

# FIRST-GENERATION SCHOLARSHIPS



## STRIVING TO BE FIRST

We all strive to be first – the first to know; first in the race; first in line. But for first-generation college students, being first comes with a set of special challenges. First-generation college students are navigating uncharted territory. They are facing a new set of standards. They are expected to quickly adjust to the changes and challenges of higher education. But unlike many of their peers, they do not have the guidance or support from family members who have gone through the same experiences. A strong support system makes the difference. Having the financial support from scholarships alleviates additional stress, allowing these students to focus on their education and the college experience.

We are committed to offering Clemson’s educational experiences to the best, brightest and most deserving students. But to do so, Clemson must find the means to attract South Carolina’s elite high school graduates. Your support will be instrumental as Clemson continues to recruit and retain first-generation students. As a land-grant institution, Clemson was established to serve the citizens of South Carolina. Providing scholarships to first-generation students and giving them a support system honors our University’s heritage and provides opportunity and education for students who are the first in their family to attend college.



## FUELING THE NEXT GENERATION

The cost of a college education is daunting for many – especially first-generation students – which is why private scholarship funding is crucial. Scholarships are the force that will bring exceptional students to our college – both those highly recruited and those who would otherwise be left behind because of financial barriers. Clemson’s high standing and flourishing national reputation is attracting record numbers of undergraduate applications. Each incoming freshman class exceeds the previous one in academic accomplishment, with average SAT scores reaching historic highs year after year. Scholarships boost Clemson’s national reputation and allow us to compete with our peers and recruit the best and brightest. The student body has become increasingly diverse, and initiatives are in place to continue that trend. The ability to recruit first-generation students has an economic ripple effect across Clemson University and South Carolina — creating a return on investment that is incalculable. We are changing the trajectories for these students and forever impacting their lives.

Scholarships enable true freedom of opportunity for students to not just attend Clemson but to thrive here. With comprehensive scholarships, students can more fully engage in academic extracurricular activities, taking advantage of the breadth of opportunities Clemson offers. Not only does this talent enhance the diversity of background and experience in Clemson’s student body, it strengthens the Clemson brand, bolsters the high-achieving culture we strive to foster for our students and expands the reach of our alumni network after graduation.

**SCHOLARSHIPS ENABLE TRUE FREEDOM OF OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS NOT JUST TO ATTEND CLEMSON BUT TO THRIVE HERE.**

Without the additional financial stress, first-generation students can focus on their academic success – and fully engage in the college experience. The FIRST Program offers Clemson’s first-generation students the tools and mentorship needed to succeed at Clemson – and eventually in their careers. Students who participate in the FIRST Program are retained at a higher rate than those who do not participate in the program. FIRST helps these students adjust to the college experience by offering a variety of opportunities and resources – from academic support to social activities. New freshmen and transfer students can apply to the Program, and once accepted, they have access to the many resources and opportunities FIRST provides. FIRST participation continues throughout their time at Clemson.

A strong scholarship endowment unlocks the potential of all our students — creating productive citizens who will educate the next generation. But we can’t do it without your support. Your commitment to students changes their trajectories and gives them a foothold toward their future. Supporting first-generation students not only forever impacts their lives, but it also impacts their families and communities, providing future generations with encouragement and guidance for higher education.

## FUNDING THEIR FUTURE

Scholarships for first-generation students will provide future generations with access to not just a college education, but a top education. Clemson’s alumni, friends and supporters are the financial partners our students need as they look to fuel their competitive drive with creativity, engagement and enrichment.

Need-based funding opens doors for deserving students who would not otherwise be able to afford college, and prestigious merit-based awards attract the nation’s top students. In turn, these students will contribute to the college and Clemson’s academic reputation, success and impact in our state, nation and throughout the world.

We need your support. We need your conviction. We need your passionate belief in the dreams and goals and words that have brought us to where we are today. Your investment in scholarships for first-generation students will pave the way for future generations of Tigers. Together, we will create a better future for Clemson students. Together, we will raise the tide for our first-generation students for success at Clemson – and in life.



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