

FIRST-GEN FACULTY STORIES



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What was your experience like as a FIRST-GEN STUDENT?

My experience as a first-year student wasn't very difficult. I was pretty much a nerd in high school and very motivated academically and studious. College was a much better experience for me than high school was, particularly because of the freedom to pick your classes according to your preferences. I am not a morning person at all and I loved taking later afternoon and evening courses.

What advice do you have for other FIRST-GEN STUDENTS?

My advice to first gen students is to take college very seriously. Do your best to earn as high a grade as possible in every class so you can graduate with the highest GPA possible. Why? Because after graduation most students will very quickly realize that a Bachelor's degree isn't enough in today's society. So most will want to go on to graduate school, which is more expensive than undergraduate studies. However, many graduate programs offer scholarships in the form of teacher's assistantships. These will pay for 100% of your tuition, but to get them you will need a competitive GPA.

How did you get to where you are TODAY?

I got to where I am today by being disciplined with my studies, realistic with my goals and by challenging myself to improve areas of weakness in my skill set and overall life. I will admit that there were times when I could have challenged myself a lot more, but like all students, I'm human and not a robot. We need restful breaks. So work hard towards earning well-deserved fun time!