

College Success Roadmap

Rise First's College Success Roadmap is aimed to enable first-generation student success. With this roadmap, Rise First hopes to provide first-generation, low-income (FGLI) students with a deeper understanding of undergraduate experiences and empower them to fully utilize campus resources, build a support network, and maximize opportunities of higher education.

Visit RiseFirst.org for additional resources, scholarships, and tools to enable your success.

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year & Beyond				
Academic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your academic advisor to discuss your interests <input type="checkbox"/> Set up meetings with your professors and/or relevant department faculty members <input type="checkbox"/> Attend professor's and/or TA's office hours <input type="checkbox"/> Mark your calendar for upcoming exams, deadlines, projects, meetings, breaks, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Explore different and new classes <input type="checkbox"/> Seek alternatives to (expensive) textbooks before classes begin <input type="checkbox"/> Familiarize yourself with your coursework <input type="checkbox"/> Befriend at least one person in each of your classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your academic advisor <input type="checkbox"/> Enroll in coursework that may prepare you for interviews <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare to declare your major, minor, and/or concentration <input type="checkbox"/> Familiarize yourself with your coursework <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your professors and/or TA's and attend their office hours <input type="checkbox"/> Consider planning for studying abroad <input type="checkbox"/> Explore the possibility of attending graduate school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Review your academic courseload to make sure you are on course to graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Speak with an advisor about post-graduate fellowships and scholarships <input type="checkbox"/> Explore potential graduate school opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Plan your thesis or capstone (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Consider applying to be a Teaching Assistant (TA) <input type="checkbox"/> Take courses that help build on your public speaking skills (i.e. Toast Master) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize plans for graduation <input type="checkbox"/> Consider applying for post-graduate scholarships and fellowships <input type="checkbox"/> Consider applying for graduate school programs <input type="checkbox"/> Take advantage of your last year by opting into courses outside of your curriculum or comfort zone 				
Extracurricular	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Assess your courseload, job(s), and other responsibilities before committing to any group and/or activity <input type="checkbox"/> Explore student groups, cultural affinity centers, Greek life, and other activities <input type="checkbox"/> Discover first-generation, low-income (FGLI) groups and resources <input type="checkbox"/> Get to know people in your dorm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for and secure leadership positions <input type="checkbox"/> Explore new extracurricular activities <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a new club or student group on campus, if interested <input type="checkbox"/> Consider rolling back on some of your extracurricular involvements, if necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Add 1-2 more leadership positions under your belt <input type="checkbox"/> Consider mentoring first-year and/or second-year students <input type="checkbox"/> Explore community service opportunities both on and off campus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct transfers of information/leadership for clubs you will be leaving <input type="checkbox"/> Deepen your relationships with people you mentor and people who have mentored you <input type="checkbox"/> Remember it's never too late to try something new 				
Professional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create a LinkedIn profile and college resume <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with a career advisor <input type="checkbox"/> Connect with upperclassmen and/or alumni pursuing a career you may be interested in <input type="checkbox"/> Familiarize yourself with good email etiquette <input type="checkbox"/> Understand the different types of interviews <input type="checkbox"/> Secure work-study job(s) or research opportunities relevant to your interests <input type="checkbox"/> Begin thinking about summer internships and other opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Research possible career paths <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for diversity and inclusion programs at various companies and organizations <input type="checkbox"/> Attend networking opportunities and events <input type="checkbox"/> Reach out to alumni at your target companies as well as previous interns at your university <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for summer internships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organize a list of potential companies you may be interested in joining <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for interviews in your desired industry <input type="checkbox"/> Take advantage of the services offered through your university's career services <input type="checkbox"/> Leverage and expand your network(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Attend (formal and informal) networking events <input type="checkbox"/> Attend information sessions hosted by various companies <input type="checkbox"/> Sign up for coffee chats with professionals <input type="checkbox"/> Attend local and university-run career fairs <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for diversity and inclusion programs at various companies and organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Organize a list of potential companies you may be interested in joining <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for interviews in your desired industry <input type="checkbox"/> Take advantage of the services offered through your university's career services <input type="checkbox"/> Attend (formal and informal) networking events <input type="checkbox"/> Attend information sessions hosted by various companies <input type="checkbox"/> Sign up for coffee chats with professionals <input type="checkbox"/> Attend career fairs hosted locally and/or by your university <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare yourself for post-job offer considerations (negotiating, relocating, etc.) 				
Ongoing	<p>Read up on current events that may be interesting to you</p>	<p>Check in with yourself, your mentors, and those who matter to you</p>	<p>Deepen already existing passions and discover new ones to explore</p>	<p>Familiarize yourself with campus resources and student centers</p>	<p>Re-read your application essays to ground yourself when you feel lost</p>	<p>Keep your resume, cover letter, and LinkedIn profile up to date.</p>	<p>Connect with students across your campus</p>	<p>Develop a strong support network</p>