



# Success Strategies For First Generation Students

## Overview

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This session provides practical steps first-generation college students can take to be successful in college. Students will also be provided with tips on what they can do to be prepared for life after college, whether they choose to go straight into the world of work or to continue their education.

First-generation college-goers experience a variety of challenges as they enter and move through higher education. In fact, much of the existing research indicates that students whose parents did not attend college are more likely than their non-first-generation counterparts to be less academically prepared for college, to have less knowledge of how to apply for college and for financial assistance, and to have more difficulty in acclimating themselves to college once they enroll (Tym, et al., 2005). As such, educational institutions ought to provide first-generation college students with the information and guidance they need to understand how to prepare for and select the right college to attend, how to successfully persist in college, and how to prepare for life after college. The goal of this session is to provide first-generation students with key tips on how to be successful in college.

### Objectives:

#### Students will learn:

- Determine what colleges are looking for in prospective students
- Identify steps they can take to ensure that they are academically prepared for college
- Improve their understanding of how to select the right college to suit their needs and interests
- Explore opportunities they should look for and take advantage of to make a successful transition into college
- New knowledge about the people and resources available on college campuses, as well as how to access and utilize these supports
- Discover ways to prepare for life after college.

**Please Note:** StudentLingo individual products and packages for students, such as Title IX, Campus Culture & Inclusivity Package are not part of the Go2Knowledge membership.

## Presenter

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**Dr. Paz Maya Olivérez**  
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Dr. Paz Maya Olivérez is currently Interim Associate Vice President of Student Success at CSU Dominguez Hills, where she leads several student support programs. These include the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Encounter to Excellence (ETE), Summer Bridge, the Dominguez Hills First-Year Experience, the Career Center, Supplemental Instruction, & Toro Guardian Scholars. Dr. Olivérez also holds an adjunct faculty position in the Masters in College Counseling program in the College of Education at CSU Dominguez Hills. In the past, Dr. Olivérez has also held positions as a K-12 teacher, educational researcher, program evaluator, and trainer for counselors, advisors, and other K-12 and higher education professionals on best practices for supporting student success. Dr. Olivérez has spent the last 17 years working with underrepresented students and is passionate about ensuring that all students have access to the support necessary to successfully pursue their academic, personal, and professional aspirations. She holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Southern California, an M.S. in Counseling from CSU Long Beach, and a B.A. in Sociology from UC Santa Cruz.