

RCNJ

First-Generation Student Success

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Assistant Director of the First-Generation Student Center



What is First-Generation?

Ramapo College of New Jersey defines a first-generation student as a student where neither parent(s) nor legal guardian(s) have completed a bachelor's degree in the U.S.

About 45% of the incoming first-year class identify as first-generation!



History of First-Gen @RCNJ

2019:

- First-Gen Action Team Established

2022:

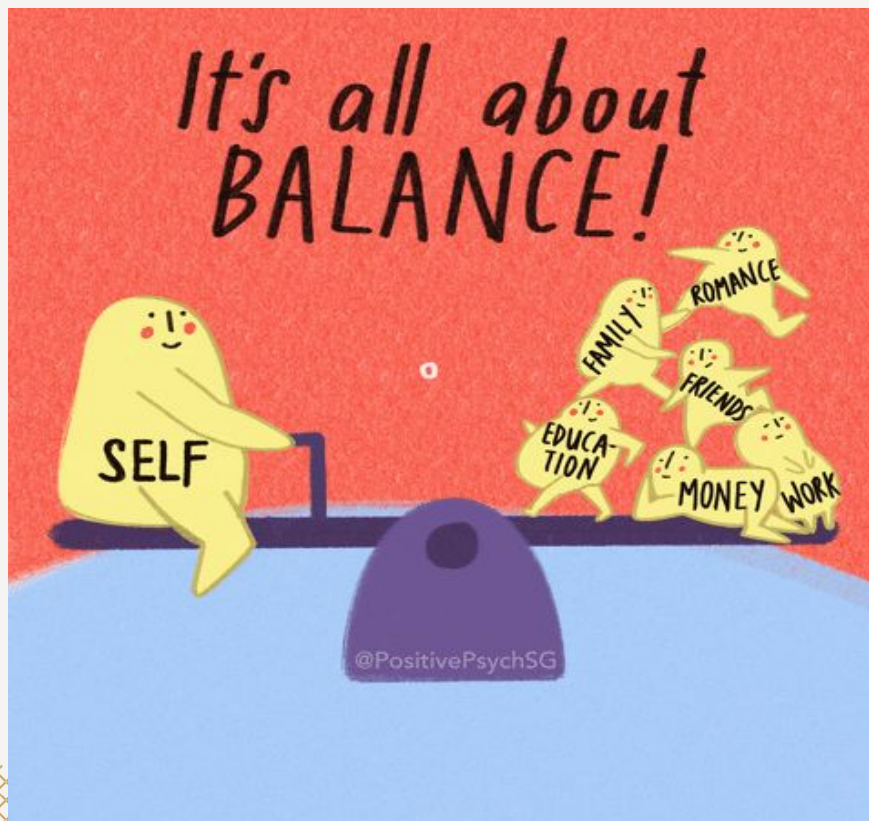
- Priority Needs Proposal
- Hired Inaugural Assistant Director of First-Generation Student Center
- November declared First-Gen College Celebration Month

2023:

- NASPA First Scholar's Network Member
- Established chapter of Tri-Alfa Honor Society

College Challenges

The reality is most high-school graduates are challenged by college work. Why?



Mission of the First-Gen Student Center

To provide purposeful support and engaging services to create an *equitable* environment for first-generation Roadrunners. The goal of the Center is to promote first-generation student success through learning experiences that cultivate a sense of belonging and encourage holistic student development



Supporting Your Student

What are some ways you can support your student during their first-year experience?



Making the Most of Courses

- Review Course Syllabus
- Canvas
- Faculty Office Hours
- Connect
- Study Groups
- Proactive planning (Google Calendar/paper)
- STEM Center & Tutoring
- Center for Reading and Writing



Time Management

- *Remind your student* that for every 1 hour a student spends in class, 2 hours should be set aside for studying/completing assignments.
- Students taking a full-time load of 16 credits should set aside about 32 hours per week.
- *Encourage your student* to familiarize themselves with the syllabi for their courses.



Reading & Writing

- Writing is a long-term process that involves pre-reading, reading, pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and polishing.
- *Remind your student* to visit the **Center for Reading & Writing** on campus!



Community Building

FIRST-GENERATION PROCLAMATION

Wednesday, November 16, 2022
Noon | Arch
Rain location: Alumni Lounges

Handwritten signatures: Christine, Courtney, Alex, John, Kev, Madelyn, Maggie, Nicole, etc.

Photos of students and staff.

