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First-Gen+ Center

Our Mission

The First-Gen+ Center supports students who are historically underrepresented in higher education and their allies while specifically centering college students who identify as first-generation, who identify as undocumented, have refugee status, and those who have families with limited income.

What does First-Gen mean at Mason?

The term first-generation college student applies to those students whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) either:

- Did not receive or complete any level of post-secondary education
- Enrolled at or earned a two-year degree from a community college
- Earned any level of post-secondary education outside the United States.

Our Work

The First-Gen+ Center serves as an accessible starting point for students (and their families) to understand and connect with relevant university resources. The team prioritizes data to better understand the student experience and proactively works toward improving the campus to be “first-gen ready” and “undocufriendly” throughout each university area. We work to enhance the collegiate experience through services, programs, policy awareness, and educating the campus community.

Staff on the team collaborate across campus and beyond, in order to streamline resources and supports for students, including participating at local and national levels to share practical and scholarly content as a catalyst for institutions to broaden their work.

UndocuAlly Trainings

First-Gen+ Center collaborates with UndocuMason, a student organization that creates an inclusive environment for undocumented students at George Mason University through education and advocacy, to provide UndocuAlly Training to the Mason Community.

This training teaches about the history of our undocumented communities, past and present legislation, and the lived realities and barriers our undocumented communities are fighting through with strength and resilience. The UndocuAlly Training Team aims to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for undocumented immigrants.