

# UC Merced

## The Vernal Pool

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FirstGen 1.0

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Peer reviewed|Undergraduate

**EDWIN PEREZ  
FIRSTGEN 1.0**



**THE VERNAL POOL**

**ISSUE FIVE, FALL 2016**

# First Generation Student 1.0

A UNIVERSITY MANUAL: SECOND EDITION  
EDWIN PEREZ

## **Thank you for purchasing a FirstGen product.**

The First Generation student or FirstGen for short is our flagship product. We here at First Gen pride ourselves in the variety of products we offer. The “First Gen” student is a highly dynamic, ultra responsive, high quality product with a detailed history and unlimited potential. We understand that your university only accepts products of the highest quality and those that meet strict standards met by prestigious companies like the “College Board” and “American College Testing.” We can assure you that our FirstGens have gone through the upmost respected activities like being part of the “Basketball Team” or being in the “Environment Club” and have gone through rigorous course work like “health” and “government & politics.”

## **Provide a Few Tests to Familiarize Yourself with FirstGen**

With a FirstGen, you can immediately put their “Financial aid and family savings” function to good use like getting the Provost the new office he’s been wanting. However, you want to make sure that your FirstGen is not malfunctioning or in need of further training. Reading this manual will help you understand the FirstGen, but we encourage you to test out the FirstGen yourself. Familiarize yourself with any advantages but also challenges that it may pose to you.

## **Use and Liabilities**

To avoid botched FirstGens and accidents, first read the safety warnings in “Handling Precautions” (p. 6) and if you're feeling particularly adventurous stop by the “How to properly maintain” section (p. 7).

## **Copyrights**

Copyright laws in your state might prevent you from admitting only certain students but we can assure you that our FirstGen meets the same standards as our competitor “Rich & White, Inc.” With a FirstGen product you can be sure that you will meet pesky diversity standards but still keep the hyper-inflated academic environment that keeps you in the “Top 100” of U.S News.

# Chapters

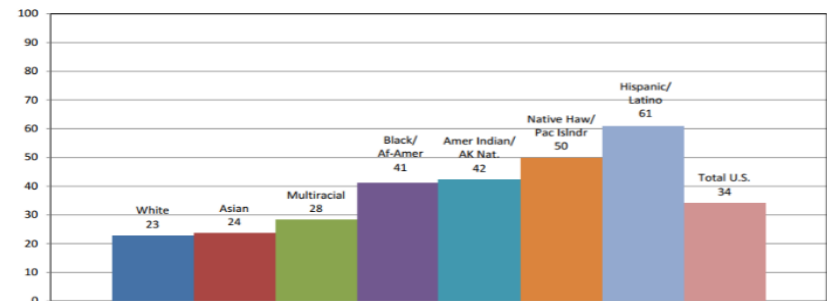
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Handling Precautions.....	3
Variation in Models.....	4
Model Functions.....	5
Proper Maintenance.....	6
Tips.....	7-11
Testimonials.....	12-13
Limited Warranty.....	14-15

