

Greetings!

We were given your email because you marked on your Smith application that you are "first gen." You might identify as first gen if you're the first in your family to be attending a four-year college. But you can also be first gen if your parents or grandparents attended *some* college -- or if your older siblings or cousins graduated from college. It's really about whether the identity resonates with you. [Here's a two-minute video of Smith faculty who were first in their families to attend a four-year college and what that meant for them.](#)

We are inviting you to invite you to apply to a program called First Gen Out Loud. The application, due September 11, is here: <https://forms.gle/AJ2UTdGAUD7exmjC6> After receiving your application, we will contact you for a short (but required) "get to know you" session which is part of the application process.

The program meets each week during first semester, with an option to participate during second semester. It's not graded and you don't get academic credit for participating, but it's fun. [Here is a one-minute video of this year's First Gen Out Loud interns talking about why you should apply](#), and [here's some info about this year's interns](#) with their emails, in case you'd like reach out to learn more about the program.

What's involved?

- Weekly meetings during first semester on Thursdays from 4:10 - 5:25 followed by peer-led dinner conversation from 5:30 - 6:30.
- Overnight retreat with the group from Oct 9 - 10. This is not a camping retreat; we stay in a center called [The Warren Conference Center](#), which is about 90 minutes from Smith. The retreat will include games and good food. It will also engage you in writing and conversation with the goal of owning your own narrative and listening to others.
- Optional *new* program during second semester (more information to come).

What's good about First Gen Out Loud?

- Weekly peer-led dinners to engage you in reflection and conversation; the goal of these dinners is to gain comfort and have fun through storytelling and connection.
- Going away on a retreat over fall break!
- Connections with older students who went through the program.
- Meeting staff and faculty around the college who are particularly interested in connecting with first-gen students.
- Being reminded of how amazing Smith's first-gen community is, and of how much the community brings to Smith.

What can you gain from the program?

- Increase sense of support by faculty and staff and peers
- Gain comfort writing and speaking in groups
- Develop comfort and skill with working in a group
- Gain comfort in public presentation
- Increase understanding of diverse perspectives
- Familiarize yourself with campus resources

The basic schedule is below.

<p>Thursday September 7 Campus Center 205 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>Informational meeting</p>
<p>Monday September 11</p>	<p>Applications due: https://forms.gle/AJ2UTdGAUD7exmjC6</p>
<p>Thursday Sept 14 Campus Center 205 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>Get-to-know-you sessions (You will be contacted to schedule a time slot after submitting your application.)</p>
<p>Thursday September 21 Campus Center 205 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>First meeting 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Thursday September 28 Capen Annex - Design Thinking Initiative 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>Second meeting - Meet at Capen Annex, the Design Thinking Space, to learn about resource and make your own journal. 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Thursday October 5 Location TBA 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>Prep for retreat. 5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Sunday October 8 @ 5:30 PM - Tuesday, October 10 @ 5:30 PM Warren Conference Center</p>	<p>Retreat at Warren Conference Center</p>
<p>Thursday, October 12 Campus Center 205 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>

<p>Thursday, October 19 Conway Center, Neilson Library 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>Meet at Conway Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship to learn about resources there and have a mini-workshop - button making.</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Thursday, October 26 Wurtele Center for Leadership 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>Meet at Wurtele Center for Leadership to learn about resources and have a mini-workshop.</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Thursday, November 2 Lazarus Center for Career Development 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>Meet at Lazarus Center for Career Development to learn about resources and have a mini-workshop on resumes or finding internships</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Thursday, November 9 4:10 - 5:25 Campus Center 205</p>	<p>Panel presentation</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Thursday, November 16 4:10 - 5:25 Campus Center 205</p>	<p>5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Thursday, November 23 4:10 - 5:25</p>	<p>No meeting, Thanksgiving break</p>
<p>Thursday, November 30 4:10 - 5:25 Campus Center 205</p>	<p>Think about what you might like to create for the community (at Smith or beyond) if you continue with the program during second semester</p> <p>5:30 - 6:30 Dinner in student houses with student interns Kim Cruz, Dulce Ramirez, Suleidy De La Cruz</p>
<p>Friday, Dec 8 5:30 - 7:00 Smith College Conference Center</p>	<p>Dinner party to celebrate the end of the semester!</p> <p>Applications available for second semester for anyone who comes.</p>