

The Pioneer Persistence Fund provides one-time financial assistance to undergraduate students experiencing unforeseen financial hardships – including but not limited to medical or family emergencies, food insecurities, or unanticipated educational costs (books, lab supplies, appropriate attire or travel/accommodations for a job interview, etc.).



utica.edu

Making a Lasting Impact Through The Pioneer Persistence Fund



What is the Pioneer
Persistence Fund?

“Nationally, more than half of all students who drop out of college do so for financial reasons—and many times students are forced to drop out due to unexpected costs of a few hundred dollars or less.”

– Robert C. Ballard, president and CEO of Scholarship America



Why is this fund necessary?

For many Utica College students, unforeseen expenses can make the difference between earning a UC degree and permanently withdrawing. Short-term assistance, in the form of modest grants directly to students, can improve retention and graduation rates and long-term life outcomes of our most vulnerable Pioneers.

How are funds allocated?

All students will be introduced to the Pioneer Persistence Fund at new student orientation. Additionally, the PPF will be advertised across campus, on our websites, and via each student’s individual CARE Team. Students needing assistance will be asked to complete a short application that will collect basic demographic and contact information, along with a short description of their specific situation and the requested grant amount. Applications will be available on Pioneer Place, UC’s online portal for student activity, and will be reviewed by a committee of administration and staff.



By the Numbers

45%
of Utica College students are Pell-eligible (demonstrate exceptional financial need)

25%
are students of color

20%
are first-generation college students

11%
are first-generation AND low-income (family income below federally designated poverty level)



UC is among the Top 15 Colleges With the Highest Student-Mobility Rates, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (a measure of the percentage of all students in a birth cohort whose parents were in the bottom 20 percent for household income who reached the top 20 percent for individual earnings.)



How You Can Help

To learn more or to donate, please contact:

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