# Getting Started

## Handling Precautions

### FirstGen Care



Source: *The Condition of Education 2012*, NCES

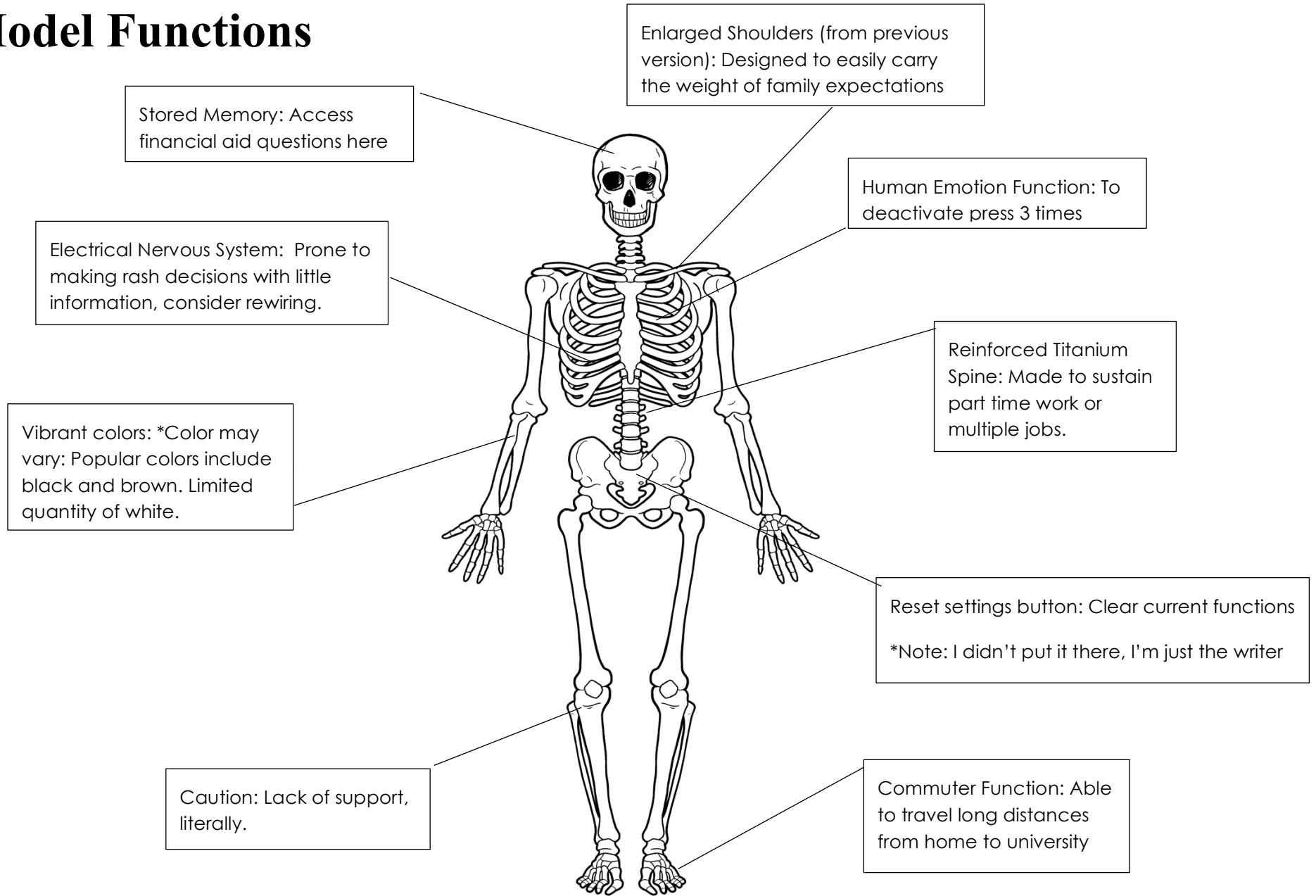
- FirstGens are less likely to take college courses in areas such as mathematics, science, and computer science. Anytime this happens make sure to put them in remedial training to reset its settings.
- More than a quarter of low-income FirstGens leave after their first year, and 89 percent fail to graduate within six years.
- 69% of FirstGens attend University because they want to help their families, compared to 39% of students whose parents have earned a degree. To turn off the “feeling” function see “Advanced operations” (p. 75).
- Colleges need to recognize that FirstGens do not easily come forward to seek help. Having regularly scheduled maintenance will help with this.
- The FirstGen needs to feel like they belong at their college or university and deserve to be there.
- FirstGens will deal with a lack of understanding from family about academic responsibilities and may experience alienation from family support.
- Alongside will come a lack of understanding about campus culture – need for networking, accessing resources, knowledge about the college campus.
- The FirstGen may have difficulty or feel apprehensive about connecting with their professors before and after class or during their office hours. See “human emotion function” (p. 5).
- FirstGens may experience a cultural conflict between home and the university environment, while they may also be confused about the expectations of being a college student.

