



WHO IS A

# FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT?



If none of your parents or guardians completed a bachelor's degree, then you are one of

**WEST CHESTER'S FIRST**

HOW MANY

# FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS ATTEND WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY?



- a. 25%    b. 5%  
c. 53%    d. 30%

APPROXIMATELY

30%

That means

**MORE THAN 4,200 STUDENTS**

at West Chester University are first generation





WE

# CELEBRATE

## STUDENTS LIKE YOU!

We're proud that so many  
first-gens choose West Chester

RECOGNITION

# FOR OUR WORK



WCU is one of only 80 universities in the country to receive this distinction in 2019

West Chester University has been recognized by NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, a **leading national organization**, for our work with first-gen students

WHY IS

# WEST CHESTER'S FIRST IMPORTANT?



- Nearly **one-third** of WCU's undergraduates are first generation ("first-gen")—that's a lot of our students!
- We know that sometimes, the college experience can be overwhelming for any first-year student. Things like:
  - **Making new friends**
  - **Getting comfortable with the campus**
  - Applying for **financial aid, selecting classes,** and **meeting your advisor** (who's similar to your high school guidance counselor)
- We're here for you! We want to make sure our first-gen students and their families have **all the information they need**, right from the start!

WE WANT

ALL OUR  
**FIRST-GENS**  
TO BE



- INVOLVED
- CONNECTED
- INFORMED

and most of all...

**PROUD!**



BE

# INVOLVED



- Participate in campus events, especially **first-gen events!** Stay updated on our website: [www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst](http://www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst)
- Make friends by joining one of our **300+ student organizations at the Fall Involvement Fair** in September. Learn about student organizations here: [Student Leadership and Involvement](#)
- Participate in **National First-Generation College Celebration Day** on November 8
- By getting involved, we hope you love it here as much as we do!

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# CONNECTED



- Reach out to your **Student Success Coordinator and faculty advisor**—they’re like your high school guidance counselor. They can answer questions about your classes.

Student Success Coordinators

Academic Advising

- **Get to know your professors by visiting their office hours.** They’ll tell you when they’re available to meet on your first day of class
- **Take a virtual tour** so you’re familiar with the campus

WAYS TO

BE  
**CONNECTED**  
IN YOUR FIRST YEAR  
AT WCU



- Receive your **West Chester's First t-shirt** at the start of the semester. When you see someone wearing that t-shirt, you'll know they're first-gen like you!
- Participate in **Welcome Week** events to kick off the fall semester, and meet other students who are getting started at WCU
- Attend **Meet & Greet** events with other first-gen students, faculty and staff
- Watch the **Family Engagement** website for details about a special event for first-gens and their families this fall
- Don't miss **Homecoming** on October 7 - 9
- Join the fun on **Banana Day**, a unique WCU tradition held each spring
- WCU's big spring celebration, **Ramboree**, is a great time for all students!

Save the date!

NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE  
**CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

Visit our website: [www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst](http://www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst) for more information



BE

# INFORMED



- **Learn about West Chester University resources** on our website: [www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst](http://www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst)
- **Questions about Financial Aid?** Visit their website [Financial Aid](#) and ask a question in the chat box
- **It's important for your family, and everyone who supports you, to be informed too!** Check out our [Family Engagement](#) website

CHECK OUT ALL THE RESOURCES ON THE

# WEST CHESTER'S FIRST WEBSITE



[www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst](http://www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst)

BE

PROUD



- **You're joining a proud community!** West Chester University has hundreds of first-gen faculty and staff, and thousands of first-gen alumni
- **First-gen students are known for their creativity, resiliency, entrepreneurship and grit.** West Chester is the place that will help you grow those strengths
- **First-gens want to make the most out of their college experience** by doing their very best to achieve, both inside and outside the classroom



NATIONAL

# FIRST-GEN HONOR SOCIETY



Want to join a proud group of first-gen scholars? Apply to become a member of **Alpha Alpha Alpha** national first-gen honor society

**Who's eligible:** First-gens who have completed about three semesters at West Chester University (students usually apply for membership in their second year)

Minimum **3.2 grade point average**

Watch [www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst](http://www.wcupa.edu/wcfirst) for application information

BE PART OF A

# PROUD TRADITION



Questions? Call 610-436-3301 | Email [wcfirst@wcupa.edu](mailto:wcfirst@wcupa.edu)