



Promoting first generation college graduate student success in medical school: An online toolkit of resources

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Background

Medical students who are the first in their families to graduate from college bring unique strengths to medical school.¹

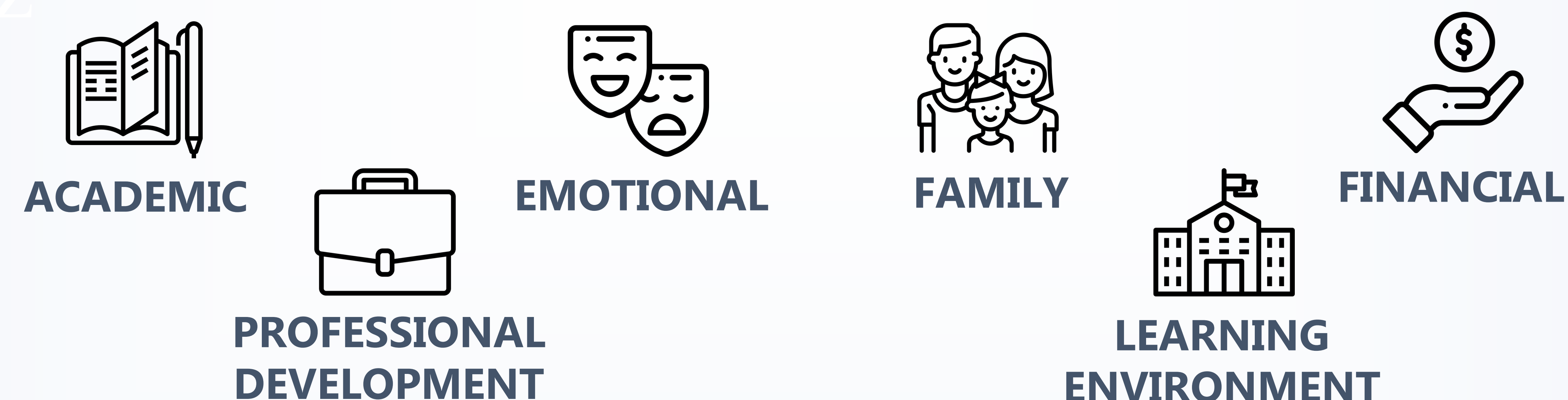
- A track record of highly desirable traits for a physician such as grit, self-determination, and innovative thinking
- Important insights into the complex health disparities facing the U.S healthcare system today.
- First generation college graduates and others who come from backgrounds with limited exposure to medicine may also have unique needs and face hidden challenges that are not always recognized by their schools.^{2,3}
- Invisible, yet very real barriers may affect their academic success in ways not experienced by their continuing generation counterparts.⁴
- The 2018, the American Medical College Application Service debuted a First-Generation College Student Indicator. This indicator was added to allow medical schools to more accurately identify FGCG applicants.⁵
- In 2019, the Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Section of the Group on Educational Affairs (GEA) convened a work group which is in the process of developing an online toolkit of resources for medical schools to support and celebrate their FGCG students.

Project Statement

The AAMC Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Section of the Group on Educational Affairs (GEA) has convened a multi-region taskforce to develop an online toolkit of resources for medical schools to support and celebrate their medical students who are first generation college graduates

Toolkit Contents

The resources in this online Toolkit will be useful for medical school professionals who seek to support, guide and advocate for First Gen students as they navigate through medical training. The Toolkit resources are drawn from medical schools that have begun to address the strengths and needs of First Gen learners. The resources are categorized into the following **6 areas of support** and include quotes from medical students that relate to each topic:



Get involved!

- Submit resources
- Use resources
- Share resources with colleagues and students
- Contact: Toshiko-Uchida@Northwestern.edu



Student Quote

“There was one point...where I really wasn’t sure if I could afford to finish the year and pay for my spring semester. I didn’t know if I could afford a laptop, and it was just this added layer of stress going into college that I just felt like no one else around me could relate to or have the same problems.”

First Generation Student
Albany Medical College

Project Design



*Reviewers used a 5-point Likert Scale Project Reviewer Assessment form as their qualitative metric.

Student Quote

“It is a weird feeling to know that you don't have anyone in your family that is a professional, but then realize a great deal of your peers have more than one in theirs. It doesn't define who they are, but it does do something to their psyche. . . Sometimes when interacting with my peers it is obvious they have had very different life experiences than I have had. . . a feeling of isolation can ensue.

Second Year Medical Student
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

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Thank You!

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