Throughout the week of November 8, 2020, The University of Texas at Austin’s First-Generation Commitment Working Group collaborated with partners across colleges, schools, and units to celebrate First-Gen Longhorns. Each year, UT Austin honors its first-generation college students in conjunction with the national First-Generation College Celebration, which was founded in 2017 by the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Center for First-generation Student Success within the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA).

A university-wide effort, the weeklong celebration featured a mix of virtual and in-person events hosted by The Graduate School, Enrollment Management and Student Success, the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, the Division of Student Affairs, the University Ombuds Offices, and many more. Students also had the opportunity to enter a drawing for a First-Gen Longhorns care package, which included a face mask and other branded giveaways.

"First-Generation Celebration Week is a great event to recognize first-gens of their hard work and value. It honors this special community within UT that I’m proud to be in.”
2020 First-Generation College Celebration Week Events

Departments across the university hosted more than 30 events celebrating First-Gen Longhorns, many inviting both undergraduate and graduate first-generation college students to join. Many events also included first-generation faculty, staff, and alumni.

- #FirstGenLonghorns Prospective Student Virtual Event
- Celebrating First-Generation Students with the University Unions
- Celebrating First-Generation Faculty and Staff with the Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association
- Do You Know What You Don’t Know?
- Earn a Degree in How to Make Ends Meet
- Effective Strategies in Self-Advocacy for First-Generation Graduate Students
- Financial Aid Fundamentals: FAFSA 101
- First Abroad Scholars 2020 Cohort Celebration
- First-Gen & Latina Panel: College & Career Experiences
- First-Gen Pop-Up Party
- First-Generation Alumni @Work Career Conversations
- First-Gen Grad Chat: Building Professional Relationships in Academia and Industry
- First-Gen in Sports
- First-Gen Strong
- First-Gen Talks: Uplifting Our Voices and Stories
- First-Generation Graduate School Virtual Visit
- First-Generation Town Hall: Career Stories from First-Generation Alumni
- Hangout & Among Us
- Human Dimensions of Organization First-Generation Meet & Greet
- How Working in the Learning Center Can Help First-Gen Students Succeed
- Imposter Syndrome: A Conversation
- Kahoot with the Leadership & Ethics Institute
- Longhorn Harvest
- Microaggressions and Microaffirmations with First-Generation College Students
- Navigating LinkedIn with the Young Alumni Committee
- Panel of Professionals: First-Generation Perspectives on Personal Finance
- The First to Know: Student & Staff First-Gen Panel
- University Leadership Network Virtual Hangout
- University Leadership Network First-Gen Panel

2020 First-Generation College Celebration Week Signature Events

University-Wide First-Generation College Celebration
President Jay Hartzell joined four First-Gen Longhorns for a special interview about their experiences as first-generation college students, their personal support systems, their collegiate growth, and their First-Gen Longhorn pride. The event premiered on YouTube on Thursday, November 12, to an audience of approximately 100 viewers. As of January 7, 2021, the video of the event had more than 400 views.

UNIVERSITY-WIDE
FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION
Thursday, November 12
5 p.m.

Watch the Event

First-Generation Faculty/Staff Panel
During this signature event, students had the opportunity to join first-generation faculty and staff for a virtual roundtable, where students and panelists had conversations on several topics related to being first-generation college students. Students had the option to select a specific breakout room with one of four panelists:

- Krysta Chacon, M.Ed., Assistant Director, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement
- Paul Goldbart, Ph.D., Dean, College of Natural Sciences
- Mike Andorka, Ph.D., Staff Psychologist, Counseling and Mental Health Center
- Roxanne Schroeder-Arce, MFA, Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts

firstgeneration.utexas.edu
#FirstGenLonghorns