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Program Snapshot

An overview of the program, the Collaborative, and the partner institutions during the 2021-22 academic year.

a

Kessler Scholars Program

b

Kessler Scholars Collaborative

c

Collaborative-Wide Demographics

d

Institution-Level Demographics

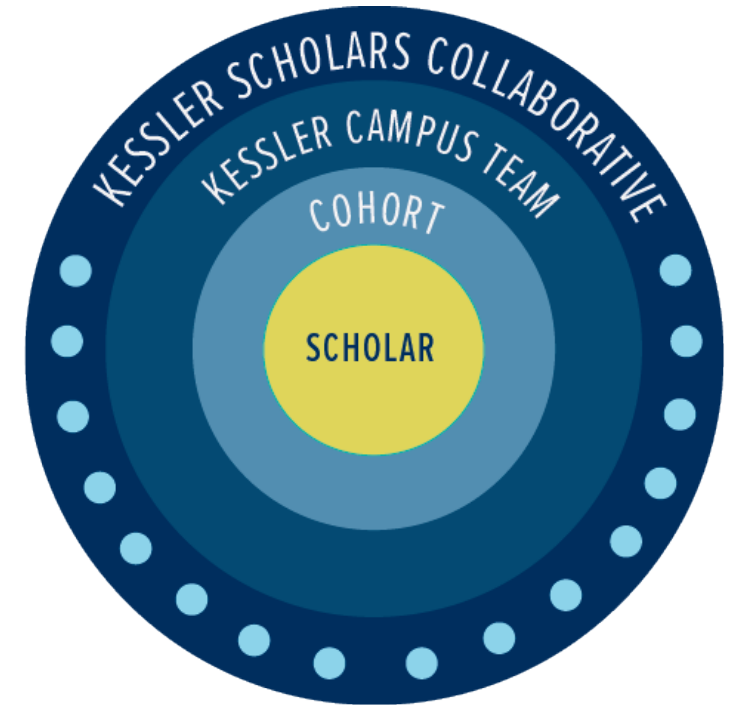
Kessler Scholars Program

The Kessler Scholars Program is designed to provide holistic, wraparound supports for first-generation and limited-income students throughout their four-year college experience. The Program model is

- 1 **High-touch:** Frequent interactions with dedicated Kessler Scholars staff and peer mentoring provide students with the support they need to thrive on campus.
- 2 **Cohort-based:** Students enter college with a built-in community of support, with a cohort that attends classes, workshops, and events together to develop a sense of belonging and shared identity.
- 3 **Asset-focused:** Programs leverage first-generation students' talents and strengths to achieve their academic, professional, and personal goals and elevate their voices and experiences within the broader campus community.

The program has an embedded model, where Scholars are supported by their cohort of first-generation students, as well as by campus-based Kessler Scholars staff teams. The staff teams are supported by central staff at the Kessler Scholars Collaborative.

The Program Model



Kessler Scholars Program

1 Cohort-Based Programming

Description

Cohort meetings provide opportunities for Kessler Scholars who are part of the same graduation cohorts to build community and engage in academic, professional, and personal development activities. Generally held at least twice per semester, these meetings often take the form of workshops or interactive activities that aim to build skills in one or more of the key Kessler learning domains.



Example

Queens College offered an event on allyship for all Scholars, while Johns Hopkins provided a workshop on imposter syndrome.

2 Student Leadership Opportunities

Description

The Kessler Scholars Program believes that student leadership and voice are central to the program's success. Kessler Scholars are encouraged to take on leadership roles within the program as they progress through their college experience. Leadership opportunities include peer mentorship of first-year Scholars and serving on a Student Advisory Board.



Example

St. Francis College holds weekly meetings with advisory board members to develop programming.

3 Individualized One-to-One Meetings

Description

One-on-one meetings between a Kessler Scholars staff member and each Kessler student occur at least once per semester. These meetings are intended to serve as a deliberate, structured meeting designed to provide students with proactive support.



Example

Cornell staff had one-on-one phone conversations with Scholars prior to their Fall 2021 enrollment.



Kessler Scholars Collaborative

The Collaborative is a national network that supports campus-based Kessler Presidential Scholars Programs by providing onboarding guidance, curricular resources, and technical support, as well as facilitating evaluation, assessment, and reporting activities, in partnership with external evaluators. The Collaborative also provides networking opportunities (virtual and in-person) for both students and staff in participating institutions.

Program Working Group

Staff members come together to share promising practices and seek program guidance and support

Cross-Site Student Events

Opportunities for Kessler Scholars to connect and learn together virtual events and workshops

Summer Convening

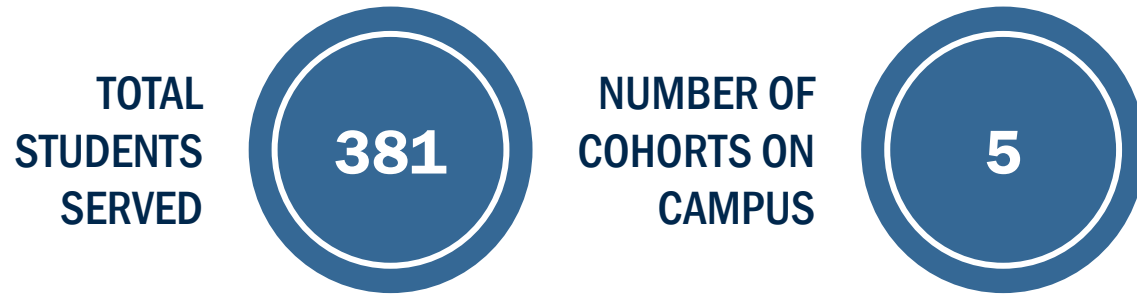
An annual meeting to build community and generate learning opportunities among campus partners

Evaluation

On-going and systematic assessment to inform program improvements and measure outcomes

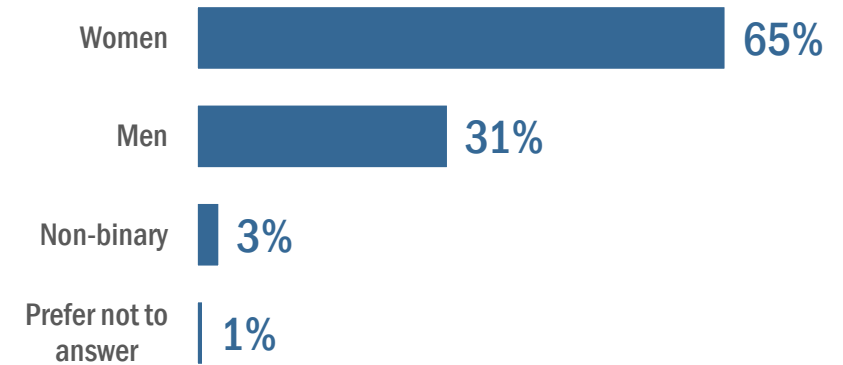


2021-22 Collaborative-Wide Demographics

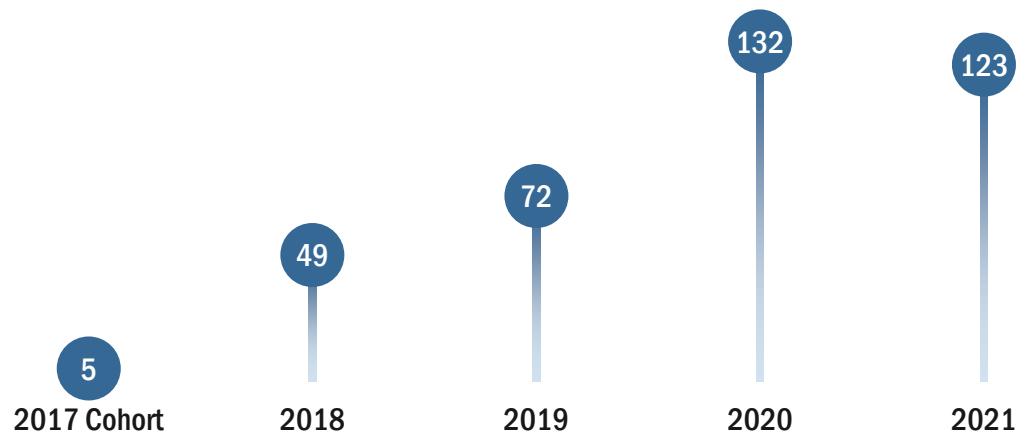


PROPORTION OF STUDENTS BY GENDER (n = 251)

