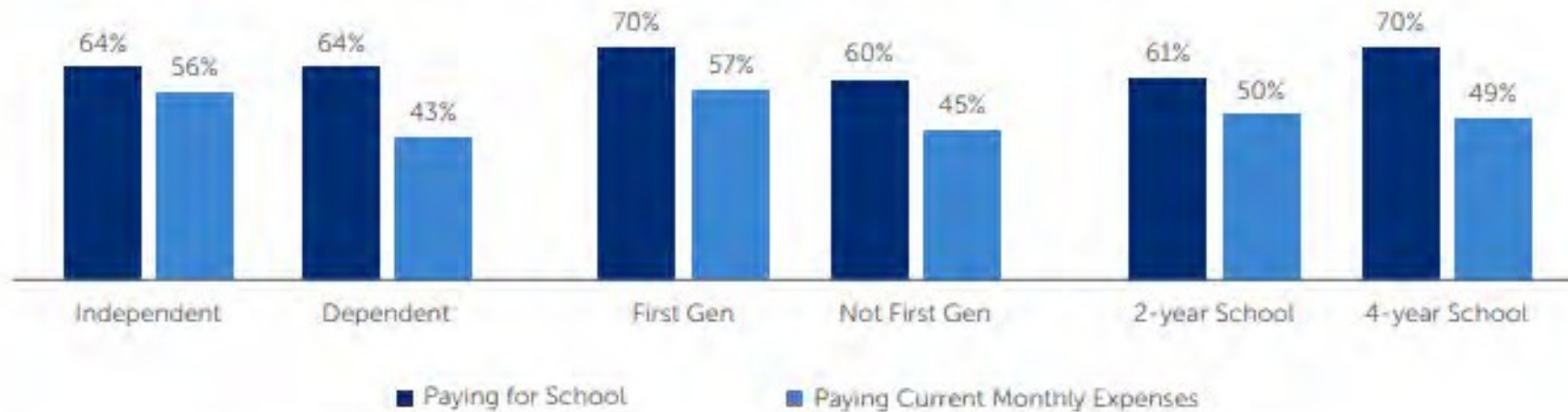


Life

It comes at you fast and
personalities, personal & family
history impact the way
everyone handles the hurdles
life may throw their way.

Are your students concerned?

Q48-49: Respondents who are worried about paying for school or their monthly expenses by Vulnerable Populations
Respondents who answered 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree'



The Issues At Hand

Did you know a school can lose Federal Loan eligibility if they have a student loan default rate of over 30% for a 3-year period?

Default Rates are highest among first Gen students

TABLE 2

Low-income, first-generation college students fare the worst in terms of loan repayment

Income and first-generation status	Default rate
Low income and first generation	46%
Low income and not first generation	39%
First generation and not low income	25%
Not low income and not first generation	14%

Note: In these data, the U.S. Department of Education defines low-income students as those with total incomes below \$25,000 per year.

Source: Author's analysis of data from National Center for Education Statistics, "2003-04 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Survey, Second Follow-up (BPS:04/09): Table fmbkc74," available at <https://nces.ed.gov/datalab/powerstats/output.aspx> (last accessed October 2018).



Default Rates

- 91.8% of all student loans come from the federal government.
- 10.8% of student borrowers default on their educational loans within their first year of repayment.
- 25% of borrowers default within their first five years of repayment.
- 10%-20% of student loans are currently in default.
- 15.6% of student borrowers who attended a private, for-profit college default within the first year of repayment.
- 7.1% of private non-profit college attendees default on their student loans.
- 42.8% of borrowers with loans in default owe a debt of \$20,000-\$40,000.
- 77.6% of borrowers owe \$40,000 or less in defaulted student loans.
- 1% of borrowers owe \$200,000 or more in defaulted student loans.
- Student borrowers who attended private 2-year and less-than-2-year institutions are the most likely to default on their educational loans.
- At a rate of 26.33%, Arts and Humanities majors who attended non-selective schools are the most likely to default on their student loans.
- 17.7% is the default rate among Black/African American student borrowers.
- 13% and 9% are the default rates for Hispanic/Latino and White/Caucasian student borrowers, respectively.

(EDI , 2021)



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The Hurdles

The Hurdles Before Acceptance

Financial Hurdles

- Application Fees
- Deposit Deadlines
- Aid Process Literacy
- Fee Waivers

Personal Hurdles

- Selecting The Right School
- Competing Responsibilities
- Parental Approval
- Application Guidelines & Acronyms

