

# First-Generation College Students

*Ready...Set...Rise!!!*



*First Gen* **RISE**™

**Congrats! You are now a freshman college student.**

There will be many challenges and successes on your journey as a first-generation college student. Many people will give you advice and provide tips on what you should do before you get on campus. Did you write it down? Probably not. It will be tough to be prepared for many of the new experiences you encounter in the first few moments and full day of school; but this is a list of the things you should consider before you pack your things and head to college.

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- ☐ Talk with your parents about college, including your fears and what you're excited about.  
Be sure to agree on how many times you will speak in a given week or come home for a visit while in college, so everyone has the same expectations. Be comfortable and open to talk about other things that come to mind. This is a nerve-wracking time for your parents, too.
- ☐ Look online for textbooks. Don't forget to factor in the time for shipping!
- ☐ Tour the campus to find out the distance from your dorm to classes. It's important to know how much time you'll need to leave before that first 8 a.m. class!
- ☐ Gather all the required documentation you need for your Freshman Orientation, including immunizations, housing, meal plan and financial aid.
- ☐ Sign up for any upperclassmen mentorship programs that might be available on your campus.
- ☐ If eligible, find out about any work-study jobs or visit the library to see if they are hiring. You'll want to find a position where you can get paid and study at the same time.
- ☐ Write down 1-2 sentences about your motivation for enrolling in college. This will be important to look back on during the hard times.
- ☐ Meet people, including classmates, faculty, administrative staff, and dorm or off-campus living staff during Orientation. At least one person from each category will have a purpose in the future. Some colleges and universities even have a freshman-only class for you to meet a classmate who just started at the school like you.
- ☐ Make plans for how you will cope with the stress and overwhelming schedule.
- ☐ Have confidence and enjoy your first semester!