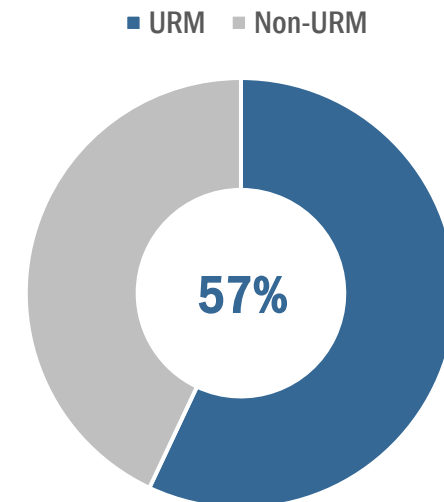
Of students who completed the spring 2022 survey



NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY COHORT



URM* STATUS OF STUDENTS (n=245)



*URM stands for underrepresented minority¹

2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



-   Cornell University
-   JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
-   QUEENS COLLEGE | CUNY
-   SFC ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE EST. 1859
-   S Syracuse University
-   M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



Cornell University

Program Profile

The Kessler Scholars Program began at Cornell University in 2019. Cornell's Kessler Scholars Program is housed within Student and Campus Life. During the 2021-22 academic year, the Cornell team included:

- Shakima Clency, Associate Dean of Students for Student Empowerment, Director of First-Generation and Low Income-Student Supports
- Nancy Martinsen, Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Asian & Asian American Center
- Courtney Owens, Assistant Director, Multicultural Student Leadership & Empowerment

Cornell At-A-Glance

Cornell University is a mid-sized private nonprofit university in Ithaca, New York. The university is classified as a “most selective” research university.

Quick facts:

- Undergraduate population: 14,741²
- Four-year graduation rate: 95%
- Proportion of Pell Grant-eligible students: 16%



I was part of the first cohort of Kessler Scholars at Cornell University, and I feel like **it's made a huge impact on my college experience.** I feel like it's connected me with other students who have similar experiences, and I had a mentor as a first-year student that was really supportive and a great resource to me.

- CORNELL UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR



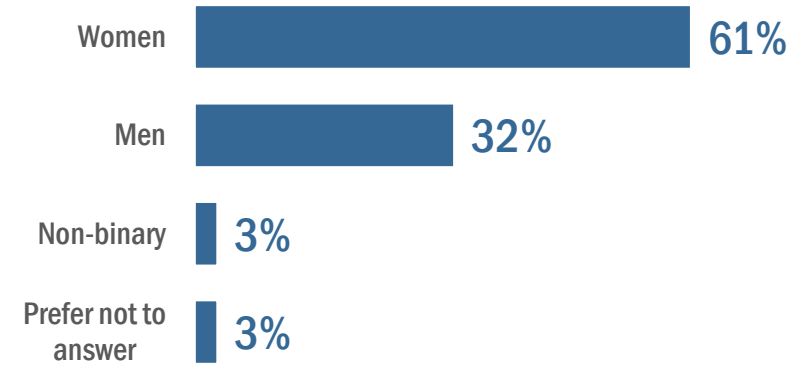


2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics

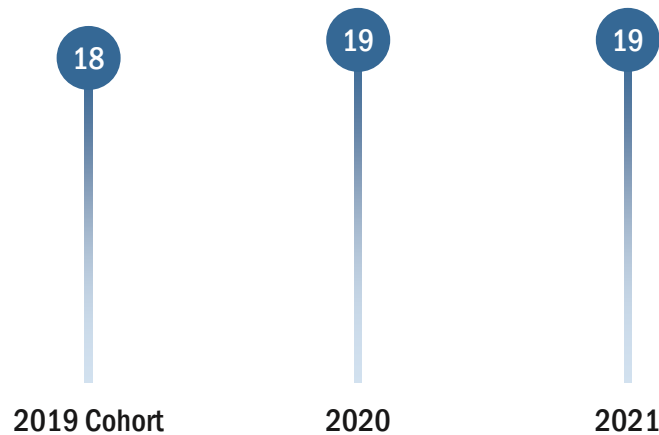


PROPORTION OF STUDENTS BY GENDER (n =31)

