**Activity 1**
How do you define first-generation college students (FGCS) on your campus?

What does it mean to be a FGCS?

What is the “college student role”?

**Activity 2**
How can academic advisors encourage success for FGCS?

What do academic advisors need to enhance the success of FGCS?
What can you do on your campus to encourage the success first generation college students?

1. **Define**. First generation college students are defined differently on campuses across the country. What does it mean to be a FGCS on your campus?

2. **Model**. Providing role models is imperative to student success. Identify students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni FGCS role models.

3. **Connect**. Connect FGCS to other FGCS on campus as well as to faculty and staff who were FGCS.

4. **Support**. Many FGCS are unaware or reluctant to utilize university resources. Make sure FGCS are aware of the support services available to help them succeed and encourage FGCS to take advantage of these resources.

5. **Celebrate**. Tell the success stories of FGCS at your institution.
How can you accomplish all of this?

- Start a university-wide committee to work on initiatives for FGCS success.
- Train academic advisors about the needs of FGCS.
- Create an advising workshop for new FGCS on your campus.
- Start a student organization for FGCS on your campus.
- Create campus traditions specifically for FGCS (i.e., homecoming and graduation events).
- Work with campus communications (newspaper, websites, public relations office, alumni office) to publicize stories about the successes of FGCS in your community.
- Partner with faculty.
- Hold a focus group with current FGCS. Find out who your FGCS are, what they need and how can you can best serve them.
- Work closely with your department of institutional research. Find out how many FGCS are on your campus, what is the retention and graduation rates of FGCS on your campus, what are the majors most frequently chosen by FGCS, and how many FGCS take advantage of academic advising on a regular basis.
- Utilize technology to connect with FGCS (website, Facebook group, etc.).
- Outreach to alumni.
- Incorporate families and parents.
- Provide information on FGCS at Orientation.
- Many FGCS are also students from underrepresented populations and/or students from low-income families. Partner with groups on your campus who serve these students including your diversity office and student aid.
- Develop a mentoring program for FGCS.
- Stay current on research and best practices. See below for a list of references!
Select Articles on FGCS Success:


