

FIRST-GENERATION CENTER



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South Carolina

FIRST-GENERATION CENTER STAFF



Dr. LaNaé Budden

Director, First-Generation Center
briggsr@mailbox.sc.edu



Melissa Kupfer

Assistant Director,
First-Generation Center
kupferm@mailbox.sc.edu



Dr. Stephen Thompson

Faculty Director, First-Generation
Living & Learning Community
thomp374@mailbox.sc.edu



sc.edu/firstgen



FirstGen@sc.edu



Maxcy College



First-Generation Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Agenda

- **First-Gen Definition**
- **First-Gen Data**
- **Center Key Initiatives**
- **Supporting First-Gen Student Success**
- **Federal Work Study**
- **Advisor's Insights**



FIRST-GEN DEFINITION

The University of South Carolina uses the TRIO definition of first-generation students (FGS) which recognizes any individual whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree.



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FIRST GEN TRIVIA



1. _____ of college students identify nationally as being first-gen.
A. 1/3 B. 2/3 C. 1/2
2. You are not considered first-gen if your sibling received a bachelors degree.
3. Approximately, what percentage of undergraduate students identify as first-gen at USC?
A. 15% B. 20% C. 35% D. 50%
4. First-gen status is determined by a student's family income.
5. Name one thing, other than being first-gen, all first-gen students have in common.



FIRST-GEN FORWARD NETWORK LEADER

- Membership by Invitation with required participation of President and 2 cabinet level administrators in addition to 5 other key university positions.
- National Model for holistic student success
- Empowers Higher Education Institutions to:
 - Transform first-gen experience
 - Advance outcomes
 - Build more inclusive institutional structures
- Brings Together Leaders in Higher Education to:
 - Share data
 - Model innovations
 - Scale Impact



FALL 2024 FIRST-GEN DATA POINTS

- Approximately:
 - **20%** of the undergraduate student population identify as first-gen
 - **77%** are South Carolina residents
 - **52%** receive the Pell Grant
- **137** residents in the First-Generation Living & Learning Community
- **11.5%** of Education Abroad participants in 2023-2024 were first-gen (The TRIO Maymester to Paris was the most selected experience.)
- **55%** of Magellan Journey Grant applicants were first-gen students

Source: Enrolled Students by Attribute Report, November 20, 2024 & Office's Departmental Data



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FIRST-GEN UNDERGRADUATES BY COLLEGES & SCHOOLS

| | |
|---|---|
| College of Arts & Sciences: 22.3% | Darla Moore School of Business: 13% |
| College of Education: 27.4% | Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing: 22.8% |
| College of Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management: 14.8% | College of Information and Communications: 15.8% |
| School of Music: 23.5% | College of Nursing: 22.6% |
| College of Pharmacy: 28.8% | Arnold School of Public Health: 19.8% |
| College of Social Work: 33.8% | |

Source: *Enrolled Students by Attribute Report, November 20, 2024*



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FIND THE HIDDEN HEDGEHOG



Source: Reader's Digest



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FIND THE HIDDEN HEDGEHOG



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FIRST-GEN CENTER'S MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement

The mission of the FGC is to connect first-generation students with resources to successfully navigate their progress towards graduation, and to recognize the value and unique strengths they bring to USC and the community at large. The FGC promotes student support and advocacy, comprehensive programming, mentorship initiatives, connections to campus partners and resources, and a culture of scholarship and research.

Vision Statement

The First-Generation Center (FGC) will serve as a centralized hub to support the first-generation community - personally, professionally, and academically. FGC is an inclusive community that equips every first-generation student with the resources, guidance, and opportunities they need to excel in their journey within and beyond USC. Through collaborative partnerships, personalized support, and innovative programming, we will build a culture of resilience, belonging, and achievement ensuring all first-generation students reach their full potential and make a positive impact in their communities.



ASSET-BASED APPROACH

The First-Generation Center exists to support students on their journey towards graduation and beyond. We believe our first-generation students have **G**reat potential and are **R**esilient, **A**mbitious, and **D**etermined!



