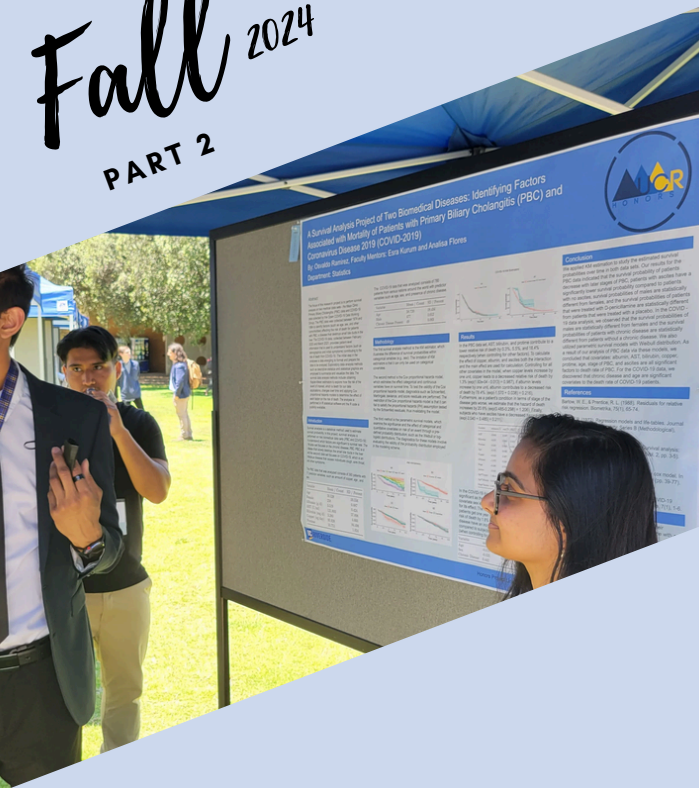# Cultivating Student Success at UCR: Pedagogical Ideas, Data, and Resources to Consider

This brief communication to faculty is developed by VPDUE Rodriguez and the Division of Undergraduate Education staff. The goal is to share pedagogical ideas, relevant UCR data, and resources to consider helping boost UCR student success. We will share this communication 2-3 times quarterly. We hope you find this helpful.

PEDAGOGY

Below are some recommendations for teaching first generation college students to promote student success (Galina, 2016).

- Transparency - the academic rules of college may be unfamiliar to first gen students. Be transparent as possible about your expectations for classroom engagement and assignments.

- Encourage study groups, especially in lower-division courses.

- Use rubrics to explicitly state the criteria that you will use to evaluate assignments.

- Model discussion - discussion sections can be new to first gen students, therefore instructors should model effective dialogue.

- Given the invisibility that a first gen identity can bring, incorporating first gen into the curriculum can validate students. For example, select authors who are first gen or share about your own first gen experiences, if applicable.

- Develop personal relationships.

- While students bring many forms of community cultural wealth into the classroom (Yosso, 2005), professors can help their students build capital. For instance, encourage students to seek co-curricular activities to build social capital.
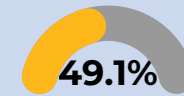
Sources
Galina, B. (2016). Teaching First-Generation College Students. Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching. Retrieved 11/5/2024 from https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/teaching-first-generation-college-students/.

Yosso, T. J. (2005). Whose culture has capital? A critical race theory discussion of community cultural wealth. Race ethnicity and education, 8(1), 69-91.

DATA

In Fall 2024, UCR enrolled 22,599 undergraduate students. Among them, 49.1% identified as first-generation students, meaning their parents or guardians did not complete a four-year college degree or higher within the United States.

49.1%

RESOURCES

The First Generation Initiative is housed in the Division of Undergraduate Education with the goal to support our first gen students and build community among the larger first gen community on campus, including staff and faculty.

UCR is recognized as a FirstGen Forward Institution joining an expansive network of universities focused on scaling the impact to first gen students through data and innovation. Additionally, FirstGen Forward and the Council for Opportunity in Education awarded UCR a grant this year to support efforts for First Gen Week in November.

The UCR campus wide First Gen Committee is comprised of staff from several units. If you would like to get involved, please email firstgen@ucr.edu.

Did you know? All faculty have access to the Course Demographics academic dashboard at UCR. You can see the percentage of first gen students enrolled in any course for the current quarter. Use your UCR email when logging on.