# Variation in FirstGen Models

## Explore the diverse characteristics of our FirstGens

1. FirstGens are more likely to be
  - a. Female
  - b. Older
  - c. African American or Hispanic
  - d. Have dependent children
  - e. Come from lower-income families than students whose parents have college degrees
2. FirstGens are
  - a. More likely to delay entry into postsecondary education
  - b. To begin college at two-year institutions
  - c. To commute to campus
  - d. To take classes part-time while working full-time
  - e. To stop in and out of college
  - f. To need remedial coursework
3. FirstGens will have
  - a. Less knowledge about the college application process
  - b. Lower educational aspirations
  - c. Lower levels of academic preparation
  - d. Fewer resources to pay for college
  - e. Less encouragement and support to attend college, particularly from parents

# Model Functions





# Proper Maintenance

## Important FirstGen Technician information

### Save these instructions

- The FirstGen needs to get involved.
  - One of the keys to feeling like the FirstGen belongs on campus is to have it get involved in student groups. Have it meet others with similar interests.
- It is crucial that the FirstGen get to know their professors.
  - They must attend their office hours and introduce themselves.
  - The professors can provide important mentorship and suggestions for increasing its chances of success.
- Too often, FirstGens try to do it all alone and do not seek help, albeit due to their “lack of support” function.
  - Having the FirstGen programmed to view seeking help as a sign of strength, resilience and persistence, rather than a weakness is crucial.
- FirstGens who take part in mentoring and coaching services were 10 to 15 percent more likely to advance to another year of college.
  - The FirstGen can greatly benefit from this addition (see additional software/products).
- To have happy and productive FirstGens, create a FirstGen living-learning community.
  - This helps establish and support FirstGen students as part of the university.
- Create, and reward, leadership opportunities for the FirstGen.
  - Offering these students an active role in campus activities can help build community, as well as confidence and professional experience.

# Tips

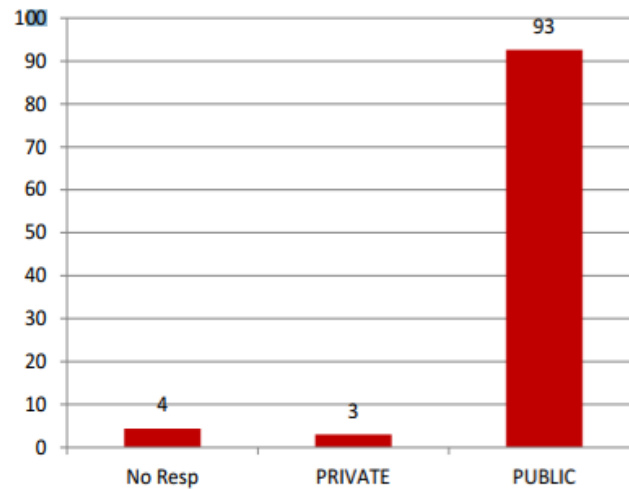
## How to keep a steady flow of FirstGens

- Establish a Regular Presence in High Schools
  - Or as they are also known, “FirstGen Factories”

Majority of FirstGen factories are public institutions

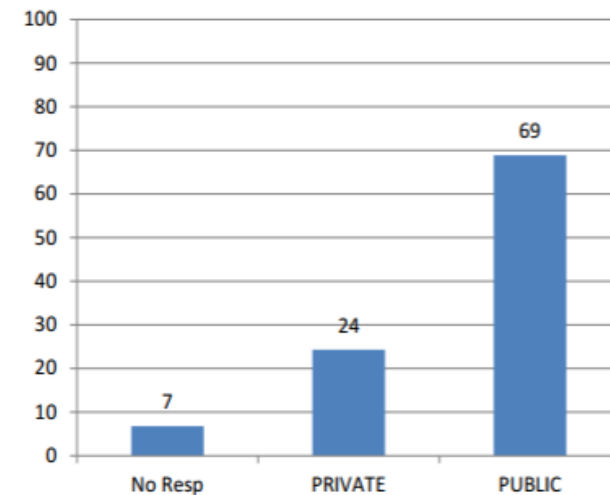
### School Type, 2011 Cohort

Percent of Schools with Majority First-Generation Test-Takers (N=5,291)



