



## Request for 2026 Funding Services and Activities Fee Committee

### BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Office of First Gen

Create Date: 01/27/2026

Due Date: 02/06/2026

Submitter Name: Dominic Jay Crisostomo

UW Email Address: djcrisos@uw.edu

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Amanda Figueroa

Requested Amount: **\$176,615**

## Departmental Information

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

1. FG provides, supports, and fosters a sense of community where first-generation students are empowered and validated through engagement and outreach opportunities including student cohort programs, signature events and workshops, and pre-collegiate outreach efforts.
2. FG is a resource for students, faculty, and staff by assisting with engagement, outreach, recruitment, and retention efforts while helping to support the experience of a broad spectrum of first-generation students and their communities.
3. FG encourages academic, personal, and professional growth as well as well-being by providing financial literacy, career development, and research opportunities geared towards aiding the success of the campus.
4. FG connects students to people, programs, community agencies, resources, and prospective employers, through our academic and professional development workshops and networking opportunities.
5. FG provides leadership development for students employed through on-campus job opportunities in our office.
6. FG is recognized on a national level as a Network National Champion within the First Gen Forward national network. Through collaboration and partnership with the NASPA Center for First Generation Student Success FG has been honored because of the commitment to first-generation student success.
7. FG strengthens the relationships and supports for first-gen students from UWT faculty, staff, and alumni through advocacy and the sharing of best and promising practices.

## CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

### Priority #1: Students

FG fosters a sense of belonging and supports students to develop college success skills. FG increases awareness about the availability of campus resources while increasing engagement of students through high impact practices to increase self-efficacy and well-being through quarterly programming, workshops, office space, and signature events.

### Priority #2: Communities:

FG provides outreach and workshops to K-12 school districts and community organizations. FG is also a part of curriculum-to-career efforts that strengthens career experiences for first-gen and economically marginalized students. FG works with Career Development specifically to promote and deploy workshops that center on providing students with experiential learning opportunities during and post-graduation.

### Priority #3: Scholarship:

FG is recognized as a Network Champion by First Gen Forward. With this designation, FG is sought out by other institutions for program design, pedagogy, and practice. For the past two years, FG has presented at national conferences on findings and successes from current cohort programming.

FG also funds opportunities for students to do research via our Faculty Research Assistantships. Through external means, FG provides financial support to first-gen students doing research on campus with UWT faculty.

This year, FG is partnering with SIAS to deploy Meaning and Purpose workshops for students. FG was sought out to help with marketing and logistical support as well as co-authoring the findings to present at a later time.

### Priority #4: Equity:

FG quarterly programming, office space, and signature events have taken steps to be more universally designed while continually asking for feedback via assessments to be more inclusive. FG implements programming designated for first-gen and economically marginalized students however FG's programming is not limited to those populations. Of which has increased rates of engagement year over year.

Priority #5: Vitality: FG hosts signature events annually that are open to the campus to honor and recognize the importance of first-gen students, staff, faculty, and alumni. Through these events, FG aims to enhance a sense of purpose and sense of belonging for those that attend and engage.

## SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Workshop Series (18-20/qtr): Professional and personal growth; academic skills, career development, & financial wellness.

- Collaborators: Academic Advising, Career Development, Financial Aid, Global Affairs, Champions, HP3, CEI, Milgard, PAWS, OSAS, TLC, NSFP, WSECU, & Sound Outreach.
- 2025-2026: 919 as of Winter 2026
- 2024-2025: 1742 attendees
- 2023-2024: 1313 attendees
- 2022-2023: 647 attendees

Signature Events: FG Graduation & Stole Ceremony & End of the Year Celebration

- Collaboration: CASM, Student Life, CEI
- 2025-2026: Occurs in Spring 2026
- 2024-2025: 318 attendees
- 2023-2024: 164 attendees
- 2022-2023: 152 attendees

"We Are First Generation" Photo Campaign & National First Gen College Celebration

