

What's it like to be a first generation college student?

Compiled by Valeria Munoz

Angela Frantz:



What's it like being a first generation college student?

1. "Being a first gen student can be a little confusing and scary at times. Not having a parent who knows the answer can be a little intimidating. More than anything though, it's an honor. To know that I am the first in my family to attend college is such a privilege and it's something I hold onto when things get tough."

What have you learned?

2. "College is about so much more than good grades. As cliché as it is, it's about learning who you are and making lifelong connections. You will meet so many amazing people who will impact you well beyond what you learn in the classroom. Also, put yourself out there! Go to office hours, ask questions, join clubs/ organizations. More than anything, find what you're passionate about and pursue it!"

What's your advice to first year students who are first generation?

3. "I have learned to always ask questions! Take advantage of all the resources around you. While it may seem being first generation puts you at a disadvantage, there are so many resources made and people there just for you. Whether that be your mentor, professors, advisers, etc."

Pietro Arata:



What's it like being a first generation college student?

1. "As a first generation student I have had nothing but pleasant surprises in college. Coming from an immigrant family I had no point of reference when it comes to education in the United States but I found the university environment to be very welcoming and stimulating for young minds to be molded into the backbones of tomorrow's society. Bottom line I have been enjoying every semester of college to its fullest. "

What have you learned?

2. "I have learned, other than the numerous academic findings, that college is so much more than studying for a degree. It is a chance to enjoy the in-between of adult and juvenile life, but also a chance to be involved and give back to the community that has supported you all the way up to here."

What advice do you have for first year and first generation students?

3. "My biggest advice for first year, first gen students would be to get involved in extracurricular activities such as sports or organizations. The academic part of university must always be kept at the top but it really is important to diversify yourself and make the most out of the wonderful 4 years you have ahead of you because they will go by quickly."

Katherine Pineda:



What's it like being a first generation college student?

1. "As a first generation student my experience has been motivating. I realized that my parents have moved to this country to give me the best possible education and that always motivated me to ask questions and get my work done regarding school. I am proud to be a first generation student and I'm thankful for all the people such as the Viner Scholarship community who have supported me."

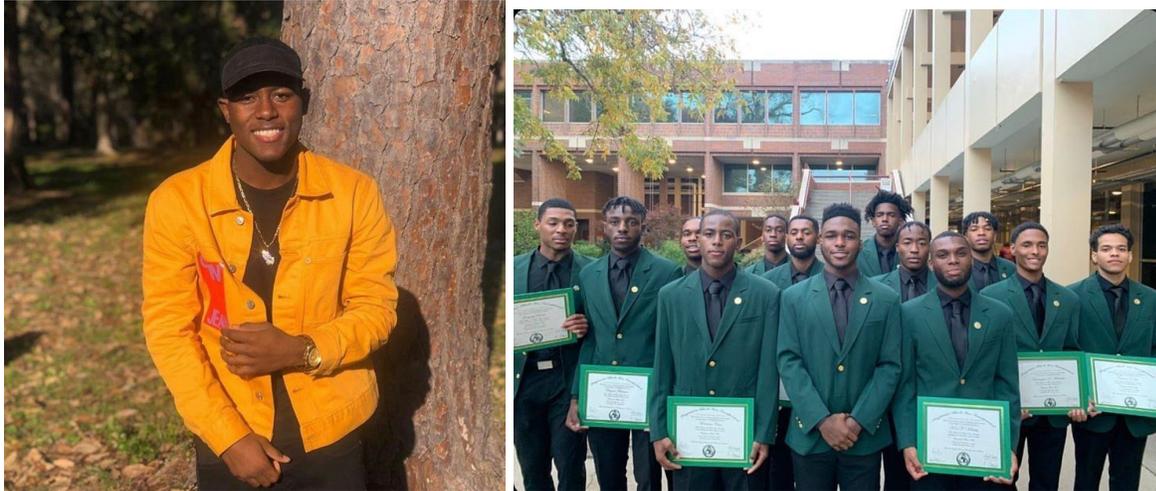
What have you learned?

2. "I have learned that you always have to go for what you believe in even if it seems impossible. School is something many take for granted and learned that if you just focus and work hard you can achieve whatever you set your mind to."

What's your advice to first year students who are first generation?

3. "The advice I'd give to first generation students is: if they have questions to NEVER be afraid to ask and to continuously go after what they **need even if it seems tedious!**"

Kenineson Cene:



What's it like being a first generation college student?

1. "Due to the immense pressure to break generational curses, my college experience as a first generation student has been challenging."

What have you learned?

2. "During my time here I have learned to accept failure as an essential aspect of my growth process leading to success. As first generation college students, we have an obligation to help our families, better our communities, and create an equitable society for future generations. However, it is important to note that these goals cannot be accomplished if our mental health is unstable."

What's your advice to first year students who are first generation?

3. "My advice to upcoming first generation students is to seek help; use resources such as counselors, advisors, and mentors to ensure success and a great college experience."