

What is the Thrive Fellowship?

The Thrive Fellowship is an 12-month program that runs from January-December 2022 and that aims to build a network of students to who can learn and elevate their experiences related to pathways from high school to college completion. As a Thrive TN Fellow, you will build community with peers across the state, deepen your understanding of education systems and pathways to postsecondary success, engage on topics related to storytelling, leadership development, and develop research skills in order to complete a Youth Participatory Action Research Project (YPAR) by the completion of the program.

Who is an ideal candidate for this fellowship?

- Current Tennessee freshmen (first year) to juniors (third year) attending a community college or university in Tennessee are eligible to apply to become a Thrive Fellow.
- Students who are interested in building community with peers across the state, investing in their leadership development, and deepening their understanding of and ability to advocate on education systems and pathways to postsecondary success.

What is the time commitment?

- Thrive Fellows will spend approximately 7-8 hours per month dedicated to the Fellowship. The time commitment includes monthly sessions, one-on-one check-ins with program leads, attending events and convenings, pre and post-session readings, and research for the YPAR project.
- Apart from programmatic requirements, Fellows will also have the opportunity to engage in various public speaking opportunities, and have opportunities to write blogs, op-eds or conduct advocacy.

What are the expectations and responsibilities of a Thrive Fellow?

- Thrive Fellows are expected to attend scheduled monthly sessions, one-on-one check-ins with Fellowship leads, and read and review assigned texts and exercises.

- Thrive Fellows are expected to respond promptly to emails and communications, as well as communicate unexpected and anticipated absences or extensions. This is the responsibility of the Fellow.

What will I do as a Thrive fellow?

- Thrive Fellows will attend monthly sessions focused on the guiding principles of the program, which are to discover, investigate, and advance key principles and strategies to increase the number of students going on to and completing a postsecondary credential. The sessions will be a combination of workshops and trainings with experts and guest speakers.
- Thrive Fellows will also collaboratively design and execute a YPAR project with the support of the program leads.

What is a Youth Participatory Action Project?

YPAR (Youth Participatory Action Research) is an innovative approach to positive youth and community development based on social justice principles in which young people are trained to conduct systematic research to improve their lives, their communities, and the institutions intended to serve them.

What do the guiding principles for the Thrive Fellowship mean?

- **Discover:** We will uncover what supports, processes, and tools are available in Tennessee's existing college access landscape by examining data and uplifting students' stories.
- **Investigate:** We will explore data-driven best practices, occurring across Tennessee and throughout the country, to improve the path to postsecondary for historically excluded students.
- **Advance:** We will advocate for the implementation of a set of proven strategies to improve the college access process for students of color and those from low-income backgrounds. We'll champion these recommendations both at the district level and statewide

Can I receive college credit for my participation?

We are happy to help you request college credit from your institution but do not have a process for that at this time. Thrive Fellows will receive a stipend of \$1500 at the completion of the program.