

New Student Interest Form

New First Generation Student Insights | Fall 2021

Context

Fall 2021 marks the largest incoming class ever for the University of Arizona, with record numbers of first time and transfer students choosing to enroll for the semester. These incoming students were asked to complete a “New Student Interest Form”— a revamped survey that asks about involvement and engagement interests, perceived support needs, and future career goals.

2,881 First Generation students answered the survey for Fall 2021. The report below goes over the main themes gleaned from their survey responses in the hopes of providing key insights into the needs and goals of this incoming class.

At a Glance: Quick Summary

Involvement and Engagement

- During their first year, First Generation students are most interested in being involved with internships, employment on campus, and academic clubs.
- During the course of their undergraduate education, students are most interested in part-time employment, internships, study abroad, and Volunteer/service learning.

Perceived Support

- In general, First Generation students indicated they had high levels of needed perceived support, with almost every category having at least 33% of students indicating they needed “some” or “a lot” of support.
- First Generation students pointed to high level of need for Accessing and managing financial aid and scholarships, with 79% indicating they needed “some” or “a lot” of support in that area.
- A majority of students also wanted support in asking for help when they need it (63%), academic support services (59%), navigating campus resources and services (57%), and employment on campus (51%).

Future Career Goals

- One in every three incoming First Generation students is interested in a career in Health & Biosciences
- Nearly a quarter of incoming First Generation students are interested in pursuing Business & Management as a career
- Incoming First Generation students are the least interested in Research & Academic as career choice.

Involvement and Engagement

Students were asked two main questions concerning involvement and engagement: “What would you like to get involved with as a new University of Arizona student?” and “What experiences are you interested in engaging in during your undergraduate education?” The following table summarizes the percentage of First Generation students who indicated they were interested in the presented opportunities:

*Table 1: What would you like to get involved with as a **new** University of Arizona student?*

Involvement Opportunity	% Interested
Internships	56%
Employment on Campus	53%
Academic Clubs	39%
Health and Wellness Programs	28%
Leadership Programs	28%
Recreation Sports (Intramurals, Club Sports, eSports)	28%
Fraternity and Sorority Programs	23%
Cultural and Resource Centers	21%
Sustainability clubs and programs	13%
Peer Mentoring Programs	12%
Culturally focused clubs	10%
Residential Life Opportunities (Theme Communities, RA)	9%
Student government	9%

*Table 2: What experiences are you interested in engaging in **during your undergraduate education?***

Experience Opportunity	% Interested
Part-time employment	63%
Internship	58%
Study abroad	31%
Volunteer or service learning	29%
Skill development programs (e.g. collaboration, functional skills such as Excel)	21%
Student leadership	18%
Research/working on a project with a local employer or organization	17%
Research with a faculty member	16%
Preceptorship/Teaching Assistant	11%
Student teaching	8%
A significant class project (lasting at least one semester)	7%
Co-op	3%

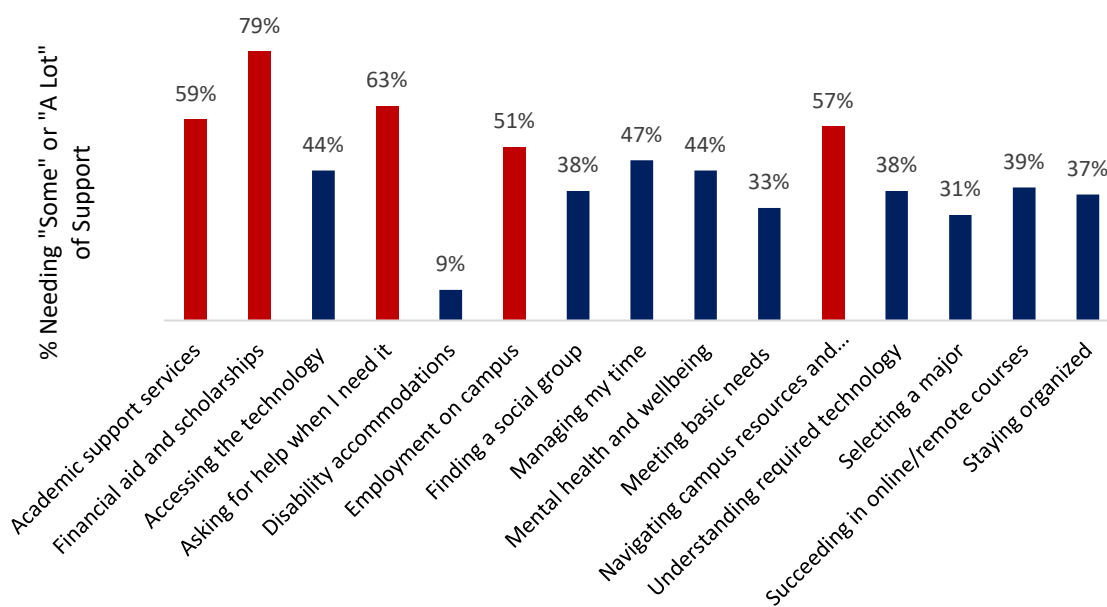
Perceived Support

In order to measure perceived support, incoming students were asked “During your first year at the University of Arizona, how much support do you expect to need in the following areas?” Various academic, social, and personal needs were rated on a scale of 0-3, where 0 was “no support needed” and 3 was “a lot of support needed”. The following table and graph summarize First Generation student responses:

Table 3: During your first year at the University of Arizona, how much support do you expect to need in the following areas?

How much support do you need in...	None	A Little	Some	A Lot
Academic support services (e.g. tutoring, writing center)	9%	32%	42%	17%
Accessing and managing financial aid and scholarships	4%	18%	36%	43%
Accessing the technology needed for my courses	21%	36%	30%	14%
Asking for help when I need it	10%	26%	40%	23%
Disability accommodations	86%	6%	5%	4%
Employment on campus	22%	27%	29%	22%
Finding a social group where I feel like I belong	30%	32%	25%	13%
Managing my time	22%	31%	28%	19%
Mental health and wellbeing	27%	29%	25%	19%
Meeting basic needs (food and housing)	39%	28%	21%	12%
Navigating campus resources and services	9%	34%	36%	21%
Understanding how to use required technology	25%	36%	26%	12%
Selecting a major	43%	27%	17%	14%
Succeeding in online/remote courses	27%	34%	23%	16%
Staying organized	29%	33%	22%	15%

Perceived Support Needs During First Year at UA



Career Interests

Incoming students were asked about their current career interests with the question “What are your career interests?” and a link to [explanations for each career category](#). Students were able to indicate more than one interest, and responses for First Generation students are summarized below:

Table 4: What are your career interests?

Career Area	% of Respondents
Health & Biosciences	33%
Business & Management	23%
Engineering	12%
Law & Justice	12%
Arts & Design	11%
Education & Social Services	10%
Data & Technology	8%
Environment & Resources	7%
I do not know my career interests at this time	7%
Global Impact & Public Service	5%
Research & Academia	4%

Questions and Data Sharing

For any questions on the information in this report and how the data can be utilized, please reach out to Michelle Sogge (michsogg@arizona.edu).