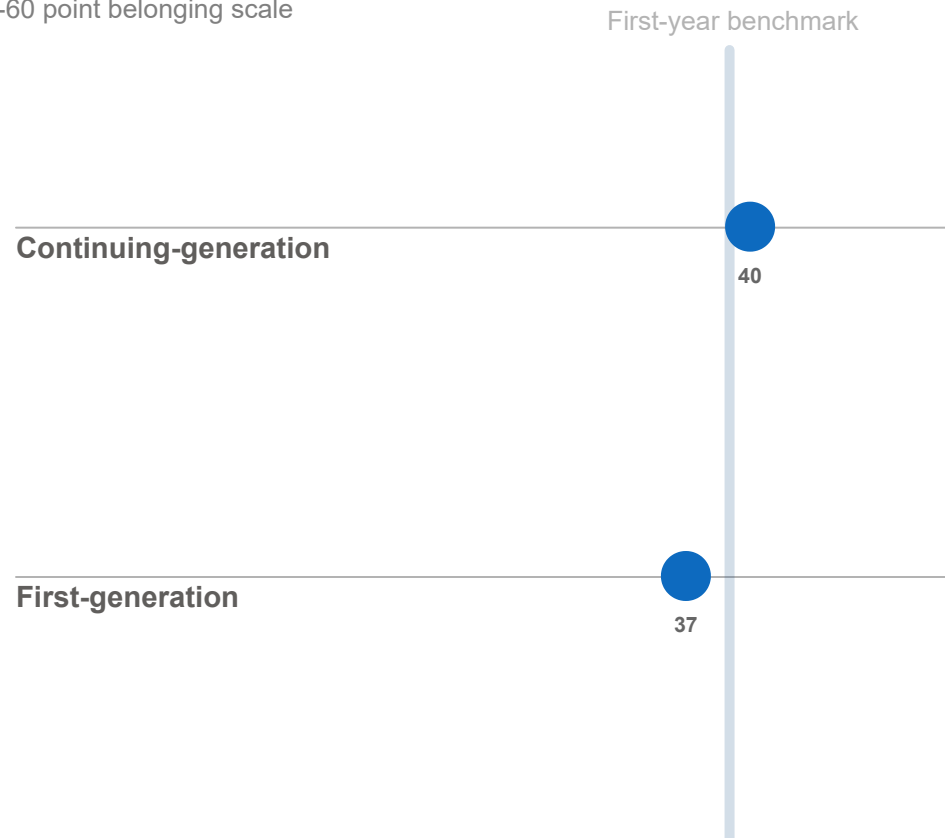


## First-generation first-year students and seniors reported slightly lower levels of belonging.

First-generation students could interpret challenges navigating academic and process norms as signals they don't belong. Messaging is important for first-generation and transfer students. The most important thing a college can do to foster belonging for first-generation students is to [create opportunities for personal interactions](#) with faculty, staff, and other students.

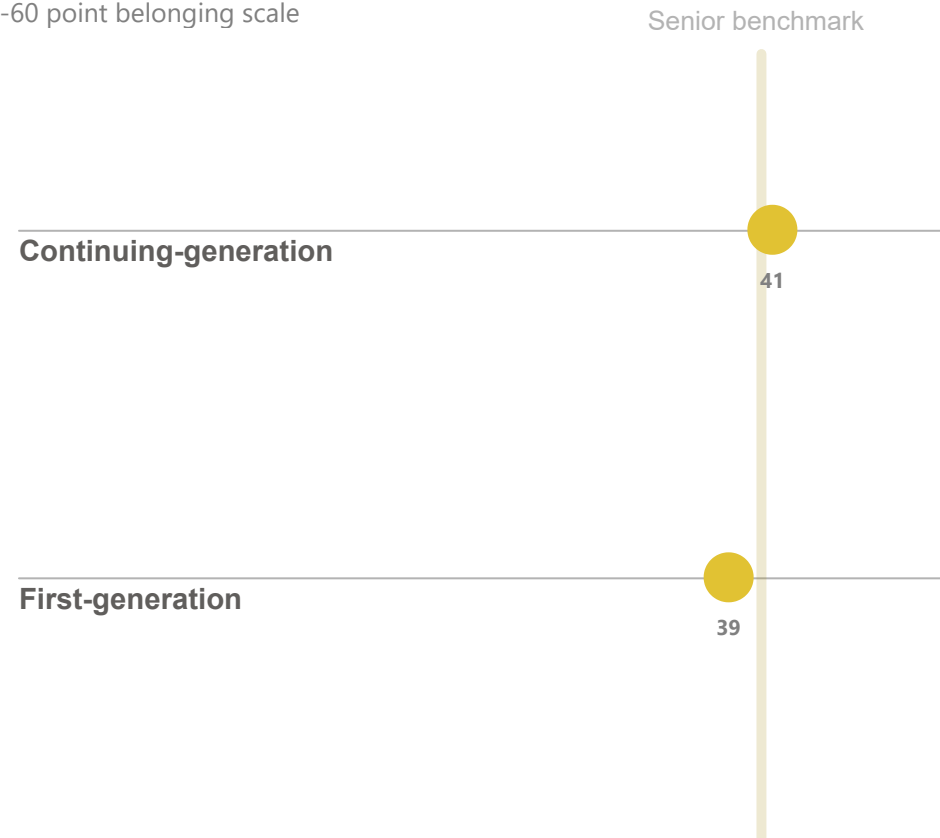
### First-year students

0-60 point belonging scale



### Seniors

0-60 point belonging scale



### Three simple things can enhance belonging and student success

1. Encourage **frequent and positive interactions** with faculty, staff, and other students.
2. Help first-generation students **navigate institutional processes and academic norms**.
3. Encourage **growth mindsets**.

Note: Data from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), spring 2023, [University Assessment Services](#), Illinois State University. Score derived from a 4-point likert scale converted to a 0-60 point scale. Questions based on feeling like a part of the community, being valued by ISU, and comfort being oneself. See also: [ISU Binary Logistic Regression Retention Model](#) and [Sense of Belonging and Identity Groups at ISU](#).