KEY INITIATIVES

The First-Gen Center collaborates on several key initiatives, including:

- Faculty-Led Living and Learning Community
- Campus Support (e.g., research grants, paid internships, New Faculty Academy)
- Robust Mentoring & Networking Opportunities (e.g., networking dinners with faculty members)
- Specialized Programs – both academic and enrichment (e.g., U101 sections and First-Gen Week)
- High-Impact Practices – Research, Internships, Education Abroad
- Basic Needs Support



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1332 Pendleton Street



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SUPPORTING FIRST-GEN STUDENT SUCCESS

- Complete the Supporting First-Generation College Students Best Practices for Engaging Faculty & Staff [Module](#).
- If you identify as first-gen, [request](#) a sticker or pin and be added to our database.
- Connect students to the First-Gen Center.
- Include a [basics needs statement](#) in your syllabus.
- Encourage students to take a U101 first-gen section in the fall.
- Inform students about high impact practices, such as Education Abroad, undergraduate research, and paid internships.
- Serve as a mentor and connect students to alumni, resources, and opportunities.
- Hire students for Federal Work Study positions.



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FEDERAL WORK STUDY AT USC

- **Federal Work Study (FWS):** financial aid program funded by the federal government and administered by the university. Students can find employment to help pay for college expenses beyond the tuition bill.
- **Who Qualifies:**
 - Incoming freshmen through graduate students
 - Students **MUST** fill out the FAFSA to be eligible each academic year
 - Must be registered for at least 6 credit hours in Spring, Summer and/or Fall to be offered the award



FEDERAL WORK STUDY AT USC

- **Who can hire FWS students?** ALL ON CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES can hire a work-study eligible student
- **FWS Experts:**
 - [Human Resources](#)
 - [Financial Aid](#)
 - [Career Center](#)
- **Student Benefits:**
 - Assists students with meeting their basic needs
 - Increases retention and engagement
 - Provides a sense of belonging
 - Expands students' social capital



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FEDERAL WORK STUDY AT USC

- **Employer Benefits:**
 - Contributes to student retention and engagement
 - Provides students with training, skills and knowledge to be career-ready
 - Costs the department a minimum amount (Once the student is hired using FWS funds, the award will cover 75% of the student's wages, while the department they are hired for will cover the other 25% using departmental wages.)



SAVE THE DATE

3rd Annual Focus on First-Generation Symposium

Friday, March 28, 2025

8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

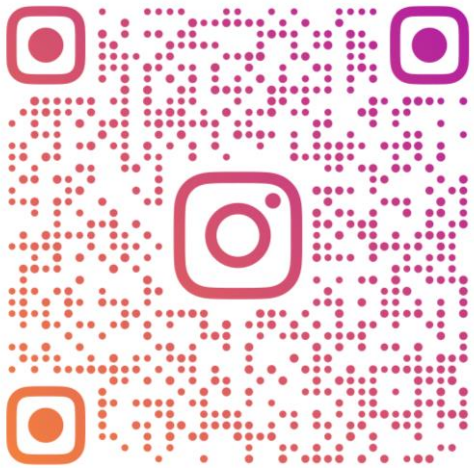
There will be an opportunity for faculty to share their research on first-generation students during the Poster Session.

More details will be shared early Spring.



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FOLLOW THE FIRST-GEN CENTER ON SOCIAL MEDIA



INSTAGRAM

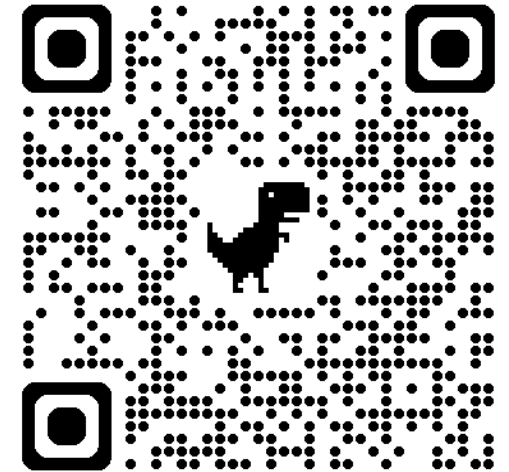
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FACEBOOK



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LINKEDIN



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**WHAT WAYS DO YOU BELIEVE
THE CENTER CAN SUPPORT
FIRST-GEN STUDENTS?**



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THANKS!



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