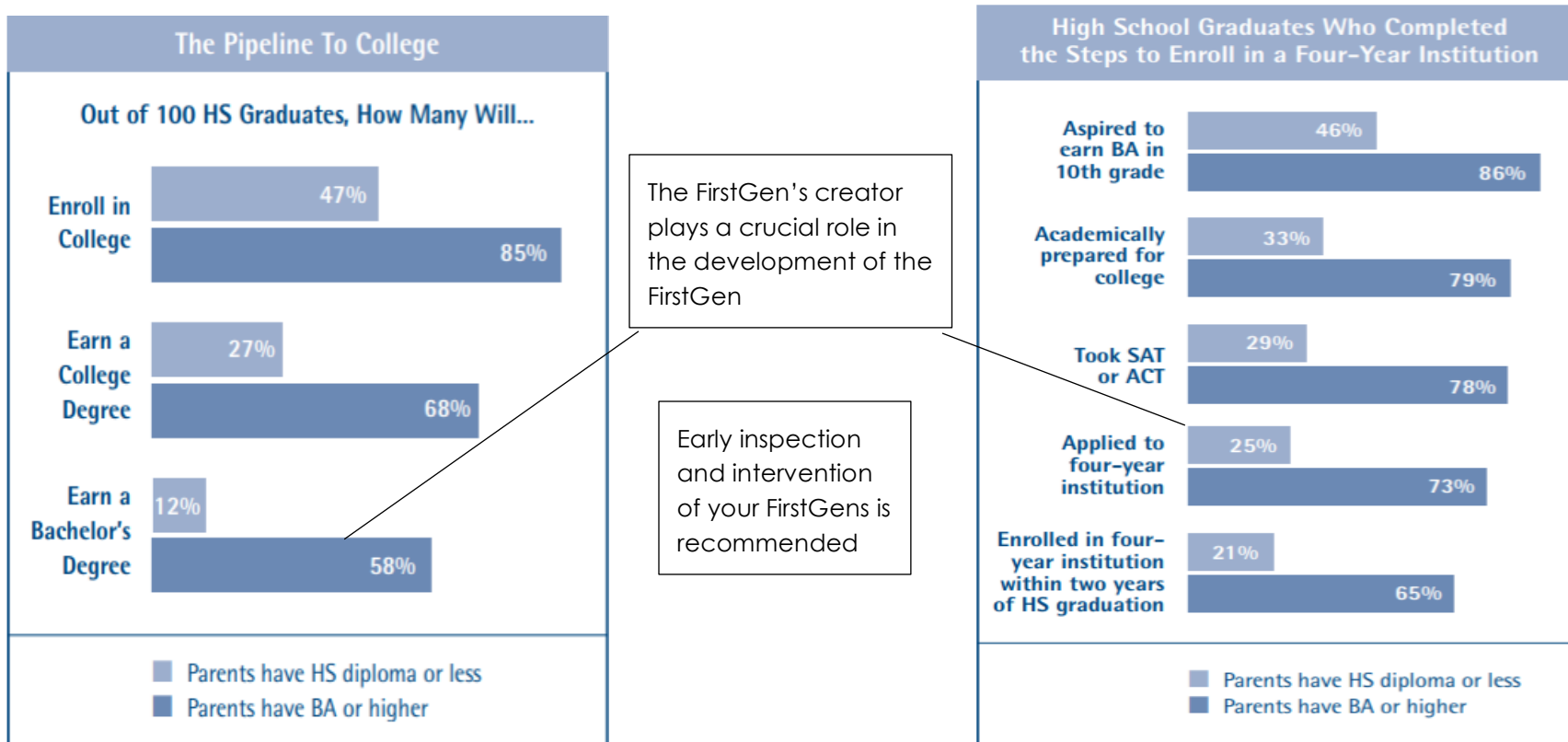
Steer clear of Private factories they lack a large FirstGen inventory.

Percent of Schools with Majority Non First-Generation Test-Takers (N=10,458)



