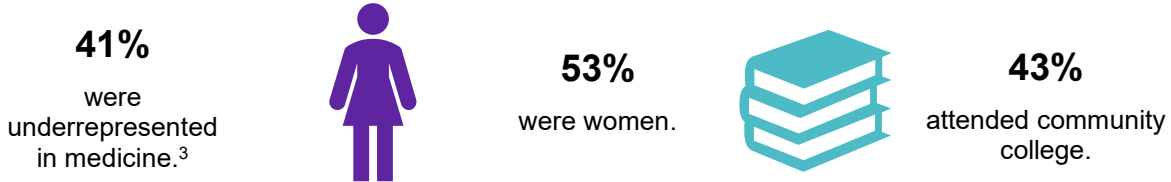


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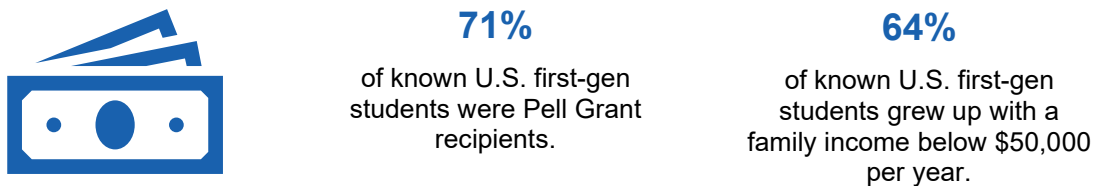
First-Generation U.S. Medical School Matriculants

First-generation¹ (first-gen) students, or those whose parents have not completed college, constituted 15% of the 2022-2023 U.S. medical school matriculant pool.² First-gen students bring many positive contributions to the physician workforce, such as grit, self-determination, and optimism. However, they may also face socioemotional and financial challenges.

Among the first-gen students in the 2022-2023 U.S. medical school matriculant pool:



Financial Profile. First-gen matriculants have had to navigate substantial financial hardships on their journey to medical school. The majority of 2022 first-gen matriculants grew up with a family income below \$50,000 per year, and the majority were Pell Grant recipients.⁴ Pell Grants are need-based grants awarded to undergraduate students that do not need to be repaid. Approximately one-third of U.S. undergraduates receive Pell Grants.⁵



Four-Year Graduation Rates. The four-year graduation rates of first-gen students nearly mirror those of nonfirst-gen students.^{6,7}

	First-Gen Four-Year Graduation Rate	Nonfirst-Gen Four-Year Graduation Rate
2022 Graduates	84.5%	84.4%
2023 Graduates	81.7%	83.1%

Summary and Implications. These data suggest that first-gen matriculants may significantly contribute to the overall diversity of medical schools in numerous areas, including race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and educational background. These data also suggest a need for financial support and a medical school culture inclusive of nontraditional journeys to becoming a physician. Despite the additional challenges first-gen students face, their chances of success are the same as their nonfirst-gen counterparts.

Key Questions for Interpreting This Snapshot

1. Does your medical school have resources and staff available to help guide students and their families to understand and navigate financing, applying to, and paying for medical school?
2. Does your medical school have relationships with community colleges within your state or policies regarding accepting such coursework from applicants?
3. What academic, mental health, and wellness resources or organizations does your institution have that might be specifically beneficial to first-gen medical students?

References and Notes

1. Applicants are considered first-gen if they report that their most highly educated parent or guardian has up to some college but has not received a degree.
2. AAMC. Table A-26: First Generation Applicants, Acceptees, and Matriculants to U.S. MD-Granting Medical Schools, Academic Years 2020-2021 Through 2023-2024. In: *2023 FACTS: Applicants and Matriculants Data*. AAMC; 2023. <https://www.aamc.org/media/66851/download>
3. Underrepresented in medicine (URiM) refers to racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in the medical profession relative to their numbers in the general population (American Indian or Alaska Native; Black or African American; Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish Origin; and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander). Data include matriculants who self-identified as one URiM race or ethnicity alone or in combination with any other race or ethnicity.
4. AAMC. *Applicant Matriculant Data File*. Accessed October 2023. Unpublished.
5. U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. *Financial Aid: What Is the Percent of Undergraduate Students Awarded Pell Grants?* Accessed November 7, 2023. <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/trendgenerator/app/answer/8/35>
6. AAMC. Student Records System (SRS). Accessed October 2023. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/students-residents/report/student-records-system-srs>
7. Calculations include only nondual-degree MD students.

Additional Resources

First-Generation YouTube Playlist.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2ALHNIitsuTC3hfjT7kleX723MYZqjlg>

Tools and Resources for First-Generation Medical Students. <https://www.aamc.org/career-development/affinity-groups/gea/first-generation-students>

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