CONTINUING OUR FIRST-GENERATION CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 25, 2023
1-2PM | STUDENT CENTER STAIRWELL

Stop by our table to pick up a first-generation decal and learn more about our Spring 2023 programs!

QUESTIONS? Contact firstgen@ramapo.edu.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FIRST-GENERATION?

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 2023 | 1-2PM | A 218

Join our interactive workshop where we will discuss what it means to be a first-generation student!
Snacks will be provided.

Instagram: @rcnjfirstgen
Email: firstgen@ramapo.edu
Website: ramapo.edu/first-gen

WAYS TO LOVE BEING FIRST-GENERATION

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, 2023 | 1-2PM | D- 212C

Stop by the First-Generation Student Center and write down why you love being first-generation.

All post-its will be added to a visual display in the D-Wing hallway.

Instagram: @rcnjfirstgen
Email: firstgen@ramapo.edu
Website: ramapo.edu/first-gen

BUILDING STUDY SKILLS

SPONSORED BY THE FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT CENTER

MONDAY, MAR. 6, 2023 | 1-2PM | B 218

Join us before midterm season as we discuss how to build study skills!
All attendees will be entered to win a prize!

Instagram: @rcnjfirstgen
Email: firstgen@ramapo.edu
Website: ramapo.edu/first-gen

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to the...

First-Generation Town Hall

Wednesday, Mar. 29, 2023
1 - 2 pm | Trustees Pavilion

Light refreshments will be served.

Instagram: @rcnjfirstgen
Email: firstgen@ramapo.edu
Website: ramapo.edu/first-gen

Tri-Alpha Honor Society

Alpha Alpha Alpha (Tri-Alpha) is a national honor society for first-generation college students that supports and recognizes their academic achievements.



Alpha Alpha Alpha
Zeta Nu Chapter
April 10, 2023

Scholarship Opportunities



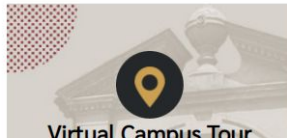
← → ↻ <https://www.ramapo.edu/scholarships/>



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- › Scholarships Home
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- › Apply for Foundation Scholarship
- › Nominated Foundation Scholarships
- › Foundation Admission Awards
 - Ramapo College Foundation
 - › Scholarship Financial Need Policy
- › Donate to a Scholarship
- › Scholarships for Incoming Students
- › Private Scholarships Not Affiliated with Ramapo College

VIRTUAL TOUR



Scholarships for 23/24 will open 8/1 and close 10/10.

Scholarships are awarded on a rolling basis throughout both semesters. Due to the volume of applications, you will only be notified if you have been chosen to receive an award.

Please check back periodically for re-opened or new scholarships and deadlines.

Contact scholars@ramapo.edu with questions

Each year the Ramapo College Foundation provides more than 500 scholarships that are funded by donations from private donors, businesses, and charitable foundations. These scholarships fall into two categories:

Foundation Scholarships Students Can Apply For

Students are chosen based on their application essay, and adherence to individual scholarship criteria.

[Apply for Scholarship](#)

Foundation Scholarships Students are Nominated For

Faculty submit student names to the convening group and Deans for selection. If interested, speak with your Dean's office about eligibility.

[View All Nominated Scholarships](#)

Visit <https://www.ramapo.edu/scholarships/> to apply today!

Summer Pre-College Program Goal

To assist first-generation students with their transition to Ramapo College through workshops, activities, and community building that foster a sense of belonging.

Dates:

August 25 - August 27, 2023.

Encourage your student to visit
<https://www.ramapo.edu/first-gen/>
to apply today!

Deadline Extended: July 23, 2023.



Frequently Asked Questions: Summer

Is there a fee to sign up for the Summer Program?

No, the program is FREE

How does my student sign up for the Summer Program?

Register online ramapo.edu/first-gen

Is the summer program available to commuter students too?

Yes, residential and commuter students are welcome



Other Resources

Center for Health and Counseling, First-Gen Counselor

Learning Commons: First-Gen Library Connections

Cahill Career Development Center

Faculty/Staff First-Gen Action Team

America Needs You (ANY)

[We Care Program](#)

Student Relief Fund

Food Pantry

Clothing Closet

Laptop Upcycle @ Ramapo

Thank you!

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT CENTER!



CONTACT

firstgen@ramapo.edu



VISIT

ramapo.edu/first-gen



FOLLOW

[@rcnjfirstgen](https://www.instagram.com/rcnjfirstgen)