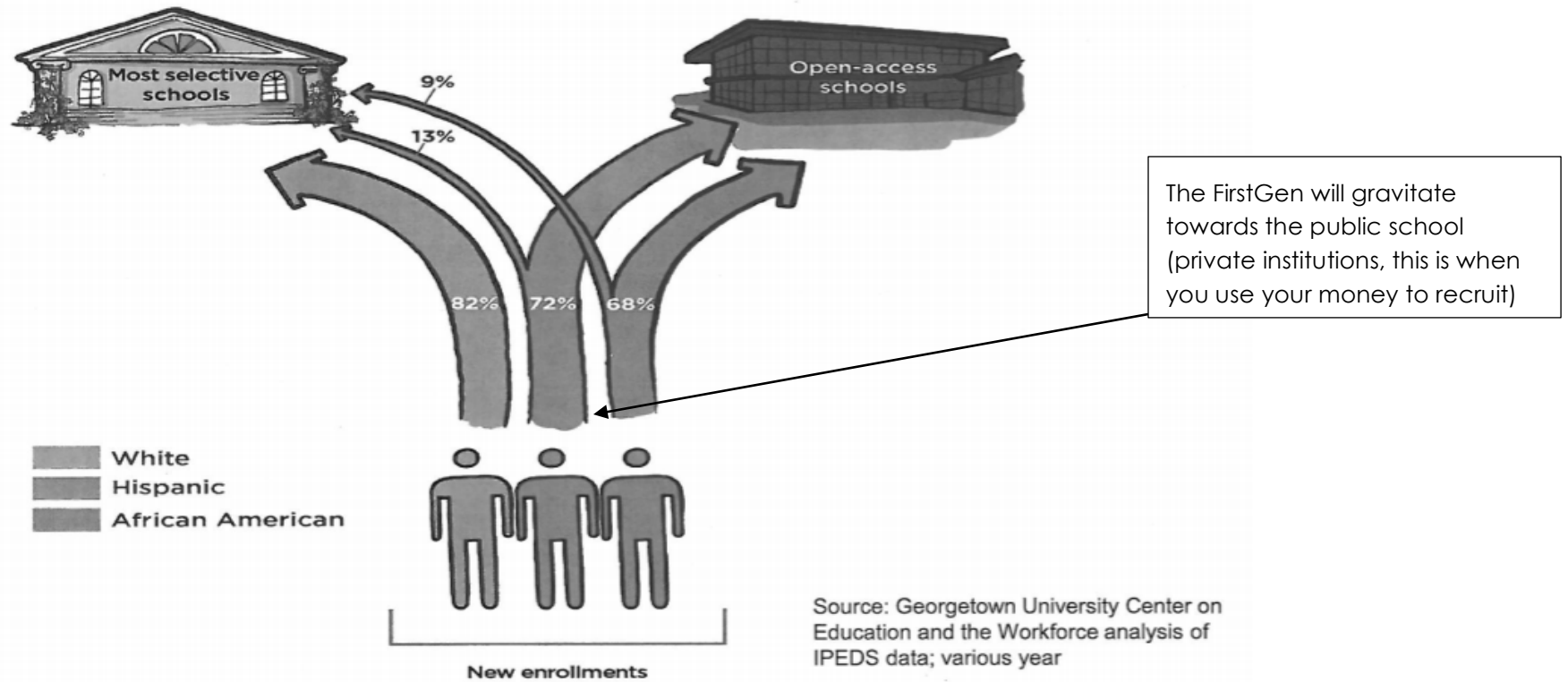
Source: NCES common core of data tables

- Introduce a Summer Bridge program
  - A few years ago, a university introduced a summer bridge program for incoming FirstGens whose test scores suggested they could use a tune up in Math and English. The two-month summer session was free for those FirstGens who qualify.
    - It reviewed some of the “hidden-curriculum” concepts, introduced the campus’s many useful facilities, and helped to forge important relationships with peers and mentors.



- Enlist current first-gen students and graduates in creating targeted recruiting messages
  - No one understands the FirstGen better than the FirstGen

