

SUPPORTING FIRST-GENERATION FAMILIES

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

First-generation students are faced with unique challenges as they navigate the bureaucracies and demands of college without the advantage of being able to rely on their parents' experience. Families can best support their students when institutions provide them with clear, easily accessible tools and resources to help them succeed.

INFORMATION

Offer online resources that address information that students and their families will need before a formal orientation program, with a strong focus on the financial aid process.

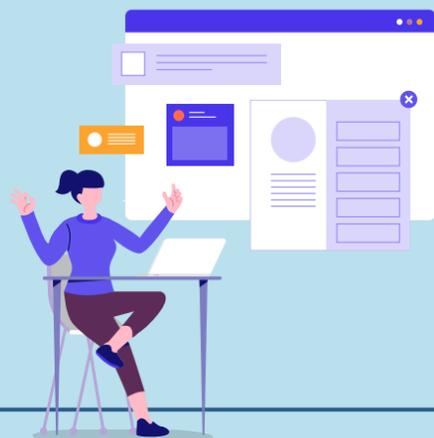


CELEBRATION

Celebrate the assets that first-gen students and families bring to campus. Participate in the Annual National First-Generation Celebration Event and invite families to join online and on campus.

ORIENTATION

Host an orientation experience designed explicitly for first-gen students and their families. Record this to support families who could not attend or may want to reference it in the future.



EXPLANATION

Provide a guide that lists common vocabulary used in higher education and includes terminology that is specific to your campus.

COMMUNICATION

Create a dedicated section on your institution's website for first-generation students and their families, and consider establishing a social media group where first-gen families can share information.



AFFIRMATION

Congratulate families on their student's acceptance to your institution. Remind them that this is an exciting time and one that may seem like their child may be less focused on family. Reassure them that these are typical feelings, and affirm that your institution recognizes the critical role that families play in helping students meet their goal of earning a college degree.



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