

First-generation College Graduates' Employment and Finances



One year after earning a bachelor's degree in academic year 2015–16, **80%** of both **first-generation** and **continuing-generation** graduates **were employed**, but fewer **first-generation** graduates had a job that requires a bachelor's degree.



Job requires a bachelor's degree

44% of **first-generation** college graduates
52% of **continuing-generation** college graduates



Worked at a for-profit company

51% of **first-generation** college graduates
59% of **continuing-generation** college graduates



Worked for a nonprofit company or organization

16% of **first-generation** college graduates
14% of **continuing-generation** college graduates

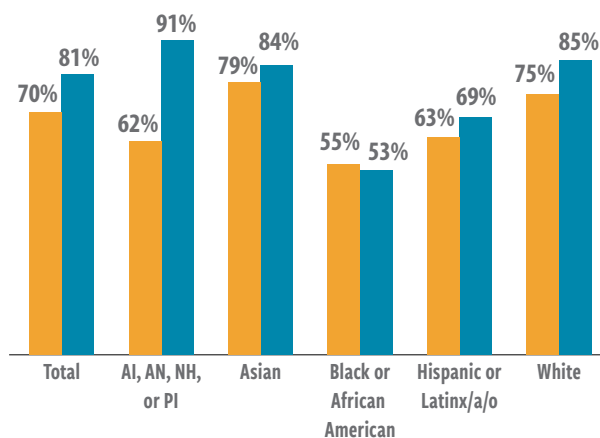


Worked for local, state, or federal government

19% of **first-generation** college graduates
14% of **continuing-generation** college graduates

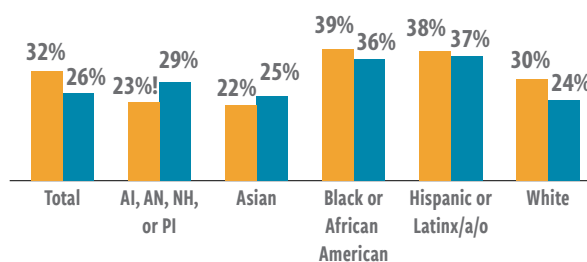
First-generation college graduates were **less confident** than **continuing-generation** graduates that they **could come up with \$2,000** if an unexpected need arose. Black or African American graduates were least confident.

Percentage who reported that they could come up with \$2,000 if an unexpected need arose within the next month, by race/ethnicity



More first-generation college graduates than **continuing-generation** graduates **took a job** instead of enrolling in additional education **for financial reasons**, but this gap differed by race/ethnicity.

Percentage who took a job instead of enrolling in additional education due to the cost of undergraduate and graduate education, by race/ethnicity



■ First-generation College Graduates ■ Continuing-generation College Graduates