- Collaboration: Advancement, UW Tri-Campuses
- 2025-2026: 102 attendees and 10 individuals spotlighted
- 2024-2025: 55 attendees and 15 individuals spotlighted
- 2023-2024: 54 attendees and 13 individuals spotlighted
- 2022-2023: 53 attendees and 12 individuals spotlighted

Swipe Right for Success

- Collaboration: CASM, Career Development, Pack Advisors, CSI, CEI, Champions
- 2025-2026: Not doing due to funding cut
- 2024-2025: 28 attendees
- 2023-2024: 34 attendees
- 2022-2023: 31 attendees

Breakfast for Finals

- Collaboration: Pack Advisors, CSI, CEI
- 2025-2026: Not doing due to funding cut
- 2024-2025: 110 attendees
- 2023-2024: 75 attendees
- 2022-2023: 71 attendees

Welcome (Back) to Campus Brunch

- Collaboration: Pack Advisors, CSI
- 2025-2026: Not doing due to funding cut
- 2024-2025: 97 attendees
- 2023-2024: 76 attendees
- 2022-2023: 125 attendees

Quarterly Cohort Programs

First Generation Fellows (Every quarter 2022-2025, Only Fall & Spring, 2025-2026)

- Collaboration: Academic Advising, AAPI THRIVE. Global Affairs, Financial Aid, PAWS, TLC, Career Development, OSAS,

- Aim: Students benefit from support programs, services, workshops, and networking opportunities. Students earn up to a \$200 book stipend per quarter for meeting requirements.
- 2025-2026: 63 as of Winter Quarter
- 2024-2025: 70 cohort members
- 2023-2024: 86 cohort members
- 2022-2023: 97 cohort members

#### Financial Wellness (Every quarter 2022-2024 / Only Fall & Spring 2024-2026)

- Collaboration: WSECU, Sound Outreach, Financial Aid, Sound Credit Union, OSAS, CEI, & Milgard, Champions
- Aim: Students learn financial wellness skills through workshops & 1-on-1 financial coaching sessions. Students earn up to a \$300 book stipend per quarter for meeting requirements.
- 2025-2026: 49 as of Winter Quarter
- 2024-2025: 56 cohort members
- 2023-2024: 55 cohort members
- 2022-2023: 69 cohort members

#### Internship Preparation (Spring & Summer 2024 / Only Winter & Summer for 2025-2026)

- Collaboration: Career Development, Financial Aid, Key Bank, Champions
- Aim: Provides concentrated professional development, helps match UWT students to micro-internships with on- and off-campus employers and supports reflection and planning as students pursue their next career-connected learning opportunity. Students earn up to a \$300 stipend for their participation.
- 2025-2026: 20 As of Winter Quarter
- 2024-2025: 58 cohort members
- 2023-2024: 19 cohort members

#### FG Weekly Newsletter

- Aim: Weekly e-newsletter for upcoming workshops, scholarships, internships, jobs, & learning opportunities.
- 2025-2026: 780 as of Winter Quarter
- 2024-2025: 438 recipients
- 2023-2024: 341 recipients
- 2022-2023: 136 recipients

#### FG Advisory Board

- Collaboration: Faculty, staff, and alumni provide expertise: Academic Instruction, Academic Advising, SIAS, Career Development
- Aim: Provide recommendations for program development; advocate within respective areas; create awareness impact first-generation students' academic; resources for staff and faculty across campus.

## STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

FG participation and engagement with students, staff, and faculty have continued to grow year over year due to a commitment to collaboration with various offices, departments, RSO's, allies, and community based organizations – specifically the last 3 and ½ years.

As shown by our data tracking and engagement, FG witnessed unparalleled growth within the past three years. In 2024-2025, FG experienced nearly triple the amount of student engagement with our programming in comparison to two years ago.

In 2023-2024, FG had 1399 student interactions and 369 unique, unduplicated student experiences. Of those 369, 70% reengaged with our programming due to the intentionality of community building and assessment to continually tweak programming to be more student centered. Taking that winning formula of student engagement, in 2024-2025, FG had 1742 student interactions and 594 unique, unduplicated student experiences, with 66% of student reengaging with our programming. FG cohort-based programs experienced growth in applications and participants per workshops and overall engagement.

