

Undergraduate Survey: First Generation Demographics

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In this report, we analyzed two questions (QU11 and QU11C) which asked undergraduates whether they identified as first generation students and then, to respondents who answered “Yes” and “Not sure,” how they defined the term.

Visualizations and Statistics

QU11: Do you consider yourself a first-generation student?

Total Respondents: 225 out of 236

18% identify as first-gen students

5% report not sure

50% no

28% no answer

QU11 - Do you consider yourself a first-generation student?

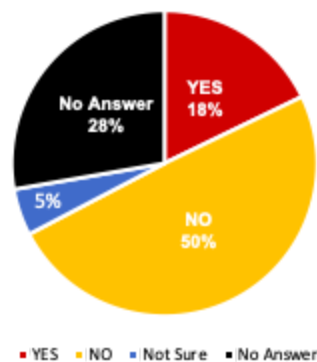


Fig. 1: QU11 results

QU11C: Please explain what “first-generation” means to you.Total Respondents: 63 out of 70¹

Total	Percentage	Answer
51	73%	First in family to attend college
5	7.14%	First in family to attend a four-year institution
4	5.71%	First in family to attend college in the US
1	1.43%	Unsure
3	4.29%	Detailed, personal interpretations (see below)
7	10%	N/A

Detailed Interpretations:

1) “It means going farther than the people before you, but always staying true to them. Being a first gen student makes me feel grateful, and I take nothing for granted.”

2) “It means I have the opportunity to move my family forward and show my younger relatives that being in this country and being healthy means we have endless opportunities, we just need to be hard-working and open to opportunities.”

3) "First-generation student" means to be able to live out and say thank you to my parents for being able to put me through a good education and prepare me to find a passion in life. I feel like my parents couldn't afford to go to college so I am dedicating all my degrees to them. But also hoping that I can encourage my future children to do the same.”²

¹ Only those who identified as first-gen or unsure were able to answer this follow-up to QU11.

² This answer was also counted toward "first in the family to go to college".