

First in Family

Navigating College for First- Generation College Students

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Academic Resource Center

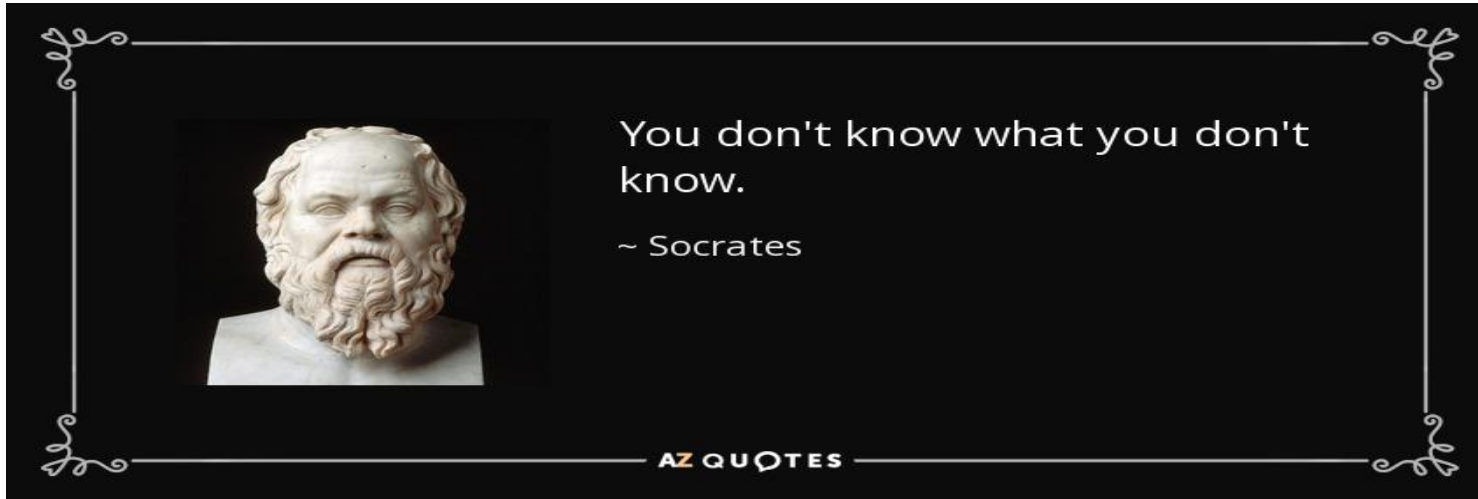


What is First-Gen



- ▶ A first-generation college student is defined as a student whose parents have not earned a 4-year college degree.
- ▶ Parents may have earned an Associates degree
- ▶ Siblings or grandparents may have a Bachelors degree

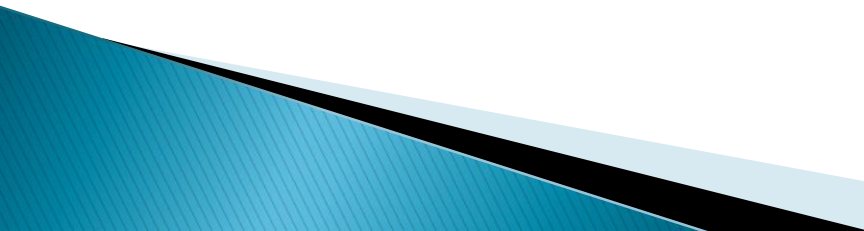
Why Might First-Gen Be Tricky?



There can be a learning curve to the process of attending college.

What do you want to know?

FAQs and Common Concerns

- ▶ Dining?
 - ▶ Local grocery stores?
 - ▶ Banking? Credit cards?
 - ▶ Churches?
 - ▶ Safety?
 - ▶ Campus activities?
 - ▶ Changing schedules?
 - ▶ Dropping classes?
 - ▶ Student employment?
 - ▶ Health issues?
 - ▶ Stress?
 - ▶ Changing majors?
 - ▶ Study abroad?
 - ▶ Service learning?
 - ▶ Disciplinary action?
 - ▶ Skipping classes?
 - ▶ What happens if they fail classes?
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Your Guide Book

- ▶ The College Catalog
- ▶ Can be found at the bottom of the MC webpage
www.Marietta.edu



The transition isn't just for them

This may be a difficult time as you develop a new facet of your relationship to your son/daughter/student



The transition isn't just for them

Positive communication can foster a strengthened relationship as they become adults

- Trust is critical
- Being the #1 fan is helpful
- Letting go can be an important piece of the puzzle



Trusting your student

- ▶ You have done a great job teaching them, now **trust the work you have done.**
- ▶ Ask about their classes and what they are learning, not always about grades specifically.