Regarding engagement across FG workshops, quarterly cohort programs, and signature events, FG continually iterative approaches to gauge the brevity of messaging and reminders to maximize student attendance. From gathering assessment data and survey info collected from students as well as real-time anecdotal feedback via conversations, FG strengthens what is being done well and pivots when changes are needed to be more student centric. Whether that is the platform communication (Instagram, Handshake, DubNet, email, print canvassing, weekly newsletter or verbal reminders) or the locations we occupy (FG office space, lounge, or reserved rooms for events or workshops) FG prides its ability to meet students where they are and provide what they ask for regularly.

A breakdown of unduplicated, unique students is provided via the First Gen Service Data Excel document. As a prelude, each category will show growth in every offering SAF provides funding for.

## COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

For each cohort, there is data collected via pre and post assessment. Each assessments is nationally recognized and proven to identify base lines for where our students are. In addition to collecting the data, FG also allows time to process the data and create ways to implement the necessary change(s) as needed per each individual cohort. Below we will list each specific assessment utilized .

With Financial Wellness, we use a pre and post assessment as well as require students to do a reflection about their learnings. The FG team uses the data to document progression, adjust accordingly, and share the results with campus stakeholders and community partners.

With First Gen Fellows, a survey is provided each quarter that asks for feedback and suggestions regarding future content to maximize engagement. As a result, cohort engagement has increased and strategies have surfaced for ways to continually engage more students. This year, we are using a new pre and post assessment tool to track a sense of belonging and purpose.

With Internship Prep, we use a pre and post assessment tool to track student progression as well as takeaways to continually tweak programming, communications, and systems enhancements in order to streamline student and employer partner engagement.

Lastly, FG uses Qualtrics and Handshake as the primary means for attendance, participation, and follow up communications. We monitor click rates and analyze data to forecast the best time to contact students for premium engagement. Same for our social media engagement via Instagram.

Student voice is crucial to FG success. We collect feedback from surveys, pre/post assessments, focus groups, panels, and interviews. We do programming for students by asking students what they want and continually finding ways to improve.

## SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

For the 3 and a half years, FG increased the following: applications for cohorts, participants for quarterly cohort programs, workshops, and attendance with signature events. To add, FG has increased informal drop-ins via the FG office space. The past year, we have nestled into our new space (MAT 106) and have fully redesigned the space to maximize occupancy and engagement. We have interview rooms for when employers are on campus as well as cubicle spaces that serve as "hoteling" spaces for campus partners and community members to do co-curricular programming with our students. When those spaces are not in use for interviews or "hoteling", they are occupied with students utilizing it for studying, group work, online classes, or interviews for internships, fellowships and/or jobs. This is also the first year FG has tracked – via a digital sign in – for students coming into the office and using the student spaces.

Regarding the most meaningful and significant ways FG benefit students, it is worth noting that the FG community and connections to resources as well as first generation peers are pride points. FG has focused programming on creating a sense of belonging and steeping programming in supporting students to find a sense of purpose.

One way we know this is through questions we pose via our cohort applications, surveys, pre-/post assessments, interviews, focus groups and student leaders that work with the FG office.. By posing the question, "How can FG include student voice?" the aim is to align programming, efficiently communicate, and regularly provide feedback loops to influence what we do quarter to quarter. By doing so, FG provides programming tailored to students based on what students seek. Lastly, regarding feedback, students express the desire for support, a community to rely on, and connection to others. Below are quotes gathered from just one of our cohorts where students shared their aims and takeaways from the Financial Wellness cohort. While this is a single example, FG does this with all of our programming.

"Growing up, money was always a source of stress, and as a first-generation college student, I've had to navigate the complexities of higher education finances largely on my own. I'm applying for the Financial Wellness Cohort because I'm tired of feeling like I'm constantly struggling to stay afloat. I want to break the cycle of financial uncertainty that's been a constant in my life."

