

# First Generation COLLEGE STUDENT GUIDE



Nearly one-third of rising college freshmen are first-generation college students. The status should be a point of pride, but many students who hope to be the first in their immediate family to attend college don't take credit for being trailblazers. They either don't realize it's a plus in the eyes of admissions officers or think it's a mark of shame. To set the record straight, here's our first-generation college student guide.

## What is a First-Generation College Student?

If you are the first person in your immediate family to attend college, most people consider you a first-generation college student. When it comes to admissions offices and financial aid issues, though, definitions vary. To be safe, always ask school officials or the financial aid or scholarship administrators for their definitions.



## A Statistical Look at First-Generation College Students

First-generation college students face a daunting statistic: a college dropout rate that is four times the average for second-generation students. Data show that coming from financially challenged and minority families and not having a parent with college experience often are factors.

## Tips for First-Generation College Students

The first rule of being a first-generation student is to wear the status as a badge of honor; the second rule is to make sure anyone who can help you enroll in and pay for college sees that badge. It's important to use your status, build a support system at home and on campus, and be sure to engage peers, faculty, and staff on campus.



If you want some advice on clearing admissions process hurdles and some insight on how USF can help you shape your dreams, reach out to one of our advisors [online](#) or by phone at **813-974-3350**.