A FIRST-RATE EXPERIENCE

College is an experience characterized by change and challenges. A strong support system can make a difference in whether or not you excel. The FIRST Program helps ensure success for students who are the first in their family to attend college. First-generation college students are students whose parents do not hold a degree from a four-year college or university. Clemson is proud of its first-generation students and is committed to their success.

BE FIRST!

FIRST helps first-generation college students adjust to the college experience by offering a variety of opportunities and resources, from academic support to social activities. New freshman and transfer students are invited to apply and access the resources and opportunities FIRST provides. FIRST participation continues throughout a student’s time at Clemson.

Get involved and experience Clemson’s Determined Spirit.

Apply to be a part of FIRST at clemson.edu/first.

CONTACT

Sherry Dorris is the coordinator of the FIRST Program. She is a first-generation college graduate with a master’s degree in counseling psychology from Northern Arizona University.

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Support provided by
FIRST provides programs and services that help you succeed as a Clemson student. These include:

- Daily study halls
- Free tutoring
- Study-skills and time-management workshops
- Test bank
- Referrals to research internships
- Workshops for college success
- Guest speakers
- Career exploration opportunities
- Off-campus excursions
- FIRST In Line electronic newsletter
- Announcements on campus activities
- Student lounge
- Social activities

“Students who are the first in their family to attend college may not realize how special they are. They have not only the talent and intelligence to get into college, but also the courage to go somewhere and achieve a milestone for their family. FIRST provides a home away from home for first-generation students and gives them opportunities to interact with first-generation staff, mentors and faculty who will guide them toward reaching their full potential.”

Barbara Speziale, Ph.D.,
Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies

THE MENTORING PROGRAM

Mentoring provides a great opportunity to learn from older students who have had similar experiences. FIRST participants are paired with a thriving junior or senior mentor in a similar field of study. Mentors are also students who are the first in their family to obtain a bachelor’s degree.

Mentors meet with students weekly to give support, encouragement and advice about succeeding at Clemson. They can give you the scoop about a class or help you out with a roommate issue. You will meet other new students in your mentor group who can become an instant group of friends on campus.

FIRST SUMMER PREVIEW PROGRAM

Incoming first-generation students are invited to campus to complete a 3-credit Clemson academic course during the summer. They experience the academic rigor of college and get familiar with campus while building lasting friendships.

Dedicated faculty and staff bring their wisdom, passion and commitment to you as they introduce activities and resources. You will meet current students doing co-ops and internships, along with FIRST graduates in successful careers.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Clemson University is a nationally ranked research university that has managed to remain a student-centered community. Students are engaged, spirited, highly competitive, and – according to one guidebook – the nation’s happiest. Clemson’s enrollment is about 20,000. Students can select from approximately 80 undergraduate degree programs and 110 graduate degree programs. U.S. News & World Report ranks Clemson 25th among national public universities. For more information on programs and student life, visit our website at clemson.edu.

DONATING TO FIRST

If you or someone you know is interested in making a donation to support FIRST programs, you may make your gift at cualumni.clemson.edu/give/FIRST, or contact the Clemson University Foundation at P.O. Box 1889, Clemson, SC 29633, telephone (864) 656-5896.