Trusting your student

- ▶ Inquire about their **relationships** on campus, and include the MC staff in those questions.
 - How do you like your profs?
 - Have you met with your advisor?
 - What is your RA studying?
 - Have you joined a club or organization?



Adult Conversation

- ▶ We will treat your student like an adult
- ▶ FERPA and waivers
- ▶ Personal responsibility
- ▶ Legal consequences for actions



New Culture

- ▶ Remind them that this is not just like home – and that is an exciting thing!
- ▶ Diversity and Inclusion are highly valued on our campus



New Culture

- ▶ Learning to communicate appropriately with others
 - Friends
 - Faculty
 - Administration
- ▶ Learning to share



SHARING?

I have three and she has none, I don't see the problem?

Learning the Lingo

- ▶ Canvas
- ▶ Pio-Everything
- ▶ Navigate
- ▶ Gen Ed
- ▶ Provost



What to Expect in the First Few Weeks



▶ For some:

- Homesickness
- Constant calls
- Complaints about *everything*
- Feeling helpless with the transition

What to Expect in the First Few Weeks

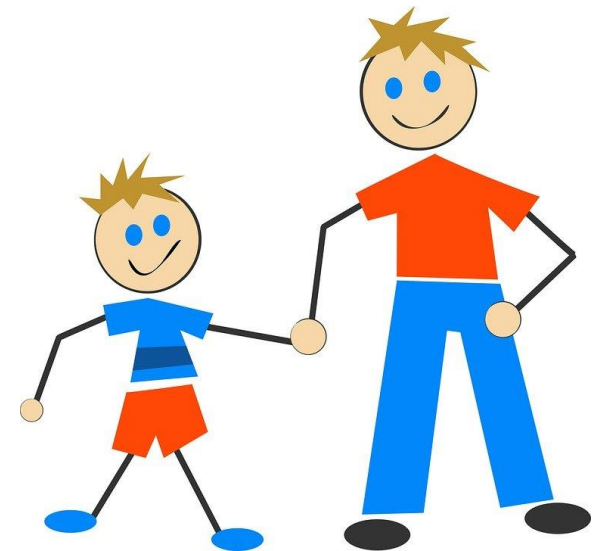
▶ For others:

- Limited communication
- “Everything is awesome” messages
- Complete bliss with independence

