Navigating Your First-Gen College Experience

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A first generation college student is the first person in their family to attend college and complete their bachelor’s degree.
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- Chicago, IL
- Northern Illinois University
  - B.A. Corporate Communications
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  - B.A. English Literature & Creative Writing
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• Hometown: Chicago, IL
• High School: John F. Kennedy High School
• Majors: Communication & Psychology
• Extracurricular Activities:
  o Co-President of Latinos Unidos
  o Co-President of To Write Love On Her Arms

“My biggest advice for first-generation students is to not give up when it seems difficult. You have every right to enjoy your college experience even if you are here for both yourself and your family.”
A Common Experience

• Fewer role models for the college experience
• Less exposure to college life
• Financial aid as determining factor
• Uncertainty regarding college search & admissions process
“Mock” Admissions Timeline

The College Search
- Research colleges
- Meet with college counselor
- Start applications
- Keep college list updated!
- Plan visit dates

Navigating Deadlines
- November 1 ED I & ED II
- January 15 ED II & EA II
- February 15 Regular Decision

Financial Aid
- Review all award letters
- Meet with Financial Aid Officers
- Discuss with your family
- Admissions counselors can help!

Final Decisions
- May 1 is the national deadline to make your final college decision!

The Application Process
- Recommendation Letter
- High School Transcript
- ACT/SAT (Test-Optional)
- Interview
- Visit campus

Accepted, now what?
- Visit if you haven’t already
- Keep your college counselor updated on your acceptances

Reflection Time
- Continue to connect with admissions counselors and your college counselor.
- Don’t be afraid to ask for help/guidance!

Celebrate!
What’s the FAFSA?

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid
- U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents
- Need-based aid (grants, loans, work-study)
  - College, state, and federal government funds
- Complete by December 1, 2020
Support for Undocumented Students

• LFC Undocumented Student Financial Aid Application
• Receive up to $40,000 annually at Lake Forest
• Private Grants/Scholarships
  • Golden Door Scholars
  • DREAMers Roadmap
## Scholarships, Grants, & Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarship/Grant</th>
<th>Fall '20</th>
<th>Spring '21</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presidential Scholarship</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forester Flagship Grant</td>
<td>$5,367</td>
<td>$5,368</td>
<td>$10,735</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Visit Incentive Grant</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Pell Grant (Est)</td>
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<td>$3,172</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Supp'l Grant [SEOG] (Est)</td>
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<td>State of IL MAP Grant (Est)</td>
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<td>$2,670</td>
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<td>Fed'l Direct Stafford Loan, subsidized</td>
<td>$1,750</td>
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<td>$3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fed'l Direct Stafford Loan, unsubsidized</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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</table>
## Merit Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HS GPA 4.0</th>
<th>HS GPA 100</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Scholarship Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.0 +</td>
<td>100 +</td>
<td>1390 +</td>
<td>31 +</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.75–3.99</td>
<td>95–99</td>
<td>1330–1380</td>
<td>29–30</td>
<td>$28,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.50–3.74</td>
<td>90–94</td>
<td>1160–1320</td>
<td>24–28</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00–3.49</td>
<td>85–89</td>
<td>1030–1150</td>
<td>20–23</td>
<td>$23,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 3.0</td>
<td>Under 85</td>
<td>Under 1030</td>
<td>Under 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This chart uses weighted GPA and applies to all first-year students and transfer students with less than 26 credits. *Visit campus or attend a virtual event to be eligible for the full amount. The Visit Grant accounts for the additional $2,000 of funds listed above.*

- $30,000
- $26,000
- $23,000
- $28,000

Students in this range should contact their admission counselor for questions about scholarship review.
Forester Flagship Program

Qualified in-state first year and transfer students will receive 100% of the College’s tuition covered in grants and scholarships.

• For Illinois residents
• Must live on campus
• Complete FAFSA before state deadline
• Need to be eligible for the Federal Pell Grant
Additional Resources

Lake Forest College – Suggested Outside Scholarships
https://www.lakeforest.edu/admissions/finaid/scholarships/outside.php

College Board BigFuture College Database
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org

U.S. Department of Labor’s Scholarship Database
https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx
Admissions Tips

• Have an open mind
• Create a “college search” email address
  • And check it!
• Meet with your high school counselor
• Communicate with your admissions counselors
• Attend admissions events
• Connect with current students, faculty, and other members of the college community
• Ask for help when you need it
  • Especially with financial aid!
What about the first gen experience beyond the admissions process?
Overcoming the Imposter Phenomenon

• You worked hard to be here
• You earned it
• You belong
• You are not alone
• The community is a better place with you in it
Relationship Building is Key

- Academic advisors
- Career advisors
- Faculty
- Other staff
  - Such as the Office of Intercultural Relations
First-Gen Support at Lake Forest

• First Connection Pre-Orientation Program
  • Students of color
  • International students
  • Students who identity as LGBTQ+
  • First generation college students
• Forester First College Success & Mentoring Program
• Forester First Parent Orientation
Finding Support Systems

• College transition courses
• First Year Studies
• Student Organizations & Clubs
• Multicultural Student Affairs
• Communicate your needs!
Want to learn more?

Schedule a Personal Visit (Virtual or In-person)
lakeforest.edu/visit

Take a Virtual Tour of Campus
lakeforest.edu/#virtualtour

Additional Virtual Sessions
lakeforest.edu/admissions/visit-campus/virtual-events