



# Academic Motivation in First-Generation and Multi-Generation College Students: The Effect of Family Influence



Smith, A., Pu, T., Bonilla-Quijada, E., & Sangston, B.  
Seattle Pacific University

## Introduction

- Assessing intrinsic and extrinsic motivation helps predict how satisfied and successful a student will be in college (Kotera et al., 2021).
- Compared to multi-generation college students (MGCS), there is a greater likelihood that first-generation college students (FGCS) will have lower levels of educational preparedness and work more hours off-campus (Petty, 2014).
- The Family Influence Scale (FIS) can be used to measure how family influences impact low-income FGCS' pursuits of graduate education (Tate et al., 2014).

### Purpose:

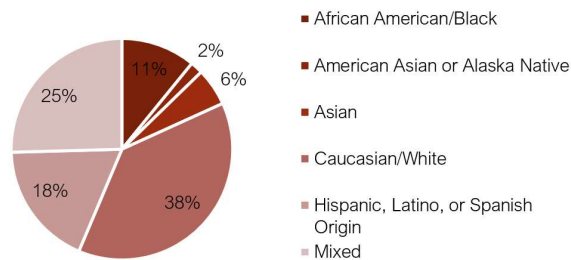
To evaluate the connection between academic motivation and generational status, as well as explore the role of family influence in that relationship.

## Method

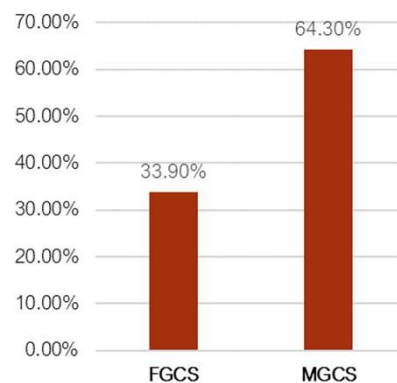
### Participants:

- $N = 56$  college students
- Age: 18 – 41 ( $M = 19.29$ ,  $SD = 3.15$ )

### Race/Ethnicity



### Generational Status



For references, scan this QR code.  
Questions? Contact [smitha78@spu.edu](mailto:smitha78@spu.edu)



## Results

Variable	1	2	3	4	5
1. Intrinsic Motivation	1				
2. Extrinsic Motivation	.23	1			
3. Informational Support (IS)	.05	.03	1		
4. Family Expectations (FE)	.08	.07	-.01	1	
5. Values/Beliefs (VB)	.36**	-.12	.32*	.18	1

Interitem correlations between academic motivation and family influence.  
\* $p < .05$ . \*\* $p < .01$ .

### Analysis of Variance (ANOVA):

- No statistically significant difference was found between intrinsic or extrinsic motivation by generational status.

### Analysis of Covariance (ANCOVA):

- For intrinsic motivation, IS and FE were not statistically significant, but VB [ $F(1, 56) = 7.656$ ,  $p = .008^*$ ] was statistically significant.
- No statistically significant differences were found for extrinsic motivation.

## Discussion

### Interpretation of Findings:

- The association between intrinsic motivation and family values/beliefs suggests a new way that family influences motivation.
- The lack of additional significant relationships may be representative of the sample in the current study more so than of all college students.

### Limitations & Future Directions:

- Limited time and a small, ethnically similar sample makes it more difficult to generalize results.
- It would be helpful to explore motivation over a larger timeline with a more representative sample.