First Generation students are the first in their family to attend a four-year college/university. About 50% of UMF students are first generation students. UMF recognizes that first generation students may need extra support during their college years, so we offer the Johnson Scholars program.

Our Johnson Scholars program at UMF provides academic and personal support to first generation students, students who come from families with limited incomes, or students who have physical or learning disabilities. All first generation students are encouraged to apply for the program. The application can be found online or in the Johnson Scholars office in Franklin Hall. To speak to someone about the Johnson Scholars Program, please contact Marilyn Wegner at mwegner@maine.edu or by calling 207-778-7565.

On November 8th, UMF had their annual celebration of First Generation Day! On First Gen Day, UMF celebrates the success of our first-generation college students, faculty, and staff. Pictured below is a photo from this year's celebration, which started with confetti on the Mantor Green. Keep reading to hear Selena and Harley Grover's thoughts about the first generation experience.
The First Generation Experience

Harley Grover

From a student's perspective...

What is one piece of advice you have for other first generation students?
"Just do it -- whatever it is. Go to that event on campus. Talk to the other students in your class. Make a midnight run to McDonalds. Take an afternoon nap. Eventually you will learn how to balance your social, emotional and academic life."

How do you celebrate First Gen Day?
"I spend my day participating in the campus celebration because I am a Johnson Scholar and a mentor. This year, I am helping hand out buttons and speaking to other students about my first gen. experience."

What are some resources you utilize on campus?
"I utilize the Johnson Scholar lounge a lot. As a Johnson Scholar I get free printing, free snacks, and walk-in mentoring from the wonderful staff. I always feel like I can get the help I need in there. I also really enjoy handing out in the Mantor Library Cafe to drink a cup of cocoa and read, or to work on some homework between classes. It is really cozy and feels like home."

Did you have any fears or concerns about college before coming to UMF?
"I was scared of being away from home. My mom and I are very close and it was a hard adjustment at first. During the first semester, I went home almost every weekend. In the spring semester, I was ready and wanted to be more involved on campus."

What was the biggest challenge you experienced during your first year?
"My biggest challenge was finding my motivation for school again. I had lost my ambition during my junior and senior years of high school. It took me a full year to get my ambition back fully. The wonderful UMF staff was understanding and gave me the push I needed to help me with my transition here."

Selena Grover

From a family member's perspective...

What has it been like for you to have a child in college?
"I would say that is has been rewarding and challenging. It is hard to be away from her because I miss her, but it is also exciting in a lot of ways. She is becoming independent and I love watching her grow."

What is one piece of advice you have for family members of first generation students?
"My advice would be that students should take advantage of all the resources this campus has to offer. UMF has a lot of opportunities for students to learn and grow. My child, Harley has gotten involved in the Johnson's Scholars program and her mentor has helped her a lot!"

What was the biggest challenge you have experienced during your student's college experience?
"For me, it has been hard to back off and watch her struggle to figure everything out. She tells me a lot that 'adulting isn't fun' and that she never wants to have to pay her own bills. For her, I think she has struggled with time management the most."

What sort of changes happened at home?
"It is now just me at home. Everything has changed. I am no longer responsible for making her meals, or getting her up in the morning. I live close by and try to visit often though."

What are your dreams for your child?
"I want her to be happy -- with whatever she decides to do. I want her to succeed career-wise, but more importantly I just want her to be happy with what she is doing."

[Images of Selena Grover and Harley Grover]
Spring Course Registration

Registration is the time of year where students officially sign up for classes for the next semester. Registration for the spring semester happens in November.

Preregistration began in October and students had the opportunity to meet with their academic advisors to discuss possible class schedules. If your student has not met with their academic advisor, they should email them as soon as they can to set up a time to meet. Students must have their classes approved by their academic advisor before they can register for the spring semester.

In order to register for classes, students must have no "holds" on their student account. A "hold" on a student account could be a bill, missing immunization records, an overdue book from the library, a missing financial responsibility statement, etc. Students can check their accounts for a "hold" by logging onto MaineStreet and checking their "To-Do List" which can be found under "Student Center." Once there are no more "holds" on your student's account and their academic advisor has approved their class schedule, they can register for the next semester.

Registration dates are based on class standing and can be found below. Registration will began at 7:00AM on these dates:

- **Tuesday, November 12th, 2019**
  - Seniors (84+ credits)
- **Wednesday, November 13th, 2019**
  - Seniors (84+ credits)
  - Juniors (54-83 credits)
- **Thursday, November 14th, 2019**
  - Juniors (54-83 credits)
- **Friday, November 15th, 2019**
  - Sophomores (24-53 credits)
- **Monday, November 18th, 2019**
  - Sophomores (24-53 credits)
- **Tuesday, November 19th, 2019**
  - First Years (1-23 credits)
- **Wednesday, November 20th, 2019**
  - First Years (1-23 credits)

Campus Safety

The UMF Department of Campus Police/Public Safety is committed to the safety of our campus community and the prevention of crime on campus. UMF has officer coverage 24/7 throughout the academic year.

Campus Police offers an Escort Program that allows UMF community members to be escorted to and from classes, buildings, vehicles, etc. during night time hours if they are uncomfortable walking alone. UMF also has a large number of call boxes around campus that can be used to contact Campus Police. The call boxes can be used in emergent and non-emergent situations. The call boxes often have blue lights above them so they can found easily at night.

UMF also offers a SMS text-based notification service called UMF Text Message Alert System. This system can be used to communicate with people on campus during an emergency. All students are immediately signed up to receive these text notifications. Students can change their existing notification settings by going to "MyCampus > UMF Tools > UMF Text Message Alert System.” This notification system is also used to notify students when classes are cancelled or delayed.

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