

First-Generation Students in Mass Communication Studies

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Paying for college

Paying for college can be a big obstacle in anyone's college education journey. For most first generation students, that issue is a common one. Statistically about [50% of all first-generation students are low income, and many of them are from ethnic minority groups.](#)

If you are from a low income family, it is likely that you do not have a savings account for college. Without the financial support of your family, your college funding options are limited. So, in that case what do you do besides work and pay for your tuition on your own?

There are many options to fund your education that have helped low-income students from around

the nation. Such options include, work-study, scholarships, and financial aid.

Work-study is a federal funded program that helps students afford school by providing them a part-time job on campus. Not only is this a good way to pay for college, but it also is very flexible with your student schedule. Many work-study jobs give you weekends off, and they never show conflict with your class schedule. This is perfect if you want a job that will give you enough time to focus on your studies.

Another option for funding your college education is with scholarships. There are many scholarship



opportunities online in websites such as [Fastweb](#) and [Unigo](#). Aside from scholarships online, most colleges and universities also offer scholarships of their own. Check with your school's financial aid center for more information on scholarships and how to apply.

Last but not least, there is financial aid. Financial aid is given to students who demonstrate a desperate need for financial assistance to the government. The amount of money that you are awarded is based off of the expected family

contribution that you will have for the year. Aside from the pell grant, there are many other federal grants that you can be awarded which will help pay for tuition, books, and housing.

Paying for college doesn't always have to be stressful. There are many options for financial assistance that can take some stress off your back. If going to a four-year institution is far too expensive, community college is always a great option. Transferring from a community college to a four year university will save you a good amount of money.

How to effectively manage a job and school

Managing a schedule with work and school can be difficult. Time management is extremely important when you are juggling a part-time or full-time job, your school work, and extracurricular activities. That's not even including the time that you will spend with friends and family.

That is why it is very important to be organized and responsible. Try writing down all of your shifts and coursework throughout the month on a calendar that way you will always be up to date on

your deadlines. Another good idea is to complete your homework and exams as soon as possible. Try not to procrastinate on your work because it can easily pile up on you.

Above all, it is very important to pace yourself. Juggling many different responsibilities can drain you and strain your mental and physical health. It is always a good idea to enjoy your days off and let your mind and body rest.