

First Generation

The current method for officially reporting “first generation” comes from either the Common Application or the OHIO STATE internal application. Within the OHIO STATE system, a student is considered first generation (FGEN) if neither parent has completed a baccalaureate degree or higher.

DATA COLLECTION

- Undergraduate students are asked if either parent/guardian has a bachelor’s degree via the Common Application and the OHIO STATE Internal Application.
- This is not consistently part of the graduate student application.

FIELD DESCRIPTION

PS_OAD_FIRSTGEN_MVW.RECALC_FIRST_GEN	1040-present
SS_PS_OAD_FIRSTGEN.RECALC_FIRST_GEN	Snapshots begin in 1238

- This field is **term-based**.
- If you are joining data, you need to join with **EMPLID** and **STRM**.
- This field can change if the student has a new application or an application is corrected.
- The data are displayed as **1 = FGEN**, **0 = not FGEN**. Once you merge the data, if students are not listed, then they will be **NULL** values meaning it was unknown whether they were FGEN.
- If a student has two statuses in a single term, **prioritize FGEN** over not FGEN.
- Do not use this information for graduate students.

REPORTING GUIDELINES & CAUTIONS

- When reporting, provide the university definitions and specify term.
 - **First Generation:** Neither parent/guardian completed a baccalaureate degree.
 - **Not First Generation:** Includes students with at least one parent/guardian who completed a baccalaureate degree and students whose first generation status is unknown
- **Avoid using FGEN Student Group.** We began using the Common Application for Columbus NFYS in 2013. As such, first generation data supports the current definition for Columbus NFYS for 2013 or later. We use

an internal application for undergraduate transfer and regional campus NFYS. For Columbus transfer and all regional campus students, application data supports the current first generation definition for 2016 or later.

- **Avoid using Legacy Fields.** For Columbus students and NFYS entering in 2013 or later. For regional students and for transfer students, data are most reliable for students who entered in 2016 or later.
- The term “first generation” is defined differently by a number of organizations:
 - In some studies, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) has defined “first generation” as those whose parents did not attend college. In other NCES reports, first-generation students are defined as those “whose parents have attained no more than a high school education.”
 - The College Board asks takers of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) to indicate the highest level of education completed by each parent.
 - The federal TRIO programs, which strive to improve retention and degree completion among underrepresented groups, define “first generation” as “an individual neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree.”
 - FAFSA asks: Did either of the student’s parents attend college? (Yes/No/Don’t Know)
- OHIO STATE utilizes the Common Application. If the Common Application changes, OHIO STATE may need to adjust how it defines first generation.

For more information about OHIO STATE data sources, please contact Strategic Enrollment Management – Analysis and Reporting at oesar@osu.edu. For additional information about data definitions, please visit the Data Governance [website](#).