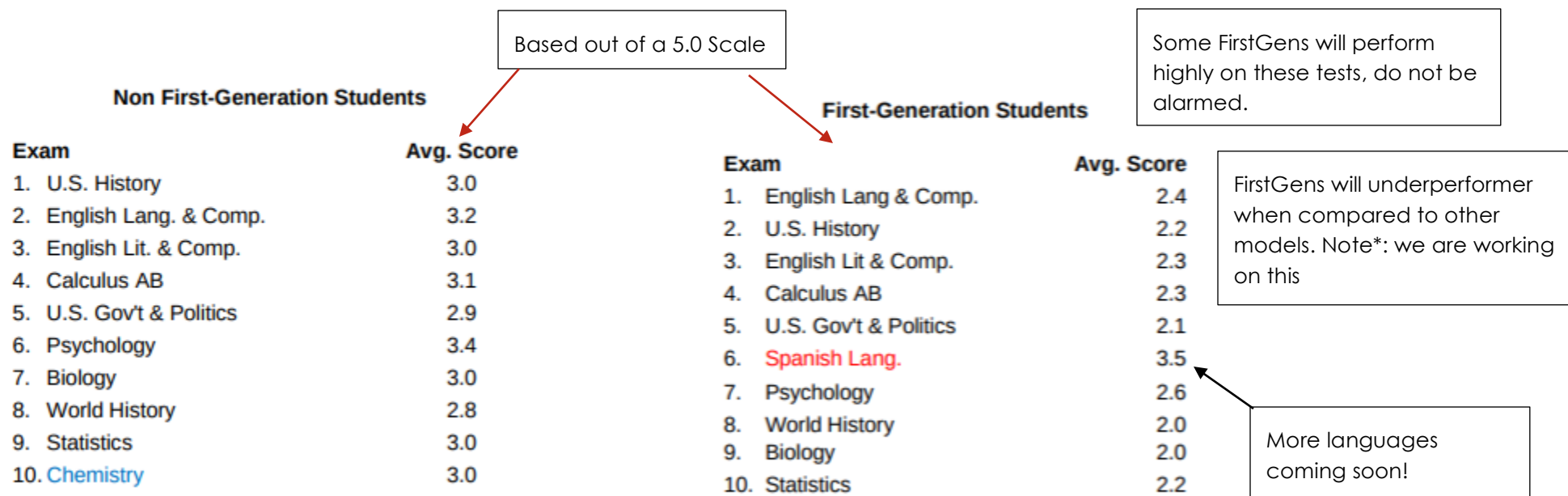
Between 1995 and 2009, 82 percent of new white freshman enrollments were at the 468 most selective four-year colleges, compared to 13 percent for Hispanics and 9 percent for African Americans; 68 percent of new African-American freshman enrollments and 72 percent of new Hispanic freshman enrollments were at open-access two- and four-year colleges, compared to no growth for whites.



- Have a faculty that is diverse and understands FirstGen needs
  - Faculty are the majority of the budget at institutions of higher education, faculty are the ones that create the culture of institutions mostly, and they are the ones that through their practices, create or don't create success for the students

- Involving parents in the transition to college
  - When FirstGens participated in residential summer programs, the students learned what it was like to be on a college campus while the families experienced what it would mean to have their children go to college

## Average AP Scores Across Most Popular Exams, 2012 Cohort



- Ensure appropriate first-year placement.
  - FirstGens are often mistakenly placed in remedial courses that can extend their college experience by two to three semesters or more
- Create a data tracker that monitors student performance and allows advisers to recommend more relevant coursework and support.
  - This is useful for keeping efficient FirstGens but also to prevent further malfunctioning

- Create a landing page for first-generation students.
  - Everything is on the internet, have a section devoted to FirstGens on your website
- Remind the FirstGen of dates and deadlines, they will often forget or be unaware of them.
  - A free or low-cost ways to keep students on track, include sending text-message alerts to parents and students about registration deadlines and financial aid information.

# Testimonials:

“Reading the FirstGen 1.0 has helped out my campus tremendously, we had a 60% increase in FirstGen in only 2 years. This got me promoted and gave me a sweet new office, thanks FG Inc.” – Rob Eagleton, Director of students affairs, *Prestigious University*

“The easy and understandable instructions in the FirstGen 1.0 manual has helped me better understand different populations and communicate this to my employees” - Mary Ellen, Dean of Sciences, *Public University Somewhere in the West*

“The FirstGen 1.0 manual is riveting, it lays the groundwork for how future generations will write manuals” - Harry Tranquil, *Industry leader in manual production*

If you loved the FirstGen 1.0 as much as the people above did, we encourage you to take a look at our other manuals. Our work in the field of education has made us into the top world renowned company we are today.

For a one year subscription and only 15 payments of \$19.99 each you will get access to classics like, “So you have Foreign Exchange Students” and “Dealing with Campus Protestors: A Humane Approach.” Not only will you get access to these great titles, but we offer a 24/7 call service for any questions about being racist or culturally insensitive. Never be caught in these predicaments again, Contact FG Inc. to get all the tools you need to be the most progressive campus in the world. We offer a wide variety of products and manuals all set to the highest standards.

We accept all major credit cards. Cash payments can be processed at the FG headquarters.

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Merced, CA 95340

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Email: [CustomerService@FGInc.Com](mailto:CustomerService@FGInc.Com)



# Limited Warranty

## If FirstGen product or recommendations fail please contact the parties below:

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