

# Title: Investigating Systemic Barriers to Higher Education

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## Introduction

- Systemic barriers in accessing higher education are incredibly pervasive and damaging to people of color and other disadvantaged groups.
- We need to investigate these barriers to further promote equality in higher education and develop a solution that helps to reduce disparity in access and sustainability.

## Methods

- We assessed views and gathered data on perceived systemic barriers in accessing higher education using a survey questionnaire that was disseminated to undergraduate social work students at Salem State University.

## Results minority

Graph or chart and written results

## Discussion & Conclusion

- Data reveals minority and first-generation college students experience greater difficulty balancing educational life with other responsibilities. Per study data, minority students were more likely to be employed than non-minority students, they worked longer hours, and had less free time during the week. Moreover, these students were more likely to consider pausing their education due to financial considerations.
- Generational wealth inequality appears to have an impact on first generation and minority students achieving upward mobility through completing their education. First generation and minority college students do not have the same luxury of time and financial cushioning. As a result, they must take on more competing priorities and experience more stress. If action is not taken to correct these imbalances, the cycle of inequality will continue to be perpetuated.

“Undergraduate students whose social identities are among minority groups report greater difficulty accessing and sustaining a higher education.”

“First generation college students report significantly more challenges sustaining their educational goals and the majority of first-generation college students belong to one or more minority groups.”

“There is an observable difference in equity between the educational experiences of students whose social identities are part of minority groups compared to those who do not.”



## Data & Discussion Points

More graphs/images and charts here and other talking points