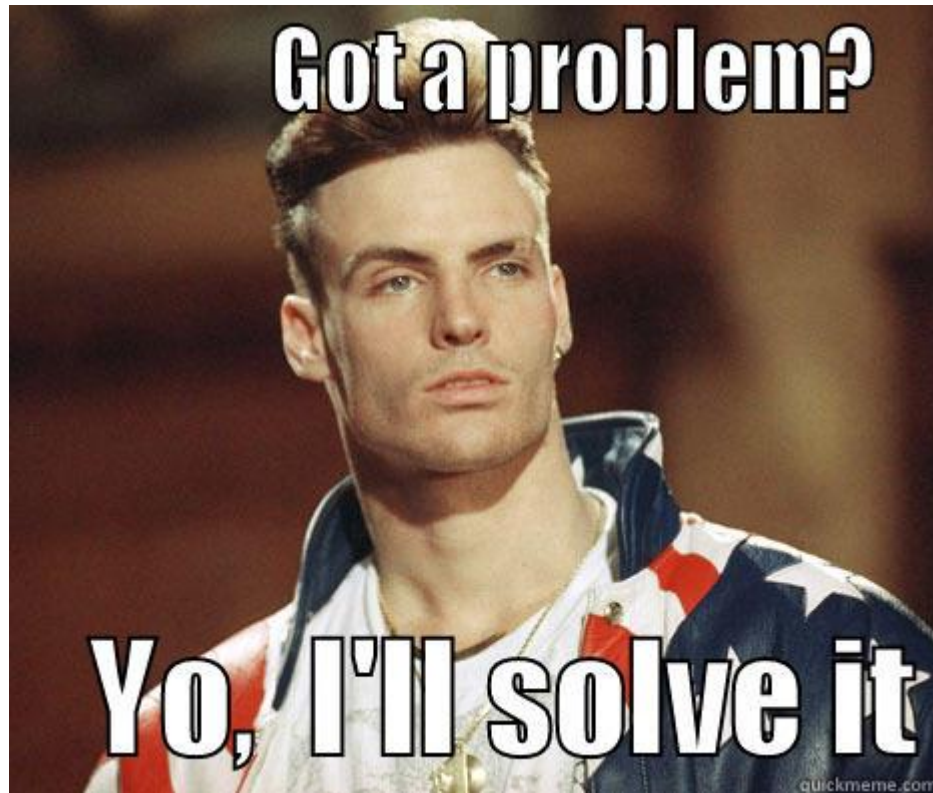
AWESOME

How Should a Parent Respond?

- ▶ Try to offer encouragement from afar by phone and Internet (Facetime, Zoom, etc).
- ▶ Unless absolutely necessary, let your student stay on campus to get used to the independence
- ▶ Again, remind him/her/them of the resources available on campus



How Should a Parent Respond?

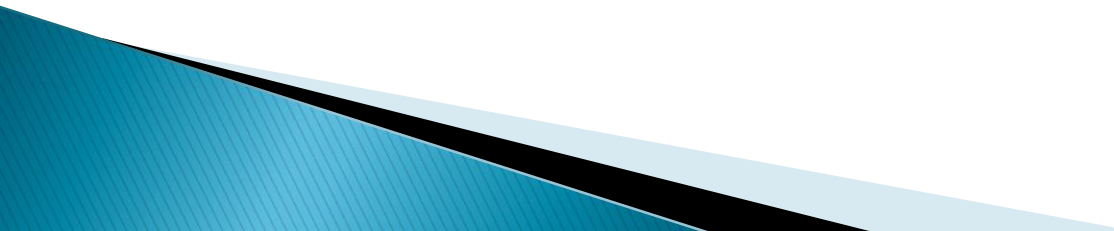


- ▶ Encourage your student to do the “problem-solving”
- ▶ Mail letters, cards, or care packages

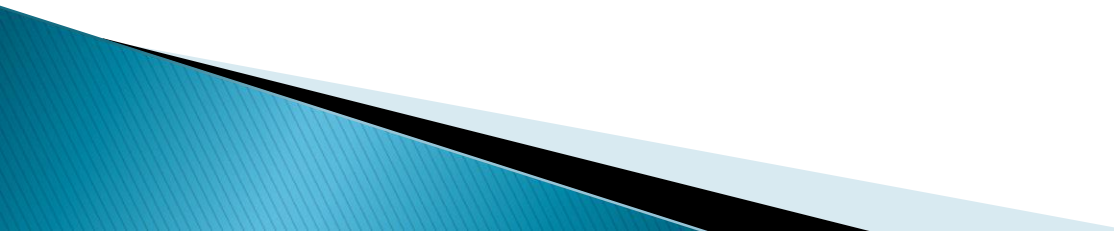
Important Dates

- ▶ August 1 – Fall Payments are Due
- ▶ August 22 – Classes Begin
- ▶ August 30– Last Day to ADD Classes
- ▶ September 2 – Labor Day – We **DO** have Classes that day
- ▶ September 6 – Last Day to DROP w/o a W

Important Dates

- ▶ October 10–13 – Four Day Break
 - ▶ October 15 – Midterm Grades Post
 - ▶ October 24–27 – Homecoming
 - ▶ October 28 – Last Day to DROP with a W & Pre-Registration Begins for Seniors
 - ▶ November 18– Experiential Ed Day
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Important Dates

- ▶ November 27–29 – Thanksgiving Break (they need to attend Monday & Tuesday classes!)
 - ▶ December 6 – Last Day of Classes
 - ▶ December 9–13 – Final Exams
 - ▶ December 17 – Final Grades Post
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Schedule Notes – Pro Tips

- ▶ Don't let your student try to convince you that “**everyone is doing it**” as they attempt to stretch their 4-day fall break or the Thanksgiving break into a whole week by “***just***” skipping classes on a Monday or Tuesday...professors typically do tests/quizzes those days.
- ▶ Students cannot change their final exam schedules, so plan travel accordingly for them to be here on their dates of testing.

You've Got This!

Don't ever hesitate to ask questions if you aren't certain about things. We are here to help.



Contact Us

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