First-Generation Advocate Award:
The First-Generation Advocate Award recognizes one faculty and one staff member annually for their outstanding leadership, advocacy, and contributions in promoting an inclusive and welcoming climate for first-generation college students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Eligibility:
- All currently employed University of Tennessee, Knoxville employees including faculty, exempt staff, and non-exempt staff are eligible for this award;
- Individuals who have made significant contributions to the success of first-generation college students through mentorship, programs and initiatives, research, or the implementation of first-generation student success strategies into their everyday work;
- Recipients must be nominated by a UT faculty, staff, student, or student organization; and
- Nominations received by March 31 annually.

Stop by our office
821 Volunteer Blvd
Greve Hall, Room 216
Knoxville, TN 37996

Give us a call
(865) 974-7900

Send us an email
fgi@utk.edu

Scan to learn more about first-gen scholarships & awards
First-Generation Pioneer Medallion:
The Pioneer Medallion is awarded to first-year, first-generation students for their commitment to academic excellence, achievement, and leadership. Students eligible for this award will have demonstrated a commitment to campus engagement within their first year at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Eligibility:
- Be a first-year, first-generation student (no parent or guardian has received a 4-year college degree or higher);
- Enrolled full-time at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville;
- Attended six (6) qualifying programs throughout the academic year and record experiences in VOLink;
- Good judicial standing; and
- Submit medallion requests via VOLink by March 31 annually.

*Qualifying experiences include first-gen programs, academic or career workshops, leadership & professional development events, and diversity or cultural programs.

First-Generation Emerging Leader Scholarship:
The Emerging Leader Scholarship is awarded to students classified as sophomores and juniors for their commitment to academic excellence and achievement and leadership. First-generation students are eligible to apply for the scholarship in the amount of $500 dollars in the spring semester.

Eligibility:
- First-generation sophomore or junior (no parent or guardian has received a 4-year college degree or higher);
- Enrolled full-time at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville;
- Attended six (6) or more qualifying experiences and recorded the experiences in VOLink;
- Demonstrated a commitment to campus engagement and an involvement in first-generation campus initiatives;
- Must have a 2.75 cumulative GPA or higher;
- Must be in good judicial standing; and
- Submit scholarship application via VOLink by March 31 annually.

First-Generation Trailblazer Award:
The Trailblazer Award recognizes two exceptional first-generation seniors annually for their outstanding achievements throughout their matriculation at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Eligibility:
- Be a first-generation senior (no parent or guardian has received a 4-year college degree or higher);
- Enrolled at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville during the semester of nomination;
- Be graduating from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville during the year of nomination;
- Have a record of exceptional academic performance (preferred GPA of 3.0 or higher);
- Be in good judicial standing;
- Demonstrated noteworthy contributions to the campus and first-generation community; and
- Nominated by a faculty or staff member in order to be eligible to receive this award.