

First-generation College Graduates' Enrollment After Earning a Bachelor's Degree

About **one year** after earning a bachelor's degree in academic year 2015–16, **first-generation** college graduates reported a **lower expected level of educational attainment** than **continuing-generation** graduates.



Did not expect to earn a graduate degree

36% of **first-generation** college graduates

32% of **continuing-generation** college graduates



Expected to earn a master's degree

45% of **first-generation** college graduates

46% of **continuing-generation** college graduates



Expected to earn a doctoral degree

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

22% of **continuing-generation** college graduates



A **lower percentage** of **first-generation** college graduates had **taken a graduate or professional entrance exam** within a year of earning a bachelor's degree.

First-generation College Graduates



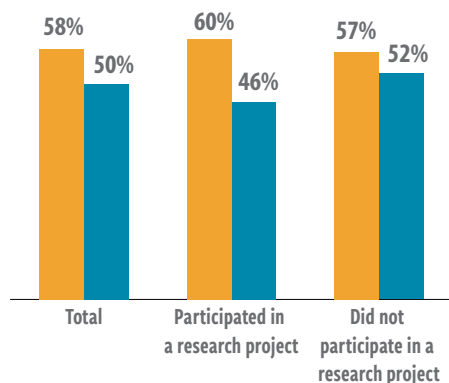
Continuing-generation College Graduates



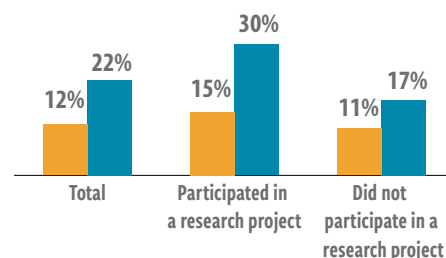
GRADUATE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Within a year after earning a bachelor's degree, **23%** of **first-generation** college graduates and **24%** of **continuing-generation** college graduates **enrolled in postsecondary education again**. Among those who enrolled again, more **first-generation** college graduates **enrolled in a master's degree program** than **continuing-generation** college graduates.

Percentage who *enrolled in a master's degree program* among those who enrolled again within a year of graduating, by participation in a research project with a faculty member as an undergraduate student



Percentage who *enrolled in a doctoral degree program* among those who enrolled again within a year of graduating, by participation in a research project with a faculty member as an undergraduate student



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

Fact sheet represents individuals who received a bachelor's degree in academic year 2015–16 from a Title IV postsecondary institution. A first-generation college student/graduate is an individual whose parents do not have a bachelor's or higher degree. A continuing-generation college student/graduate is an individual who has at least one parent with a bachelor's or higher degree. "Did not expect to earn a graduate degree" includes graduates whose highest expected attainment was a post-baccalaureate certificate or graduate level courses. Master's degree includes master's degrees and post-master's certificates. Doctoral degree includes research and professional doctoral degrees. Percentages are rounded. Data source is U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2016/17 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:16/17). B&B:16/17 was released in 2019 and is the most recent cohort of B&B. Total sample size is 19,490. Weighted sample size (population size) is 2 million. Fact sheet produced by RTI International.