

Policy subject: First-Generation Student Support Policy	Policy number: 42/P.D/2024	Date of last revision: 2024/11/15
Implementing body: Academic Affairs Department	Implementing start date: 2024/11/20	Policy reference: Planning and Development Department

1. Overview:

Palestine Ahliya University (PAU) aims to support first-generation college students—those whose parents haven't completed higher education—by providing the resources and guidance needed for academic and personal success. This policy ensures these students have access to academic support, financial assistance, and mentorship, creating an inclusive and empowering environment for their growth.

2. Objectives:

- **Increase Retention and Graduation Rates:** Provide resources and support to improve academic success and retention.
- **Offer Academic Support:** Provide tailored advising, tutoring, and study resources.
- **Foster a Sense of Belonging:** Create a supportive and inclusive campus environment.
- **Provide Financial Aid Support:** Ensure access to scholarships and financial guidance.
- **Develop Mentorship and Peer Networks:** Pair students with mentors and build peer support.
- **Encourage Personal and Professional Growth:** Provide leadership and career development opportunities.

3. Scope:

Applies to:

- **First-Generation Students:** Those whose parents have not completed higher education.
- **Faculty and Academic Departments:** To offer guidance and support.
- **Student Services:** Offices providing academic advising, financial aid, and career services.
- **University Administration:** Ensures implementation and resource allocation.

4. Statements:

- **Commitment to Equity:** PAU is dedicated to providing equal opportunities and removing barriers for first-generation students.
- **Holistic Support:** Address academic, emotional, social, and financial needs.
- **Mentorship and Community:** Emphasize mentorship and a strong support network.
- **Collaborative Resources:** Ensure access to essential academic and financial resources.

5. Procedures:

1. Academic Support Services:

- **Advising:** Tailored academic guidance to help students meet graduation goals.
- **Tutoring:** Access to tutoring, study groups, and academic workshops for key subjects.
- **Writing and Research Support:** Assistance with writing, research strategies, and citation styles.

2. Financial Support and Aid:

- **Financial Aid Counseling:** Help with scholarships, grants, and student loans.
- **Scholarships:** Promote financial aid for first-generation students.
- **Financial Literacy:** Provide budgeting and financial planning workshops.

3. Mentorship and Peer Support:

- **Peer Mentorship:** Pair first-generation students with experienced upper-class mentors.
- **Faculty Mentorship:** Encourage faculty to mentor students in academic and career development.
- **Social Networks:** Organize events to help students form support groups and engage with the community.

4. Personal and Professional Development:

- **Career Services:** Provide job search support, resume writing, and internship opportunities.
- **Leadership and Extracurriculars:** Encourage involvement in clubs, leadership training, and skill development.

5. Wellness and Counseling Support:

- **Mental Health Services:** Provide counseling and stress management resources.
- **Cultural and Social Support:** Offer programs for cultural integration and social inclusion for first-generation students.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

1.	Proportion of First-Generation Students
2.	Number of First-Generation Students Benefiting from Support Programs