



**How to start
applying to
college?**

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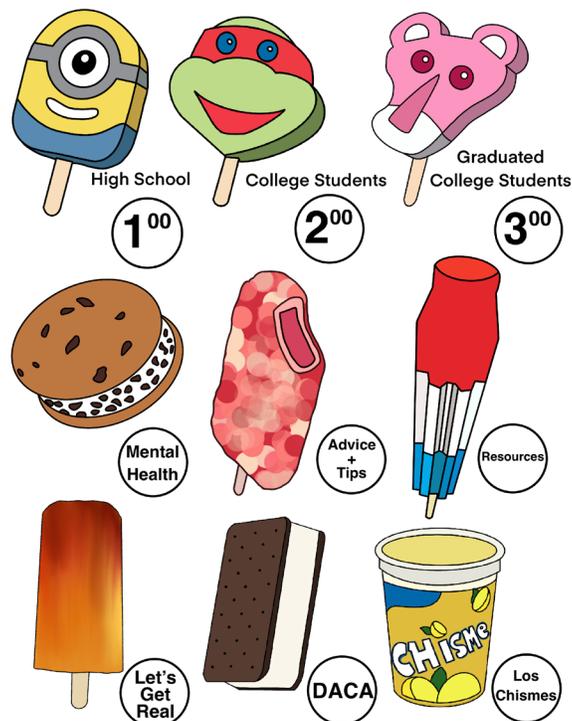
Who is First-Generation College Chisme?

Mission:

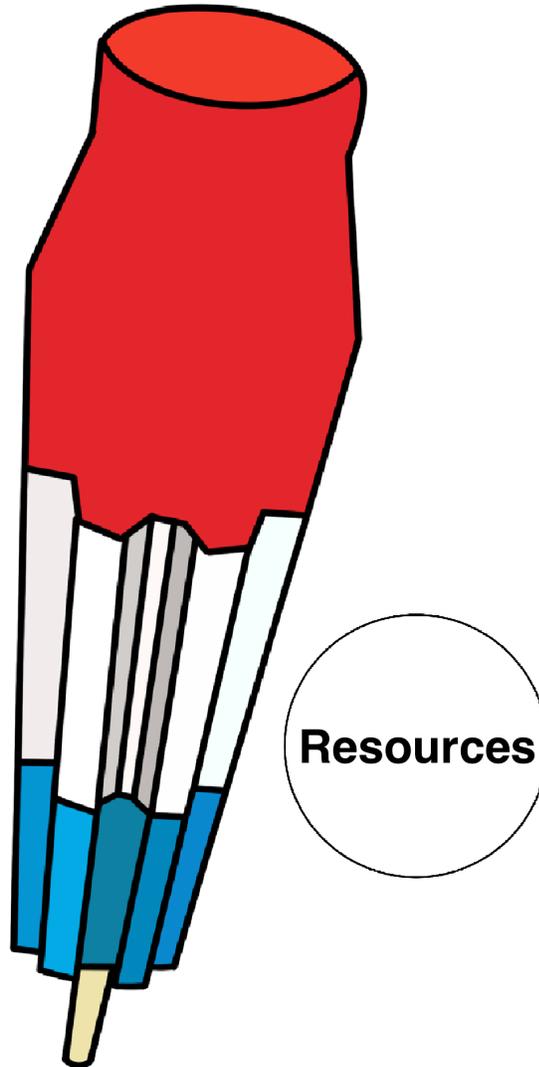
First-Generation College Chisme is a bilingual college resource for BIPOC, Low-Income, and First-Generation students.

The First-Generation College Chisme website provides students with the opportunities to learn more about college through our six categories: Resources, Advice + Tips, Mental Health, DACA, Los Chismes and Let's Get Real. We understand the hustle and hope we can help students through their college journey's.

www.firstgenchisme.com



High School Student Resources



The information found on this PDF can be found on our **Resources** paleta in the **High School Students** section.

