



2021
NASPA
VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM ON
MILITARY-CONNECTED
STUDENTS

*9 Considerations for Supporting First-Generation
Military-Connected Students*

February 24-26, 2021 | Virtual

Introductions



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Dean of Student
Engagement



Shelly Hall
Coordinator of
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Overview of Learning Lab Session

- Learning Outcomes
- Terminology
- *First-generation Student Success: A Landscape Analysis of Programs & Services at Four-Year Institutions*
- 9 Considerations for Supporting First-Generation Military-Connected Students
- Collaboration Opportunities Between Military-Connected and First-Generation Student Offices
- Closing, Personal Reflection, and Q&A



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Learning Outcomes

As a result of participating in this Learning Lab session, you will:

- Define a first-generation student on your campus.
- Compare and contrast the experiences of first-generation military-connected students to continuing-generation military-connected students.
- Identify at least 3 considerations that a campus military-connected student should examine in collaborating with their campus first-generation student success office to best support first-generation military-connected students.



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Terminology

First-generation college student: “a student for whom neither parent attended college or a student for whom neither parent attained a baccalaureate degree” (Ward, Siegel & Davenport, 2012, p. 3)

Continuing-generation college student: a student “with at least one parent with a four-year college degree” (Leopold, 2014, para 2)



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Terminology

Deficit thinking: “the notion that students fail in school because they and their families experience deficiencies that obstruct the learning process” (Valencia, 2012, p. x)

Strengths-based thinking: Paradigm shift from deficit thinking; focuses on what is present and not what is absent (Department of Education, 2012)

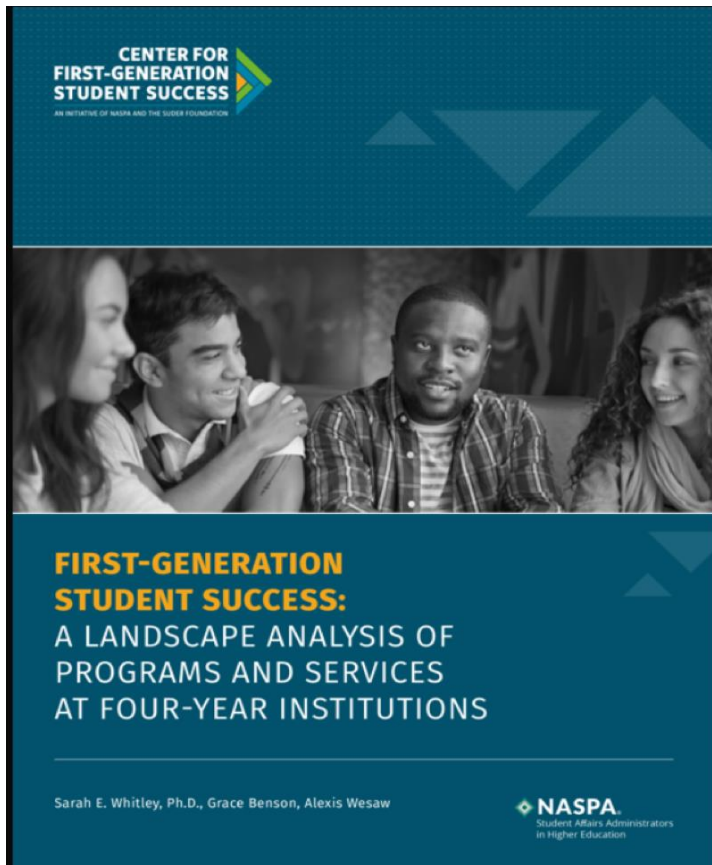


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Landscape Analysis



First-generation Student Success: A Landscape Analysis of Programs and Services at Four-year Institutions

Download the free executive summary, full report, and resources from firstgen.naspa.org

Consideration 1

Define to align, design, measure, and serve.

**What does this mean for our work
in supporting military-connected
students?**



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Consideration 2

Consider intersectionality.

**What does this mean for our work
in supporting military-connected
students?**

Consideration 3

Shift to an asset-based lens.

**What does this mean for our work
in supporting military-connected
students?**

Consideration 4

Shift from college-ready to student-ready.

**What does this mean for our work
in supporting military-connected
students?**

Consideration 5

Cohort and networked service approaches.

**What does this mean for our work
in supporting military-connected
students?**

Consideration 6

Proactive vs. reactive support.

**What does this mean for our work
in supporting military-connected
students?**



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Consideration 7

Understand the reach and gaps of existing resources.

What does this mean for our work in supporting military-connected students?

Consideration 8

Appoint primary advocates with visibility and influence.

What does this mean for our work in supporting military-connected students?

Consideration 8

Build and sustain an engaged community.

**What does this mean for our work
in supporting military-connected
students?**



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Collaborating Between Offices

First Generation Initiatives

Arkansas Tech FIRST GEN INSTITUTE

The First Generation Institute is a **FREE** two-day/one-night residential program offered to rising seniors from across the state of Arkansas. The Institute allows participants the opportunity to:

- Interact with current ATU students, faculty, and staff
- Discover academic opportunities
- Experience life as a college student
- Learn about ways to finance education
- Experience the ATU campus and learn how to get involved in campus life
- Identify strengths and opportunities for personal growth and development



The First to Shine Living Learning Community (LLC) provides an opportunity for first-year, first-generation students to live together, take courses together, and build community.

- 7 student participants in the inaugural year of this LLC
- Students took the CSP 1013 course as a cohort.
- Community Assistant planned various academic and social programs including financial literacy trivia night, communicating with your faculty panel, and weekly motivation notes on doors
- **The First-Generation Student Organization was created by students in 2019-2020 and currently has 26 members.**



Colleges and universities across the nation celebrate first-generation college students every November. ATU was a recipient of the 2020 National First-Generation Celebration grant program. Programming during November 2020 included the following:

- Keynote speaker Dr. LT Rease Miles from the National Center for First-Generation Student Success.
- First-Gen Festival planned by the First to Shine LLC.
- Greetings of Gratitude postcard appreciation program
- Pop-up celebration tables hosted at various locations across campus.
- A social media toolkit for departments to utilize to show their appreciation for first-gen students.

National Recognition



LOUNGE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8am-9pm

Friday
8am - 4 pm.

Saturday
closed

Sunday
2pm- 9pm

**These hours are subject to change*

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Student Affairs Administrators
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What 1 consideration will you focus on to support first-generation, military-connected students?



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