"I am a student who grew up low-income and for a few years I was providing for my family. While I understood the importance of money, it was always from a survival perspective. I did not learn to save or invest—just to live within my means."

## Staff Budget Requests

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Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p>The FG Ambassador for the First Gen Fellows Cohort is an integral member of the FG team. This is a student leadership position responsible for leading First Gen Fellows cohort programming that empowers and celebrates first-generation students by cultivating curricula that meet cohort member's needs. They are responsible for coordination and communication for cohort members and community partners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E001</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$14,321</b>
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	<b>\$2,320</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p>The FG Ambassador for the First Gen Fellows Cohort is an integral member of the FG team. This is a student leadership position responsible for leading First Gen Fellows cohort programming that empowers and celebrates first-generation students by cultivating curricula that meet cohort member's needs. They are responsible for coordination and communication for cohort members and community partners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E002</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$14,321</b>
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	<b>\$2,320</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p>The FG Ambassador for the Financial Wellness Cohort is an integral member of the FG team. This is a student leadership position responsible for leading the Financial Wellness cohort programming that empowers students to grow skills sets around financial literacy. They are responsible for coordination and communication for cohort members and community partners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E003</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$14,321</b>
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	<b>\$2,320</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p>The FG Ambassador for the Financial Wellness Cohort is an integral member of the FG team. This is a student leadership position responsible for leading the Financial Wellness cohort programming that empowers students to grow skills sets around financial literacy. They are responsible for coordination and communication for cohort members and community partners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E004</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$14,321</b>
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	<b>\$2,320</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p>The FG Ambassador for the Internship Preparation Cohort is an integral member of the FG team. This is a student leadership position responsible for leading Internship Preparation cohort programming program that empowers students to grow skills sets around career preparedness and job competitiveness. They are responsible for coordination and communication for cohort members and community partners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E005</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$14,321</b>
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	<b>\$2,320</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p>The FG Ambassador for the Internship Preparation Cohort is an integral member of the FG team. This is a student leadership position responsible for leading Internship Preparation cohort programming program that empowers students to grow skills sets around career preparedness and job competitiveness. They are responsible for coordination and communication for cohort members and community partners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E006</p>	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$14,321</b>
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	<b>\$2,320</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<p>The FG Marketing Coordinator Fellows Marketing Coordinator is an integral member of the FG team. The FGMC is a student leadership position that will be responsible for creating marketing material that promotes programs and workshops that support First Gen Fellows and signature FG events. The position requires developing and strengthening relationships with FG colleagues, faculty, staff and community partners to create, deploy, and assess the effectiveness of marketing strategies.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E007</p>	

	Student Staff Wages:	\$14,321
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	\$2,320
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>The FG Marketing Coordinator is an integral member of the FG team. This student leadership position is responsible for creating marketing material that promotes programs and workshops that support the Financial Wellness cohort and Internship Preparation cohort. The position will require developing and strengthening relationships with students, faculty and staff to create, deploy, and assess the effectiveness of various marketing platforms.</b>	E008
	Student Staff Wages:	\$14,321
	Fringe @ 16.2%:	\$2,320
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		\$133,125

### Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	National First Gen Celebration (Nov. 8th) (Autumn Signature Events) End of Year Celebration (Spring Signature Events) Speaker Series (3 per AY via collaboration) S001	\$14,540
Travel	NASPA 1st Gen Conference (First Gen training & professional development) S002	\$8,500
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Office Supplies Computer subscriptions & software updates S003	\$4,000
	Office Supplies Computer subscriptions & software updates S004	\$7,250
Food	Student Staff Summer Training Workshops Series (10 per quarter/ 30 per AY) Cohort Lunch & Learns (3 per quarter / 9 per Academic Year) S005	\$9,200
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:		\$43,490

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	\$133,125
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	\$43,490
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$176,615</b>

## Supplemental Documents



### **OFFICE OF FIRST GEN SERVICE DATA**

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This document tracks our student engagement numbers across all programming and event over the past several years.



### **FIRST GEN BUDGET REQUEST**

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This is the itemized list of requests the Office of First Gen is making for the 2026-2027 academic year.