



# Tips for First Generation Students

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## Congratulations First Generation Students!

To say you have made it thus far is an accomplishment in itself. However, I — like you — am a first generation college student. Being the first one to attend college is quite a big deal — both in your family and in school — which can be a lot of pressure. There are a few things I want to share with you, as I have already started my first-gen journey:

### 1. Follow your heart, and pay attention to your passions.

Do not neglect your feelings or passions. Embrace who you are, what you love and turn it into your future. Make your dreams and desires a reality!

### 2. Make decisions for yourself - not for others.

You are directly affected by your decisions, meaning you need to do what is best for you. Don't make decisions to please others, because you will have to live with the outcomes.

### 3. Be your own biggest fan.

Learn to motivate yourself and remind yourself what your goals are why you are here. My first semester I made a motivational wall in my dorm room where I would put different inspiring quotes and tips which helped remind me of my purpose and dreams. Find what motivates you and use it to your advantage.

### 4. Everyone is on a different journey.

What I noticed was hard for me to grasp at first is that you do not have to be better or “as good” as the person next to. Everyone is following their own path and what is for that person may not be for you. And that is okay! The only thing you should be concerned with is being the best you and trying your best in all that you do. Do not compare yourself, your accomplishments, or your grades to those around you. You have made it to the University of Florida — currently the #7 Top Public University — which says volumes. Pave your own path and walk it with pride. Remember, you are here for a reason. You can do it!

### 5. Stay true to yourself and your character.

Don't allow college — or the freedom attached to it — to turn you into someone you are not. Fitting in is not as important as your reputation.

### 6. Reputation is important.

Your image is so valuable, because it is a representation of you and what you stand for. The reputation you build for yourself is contributed to by your decisions, actions and words. The choices you make can, potentially, affect you negatively or positively for the rest of your life. So make sure to think before you act and consider whether your actions and words will hinder or help your future.

### 7. Network and build relationships.

Meeting new people and creating relationships — with your peers and professionals — is extremely helpful. You never know how far those connections can take you or how many doors can be opened, as a result.

Best Wishes, Sierra Graham