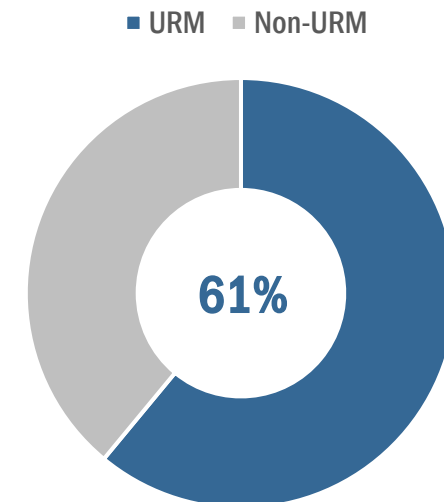
Of students who completed the spring 2022 survey



NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY COHORT



URM STATUS OF STUDENTS (n=31)





2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



Program Profile

The Kessler Scholars Program began at Johns Hopkins University in 2020. All Scholars at Johns Hopkins have declared or anticipate to declare a social science or humanities program. The program is housed within the Center for Student Success within the Student Affairs department. During the 2021-22 academic year, the Cornell team included:

- Stephon Hamell, Director of Scholars and Fellows, Director of the Kessler Scholars
- Brent Fujioka, Assistant Director of Scholars and Fellows
- Katherine Barry, Assistant Director, National Fellowships Program

Johns Hopkins At-A-Glance

Johns Hopkins University is a mid-sized private nonprofit university in Baltimore, Maryland. The university is classified as a most selective research doctoral university.

- Undergraduate population: 5,752²
- Four-year graduation rate: 93%
- Proportion of Pell Grant-eligible students: 18%



If I ever have a question or if I need any extra help or anything, if I have questions about a specific program, **I can always just walk next door and talk to [the Kessler Scholars staff],** which is really nice.

- JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR





2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

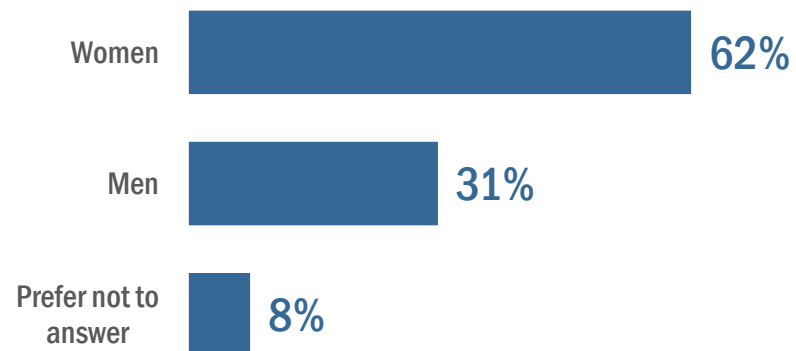


NUMBER OF COHORTS ON CAMPUS

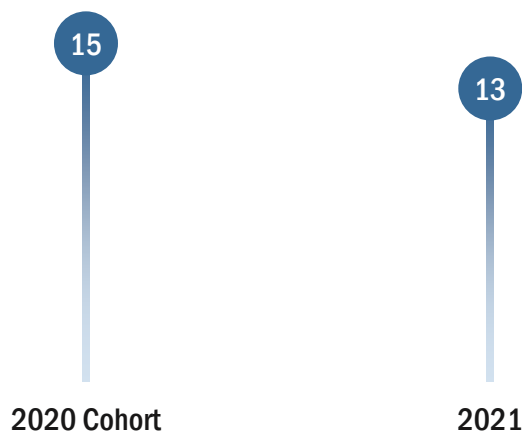


PROPORTION OF STUDENTS BY GENDER (n = 13)

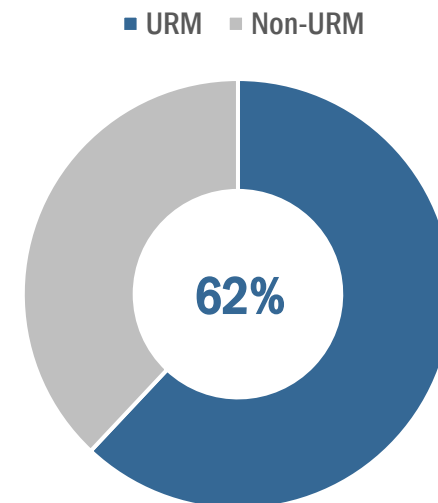
Of students who completed the spring 2022 survey



NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY COHORT



URM STATUS OF STUDENTS (n=13)





2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



Program Profile

The Kessler Scholars Program began at Queens College, CUNY in 2020. Kessler Scholars Program was housed within Honors Programs during the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years. During the 2021-22 academic year, the Queens College team included:

- Barbara Simerka, Director of Transfer Honors Program, Professor of Spanish
- Selma Skrijelj, Program Coordinator and Student Success Mentor

Queens At-A-Glance

Queens College is a large public college in Queens, New York. The college is classified as a master's college with a predominantly undergraduate enrollment. Quick facts:

- Undergraduate population: 15,735²
- Four-year graduation rate: 56%
- Proportion of Pell Grant-eligible students: 58%



All the workshops and all the classes, it happens because of the community that Kessler created...without [Kessler Scholars staff] and without all my peers, Kessler wouldn't be what it is...
the people that make up Kessler are the most important part.

- QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOLAR



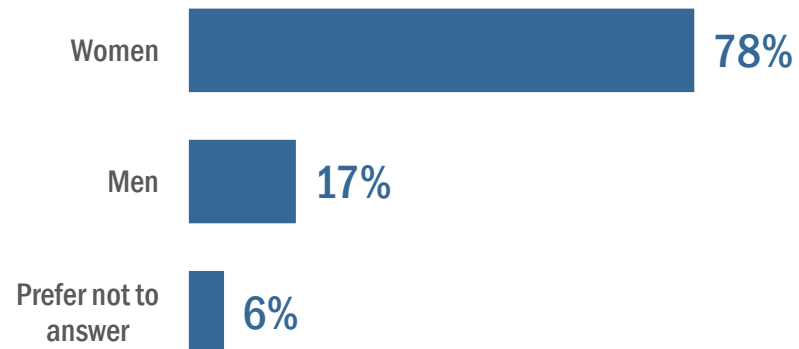


2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics

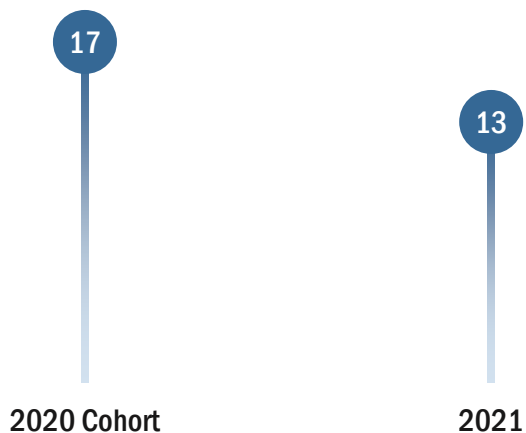


PROPORTION OF STUDENTS BY GENDER (n = 18)

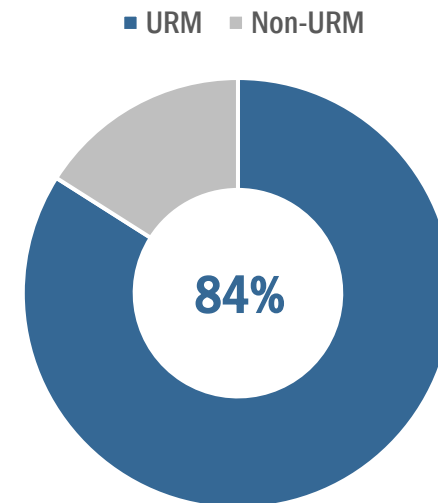
Of students who completed the spring 2022 survey



NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY COHORT



URM STATUS OF STUDENTS (n=18)





2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



Program Profile

The McGuire Scholars Program began at St. Francis College in 2015 and joined the Collaborative in 2020. The program is a part of the Endowed Fellowships Program and resides within the Center for Student Success. During the 2021-22 academic year, the St. Francis team included:

- Anthony Desiderio, Special Program Coordinator/McGuire Scholar Advisor
- Kelsey Ketelsen, Senior Admissions Counselor
- Monica Michalski, AVP of Student Support and Academic Operations

St. Francis At-A-Glance

St. Francis College is a mid-sized private nonprofit university in Brooklyn Heights, New York. It is a primarily non-residential baccalaureate college. Quick facts:

- Undergraduate population: 2,637²
- Four-year graduation rate: 53%
- Proportion of Pell Grant-eligible students: 52%



I feel that the McGuire Scholars Program has provided me with a community. **At any time, I know that I have a support.** I feel special, not entitled, but just seen, set apart. I can get the help I need.

- ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE SCHOLAR





2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



TOTAL STUDENTS SERVED

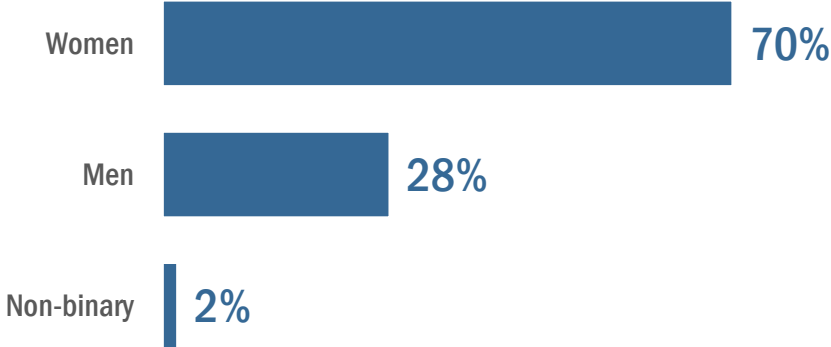


NUMBER OF COHORTS ON CAMPUS

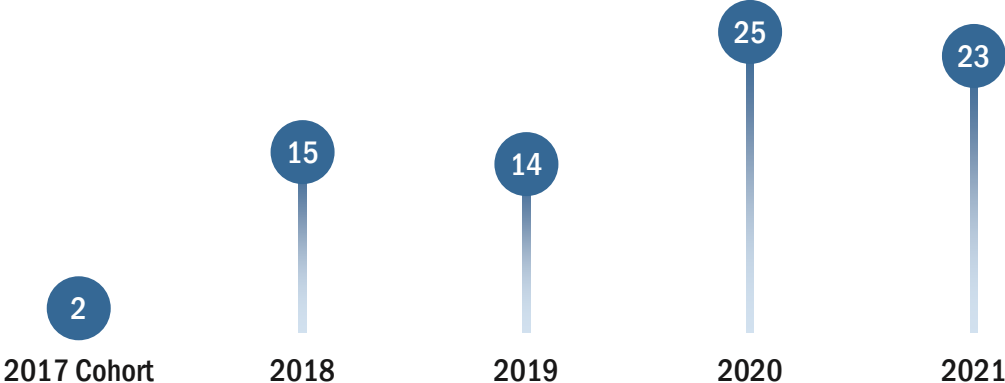


PROPORTION OF STUDENTS BY GENDER (n =50)

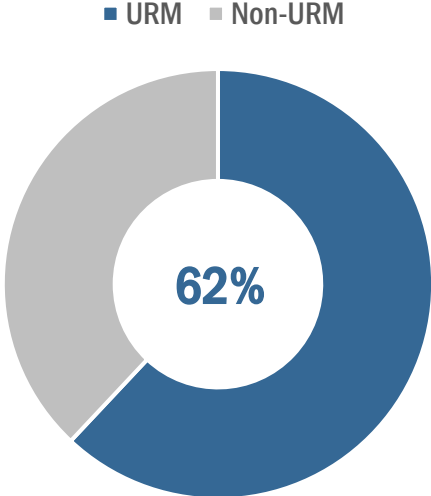
Of students who completed the spring 2022 survey



NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY COHORT



URM STATUS OF STUDENTS (n=50)



2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



Program Profile

The Kessler Scholars Program began at Syracuse University in 2020. The Kessler Program is housed within the Office of Multicultural Affairs within the Division of Enrollment and the Student Experience. During the 2021-22 academic year, the Syracuse University team included:

- Huey Hsiao, Associate Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs
- Victoria Munley, Academic Program Specialist
- Breana Nieves Vergara, Coordinator of Mentoring Programs, Office of Multicultural Affairs

Syracuse At-A-Glance

Syracuse University is a mid-sized private nonprofit university in Syracuse, New York. The university is classified as a more selective doctoral university with very high levels of research activity. Quick facts:

- Undergraduate population: 14,242²
- Four-year graduation rate: 82%
- Proportion of Pell Grant-eligible students: 14%



I feel like Kessler gave me **a sense of community since the first day**. And I think that every first-generation student should have that because it's already hard enough trying to navigate college...I really appreciate Kessler and I think that other first-generation students should have that opportunity.

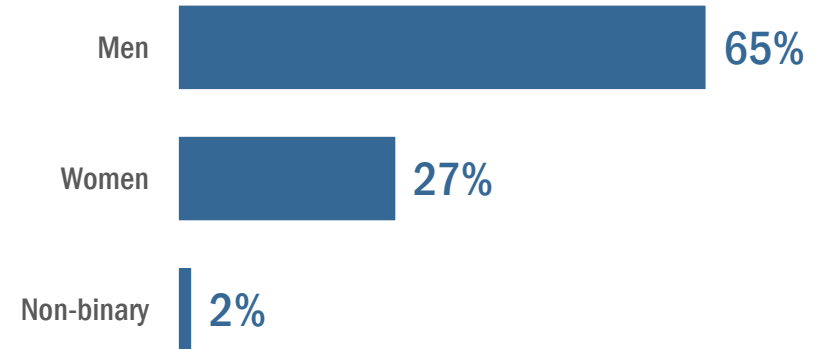
- SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR



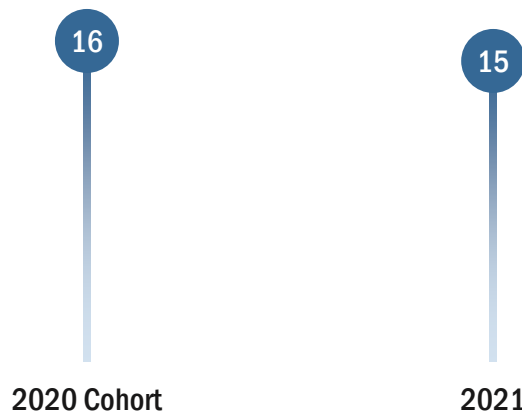
2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



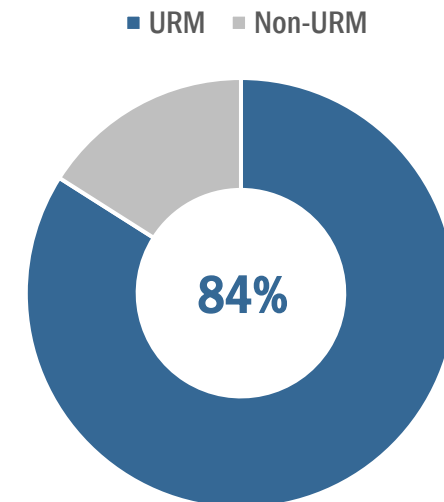
PROPORTION OF STUDENTS BY GENDER (n =26)
Of students who completed the spring 2022 survey



NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY COHORT



URM STATUS OF STUDENTS (n=26)





2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics



Program Profile

The Kessler Scholars Program began at the University of Michigan in 2008 as a traditional scholarship award. The scholarship then transitioned to provide cohort-based scholarship programming for students in 2017. The program sits in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. During the 2021-22 academic year, the U-M team included:

- Gail Gibson, Director
- Anna Maria Flores, Associate Director
- Kayla Skinner-Roy, Student Support Coordinator

Michigan At-A-Glance

The University of Michigan is a large, highly selective public university in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Quick facts:

- Undergraduate population: 31,189²
- Four-year graduation rate: 92%
- Proportion of Pell Grant-eligible students: 18%



The Kessler Scholars Program supported me the most by showing me that I am not alone in how I feel as a first-generation college student and offered me support through the adjustment process. The community I found within the Kessler Scholars Program is the **most supportive community I have encountered on campus**, and I was able to meet many like minded people.

- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOLAR

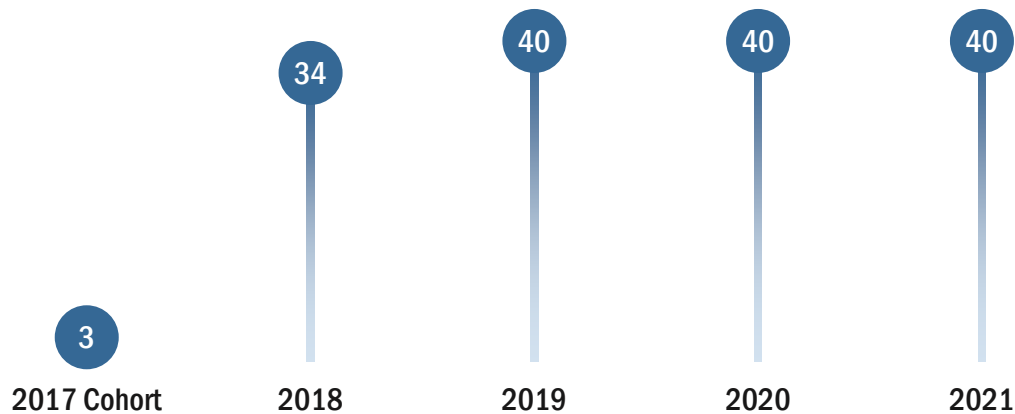




2021-22 Institution Context & Demographics

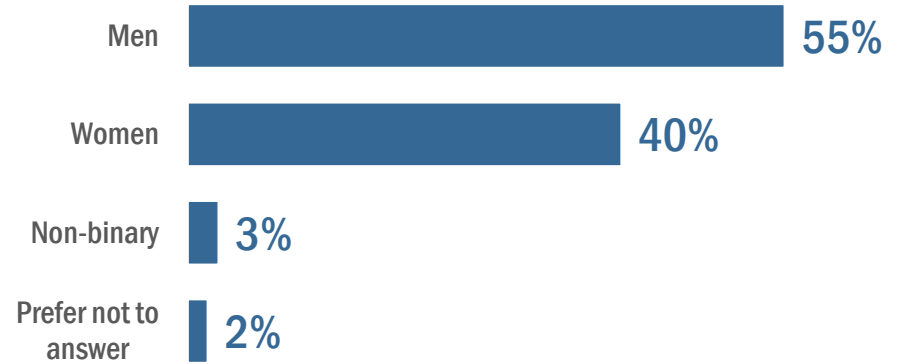


NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED BY COHORT

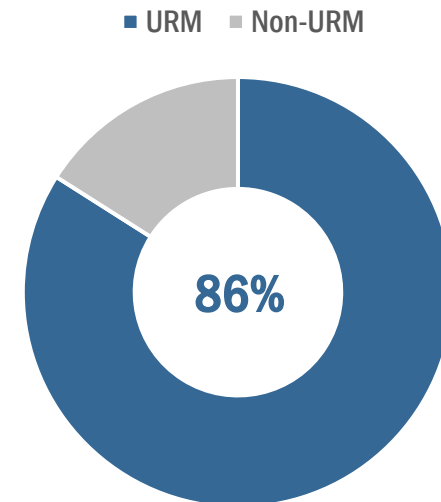


PROPORTION OF STUDENTS BY GENDER (n = 113)

Of students who completed the spring 2022 survey



URM STATUS OF STUDENTS (n=113)





Endnotes

¹ The CEDER team adopts the University of San Francisco's working definition of an underrepresented minority (URM) as someone whose racial or ethnic makeup is from one of the following:

- African American / Black
- Asian: Filipino, Hmong, or Vietnamese only
- Hispanic / Latinx
- Native American / Alaskan Native
- Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander
- Two or more races, when one or more are from the preceding racial and ethnic categories in this list.

University of San Fransisco. (n.d.). Underrepresented Minority Definition. Retrieved June 27, 2022, from <https://diversity.ucsf.edu/programs-resources/urm-definition>.

² U.S. Department of Education. (n.d.). College Scorecard. Retrieved May 30, 2022, from <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>