The First in Flight Series is designed to give first-generation college families and students a real, transparent look into the college transition experience. In these virtual sessions, you can expect to hear directly from admissions, financial aid, and student support staff, faculty, and current first-generation students and family members.

Don’t delay, secure your spot and register today!

You must be logged into your Ball State account to access the virtual sessions
Sessions take place at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time

SESSION 1: YOU’RE A CARDINAL! NOW HOW TO PAY FOR IT

Take a deep dive into the financial aid process. We know college is a financial investment, and we want to ensure that you and your family will have the tools you need to be successful on campus. Topics include:

- Differentiating between Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans
- Completing the Master Promissory Note (MPN)
- Proving Proxy Access for parents and family members
- Applying for Parent Plus or Parent Denied Loan(s)
- Distinguishing between grants, loans, and scholarships
- Differences in private loans and federal loans
- Comparing community college costs to a four-year institution
- Differentiating the Office of Financial Aid from Student Financial Services
- 21st Century Scholarship

SESSION 2: FINDING YOUR FLIGHT PATH AND HOW YOUR FAMILY CAN SUPPORT YOU

As a Ball State student, we want to ensure you are on the path you want to be on. As we explore that journey, your family will play a crucial role. You can learn more about choosing your path, and families can learn how to best support your student. Topics include:

- Choosing the major that’s right for you
- Realistic goal setting
- Knowing job prospects and career outcomes
- Creating back-up plans and why they are needed
- Residence life boundaries for students and their families
- Academic boundaries for students and their families
- How involved is “too” involved?
SESSION 3: YOU ARE UNIQUE AND YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE IS TOO

Ball State is a place where thousands of students come from all over the country and world to earn a college degree. While the goal is the same, every student has their own unique story, and it's important that it's shared. Learn more about the diversity here at Ball State, and what we do for our students to feel embraced and empowered. Ball State is committed to Inclusive Excellence. Topics include:

- Diversity is key at a predominately white institution (PWI)
- Be authentic, support yourself, and be a voice, not a spokesperson!
- Share your diversity story
- Navigating a new environment
- Diversity doesn't just mean race
- Accessibility for students with disabilities
- Handling intersectional identities
- Reporting bias and discrimination on campus
- Specific resources available at Ball State relating to multiculturalism

SESSION 4: LEAVING THE NEST AND MASTERING THE “BALANCING ACT” THAT COMES WITH IT

As you transition to life as a college student, this may be the first time you have moved away from home or had to manage your own schedule. Ball State has you covered with resources, services, and support. In this session you will learn how we help support you, making Ball State your new home away from home, as well as how to manage your new life as a college student in and out of the classroom. Topics include:

- Knowing your campus
- Creating a space where you are not alone
- Classes come first—no ifs, ands, or buts!
- What life looks like outside of the classroom
- Time management
- Managing a responsible social life
- Campus safety

SESSION 5: HOW TO HANDLE THE UNEXPECTED IN COLLEGE

While it's not fun to talk about, it is possible you may experience tough times while in college. Students may have to navigate general anxiety, financial troubles, deaths or illnesses in the family, or even a bad semester. We want you and your family members to be best prepared for the unexpected. You and your family will learn how Ball State is here to support and assist you every step of the way. Topics include:

- Affording school and running into issues
- Academic support resources
- How to communicate with professors when life isn't going your way
- Counseling resources—who and where to go
- Communication is key
- Mental health is just as important as physical health
- Scenarios so that when life turns upside down you stay right side up