The Hurdles After Acceptance

Academic & Financial Hurdles

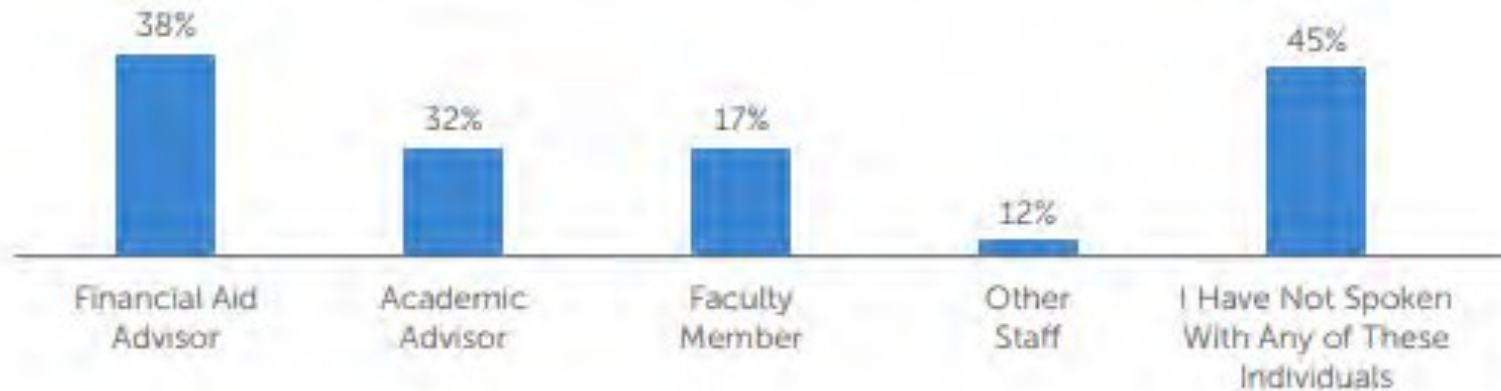
- R2T4s (Return to Title IV Calculation)
- SAP(Satisfactory Academic Progress)
- Academic Probation
- Unusual Enrollment
- Change in Circumstances

Personal Hurdles

- Feeling Out Of Place
- Homesick
- Lacking Community
- Degree Change Of Heart

Who do students seek out for advice?

Q11-15: School individuals spoken with about financial struggles*



*Percentages indicate respondents who chose at least one of the above choices

Supporting the Journey

Communications

- Review your offer letter
- SAP Letter
- Friendly and Engaging Reminders
- Use similar Language between offices
- Be apart of the withdrawal process

Events/Presentations

- Host A FAFSA Workshop Day
- Present to current student's helpful financial aid reminders

Website

- Easy to Navigate
- Clear and concise language
- Provide definitions for financial aid terms and acronyms



Highlighting & Maximizing Student Employment

Advertise Work-Study Benefits

- Wages earned from FWS does not count against earned income.
- Can help foster opportunities outside of campus and strengthen community partnerships.
- Flexible scheduling.

Partner with Other Offices

- Career Services
 - Can help highlight the importance of gaining work experience while in school
- Payroll/Finance
 - Having a pay schedule structure and helping minimize time reporting and pay discrepancies.
- Human Resources
 - Help with establishing a protocol for managing student-employee relations.
- International Student Office
 - Help advise what positions your international students can and can't do.
 - Documentation that needs to be in place to work.

Build Work Expectations Into the Awarding Structure

- Used as an incentive to encourage students to work.
- Attach it to an unbilled part of your COA like living expense or Misc.
- Incorporate language around the work expectation in your communications.

The Student Handbook

This Holy Grail Can Sometimes Fail

The handbook is a great resource for students to learn about your school and their obligations, but does the info always reach the students the way you need it to.

Include some of the key data points in your award letter or emails. Give the info in doses ensuring the materials digest.



Notifying Students early of the potential implications to their aid and enrollment status.



Adjusting your award letters to include information on SAP, & Merit Award Requirements.



Maintaining a great relationship between Financial Aid, Admissions, Academic Advisement, Registrar & Student Accounts.



Leave of Absences discussion and how that impacts their aid and prospective future.

I need to drop a course!

Listen

How can I help you?

How are you liking the University as a whole?

Ask them about themselves and their day to day?

Ask them about the course? What interest them in the course? Is there something they dislike?

Support

Show the student you are here to help and offer resources for them to continue their success

Connect the student to resources

Help them make a realistic and achievable plan

Motivate

Follow up with positive messaging and check in

Maximize students time with productive and goal-oriented meetings

Encourage and celebrate when student achieves goals within the plan



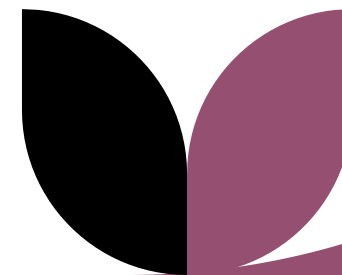
Creating an Inclusive Financial Advising Practice

Provide Strategies and Tools

- Create material to assist students when you are not around
 - Access to presentations, resources, and additional contacts
 - Build a team of support
- Keep track of which strategies and tools are working
- Remember each student is unique and may need a different toolbox for success

Accountability

- Showing students that you are genuinely there for them and their needs
- Follow up and check in
- Assist them in thinking through steps
- Provide the information which is needed for them to achieve their goals
- Articulate expectations and responsibilities of all parties



If You Make It Make Sense

First Gen Can Survive & Thrive



Resources Before Campus

[Center For First-Generation Student
Success](#)

[UASPIRE](#)

[GEAR UP](#)

[Commonwealth Dual Enrollment
Partnership](#)



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