<https://www.firstgenchisme.com/resources-hs>



How to start applying to college

Make a list that contains all of the possible universities/colleges you can attend. It sounds pretty straightforward, but it is such an important first step to take. Write down all of your possible choices. Choose your top 5 or at least top 3.

Your list should contain: Application Deadlines for Early Admission/Regular Admission, ACT/GPA Requirements, Acceptance Rate, Pros/Cons, etc.

It also helps to do a vision board! Make sure it contains your ultimate goals but also to include realistic options. It is also very helpful to include your stressors (Pros/Cons) of all of your options. Sometimes it's better to make a guide that focuses specifically on Pros/Cons because it helps eliminate options.



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Remember that your college choices should vary. Meaning, do not make all of your choices extremely hard universities to get into. It should contain both of your safety and dream schools. Have a diverse amount of schools that you apply for, state schools, community college, out of state schools, etc. You never know how the future is going to end up. You have to accept the fact that you might not get accepted into your dream school. However, this does not mean that you will never reach your dream school. "It's not how you start the season, it's how you finish" (Albert Pujols). You should always have multiple plans in deciding where you want to attend college.

Many colleges will have Facebook Admission pages that are made for students like you who are interested in attending their school. Go on Facebook and look to see if there is a Facebook Group Page that you can be a part of. Colleges also use admission social media pages in other platforms such as Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, etc. These social media resources can be very useful because it gives students the opportunity to ask questions about the application process.



College Research Guide:

Ask yourself these questions as you research for potential college options!

Admissions

- What are the admission requirements for acceptance?
- What is the priority deadline for application admission?
- What steps are necessary to complete in order to apply for admission?
- Is the application for admissions also the application for scholarships?

Scholarships

- What are the eligibility requirements for automatic scholarships?
- What competitive scholarships are available?
- What are the scholarship deadlines? Use our scholarship organization tool to track them!!!
- What are the requirements to apply for scholarships?
- What steps are necessary to complete in order to apply for scholarships?

College Expenses

- How much is in-state tuition? Out-of-state tuition?
- What are the costs of room and board?
- What is the cost of books? Fees? (service learning, research, etc.)



Financial Aid

-What is the FAFSA deadline for your specific college?

Academic Major

-What information is included about your major?

-What classes will you need to take for the major?

-What is the average class size?

-What opportunities for academic development are available? (ex: service learning, research, etc.)

Career Support

-What services are provided for career development?

-What events does the career center facilitate throughout the year?

Student Life

-What are the college traditions and history?

-What types of clubs, activities, and organizations are offered on campus? Which ones interest you? Do they have cultural clubs?

-What events and activities take place on campus that interest you?

-What programs and centers are on campus that can help you? (ex: multicultural center, student health center, etc)

Housing and Dining

-What are the housing options for freshmen?

-What kinds of amenities are included in the dorms?

-How many dining halls are on campus?

-What meal plans are available? Is there a specific one for freshmen students?



Tips for Successfully Completing a College Application:

Make Sure You:

Know the college's admission requirements before you even apply and check to see that you meet the admissions requirements!

Include your Social Security Number (if applicable) on the college application if they ask for it so that your application can be processed accurately!

Check your email frequently to make sure you do not miss any emails from the colleges you applied to. Follow up with the Admissions Office about 14 business days after you have submitted your application to ensure they have received your application and do not need any other information.

Write neatly and clearly if it is a paper application. If online application, ensure that there are no typos.

Highlight your high school activities (9th-12th grade). Some college applications ask students to list their school, volunteer, church, and community activities as well as awards and special recognitions.

Spell everything correctly and spell out words rather than using abbreviations!



Take your time and proofread before submitting your application.

Ask your school counselor or Lead College & Career Coordinator about an application fee waiver.

DO NOT:

Use an inappropriate email address

Provide contact information that is outdated

Feel that you need to declare a major. If you are undecided, that is okay!

Give a cellphone that has an appropriate voicemail message

Scratch out mistakes on paper applications, use white out or start over

