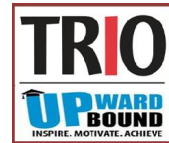




Upward Bound Project RISE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM HISTORY

Upward Bound Project RISE is sponsored by the United States Department of Education and is hosted by the University of Central Florida. It is the oldest and most successful Federal TRiO Program. The goal of Upward Bound is to help students overcome environmental, social, cultural and academic barriers to higher education. In the late 1960s Upward Bound was established as one of the initiatives of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty" campaign. The central idea of the program was to link institutions of higher education with target schools in an effort to expose students, who have been defined as low income and first generation potential college students, to postsecondary education. This translated well into a variety of settings from Bronx to Appalachia. Each year more than 70,001 students participate in over 956 Upward Bound Programs nationwide, including Puerto Rico as of 2017.

UPWARD BOUND OBJECTIVES:

The United States Department of Education mandates six outcome objectives for Upward Bound programs:

- Academic Performance (GPA)
- Academic Performance (standardized test scores)
- Secondary School Retention and Graduation with regular school diploma
- Completion of rigorous secondary school program of study
- Post-secondary Education Enrollment
- Post-secondary Education Completion

WHAT IS TRIO?

The term "TRIO" was coined in the late 1960s to describe three federally funded educational opportunity outreach programs. The three original TRIO programs included Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search and Student Support Services. Since the development of the three: five additional programs have been added: Educational Opportunity Centers, Training Programs for Federal TRIO Programs, Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement, Upward Bound Math/Science, and Veterans Upward Bound. The primary purpose of TRIO programs is to prepare low-income/potential first generation college students for successful entry into, retention in, and completion of postsecondary education. The Ronald E. McNair program provides support to students who are attending graduate school.



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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE UPWARD BOUND (UB) PROGRAM?

The UCF Upward Bound is designed to enhance the academic and personal skills of students while preparing high school students with information, counseling, academic instruction, tutoring, assistance with college admission and the financial aid process, motivation and guidance to ensure that they successfully graduate from high school and college. Additionally, this unique opportunity allows students exposure to financial literacy, cultural and career activities.

Upward Bound is a supplementary program that enhances the regular high school curriculum. The Upward Bound (UB) Program Project RISE provides academic support to eligible East River High School students, 9th thru 12th grade, so they may complete high school, enroll in college, and successfully obtain a college degree. Funded by the U. S. Department of Education's TRIO Programs Division, qualifying participants are from families who meet federal income guidelines and who are first-generation college students (which means neither parent obtained a post-baccalaureate degree) and demonstrates an academic need.

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM?

There is no financial cost for students to participate in the program. The only cost is the student's time and commitment to the UB program. All academic and program services provided to students, to include the six-week summer program, trips, and tutoring are free. However, the UB program does not cover "personal" purchases during travel events or the summer program.

HOW DOES A STUDENT APPLY FOR ADMISSION?

Each fall, the Program Coordinator conducts an informational session where students receive a program overview, academic expectations, and an application packet. Since recruitment only occurs once a year, it is essential for the application and required supporting documentation to be returned by the established deadline date. All students who apply will receive a written response as to their application status.

HOW ARE THE STUDENTS SELECTED?

Students are selected based on the approved program application, an interview with the Program Coordinator, and available program slots. Please note that it is mandatory for all students to either meet the federal income guidelines or first-generation status requirements for program consideration. If admitted to the UB program, students and their parent(s)/legal guardian are required to attend a New Student Orientation (***failure to attend will forfeit your acceptance***). Following the New Student Orientation, students will begin active participation in the program.



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WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT DOES NOT RECEIVE AN ACCEPTANCE LETTER?

Students who did not receive an acceptance letter may be placed on a waiting list and will receive notification when an opening becomes available. Please note that some students will receive a rejection letter due to not having met the federal income guidelines or academic requirements. These students can reapply the following year.

HOW MANY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE SELECTED EACH YEAR?

Annually, the UB Program serves 60 students at East River High School.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?

A student must attend East River High school, meet the federal income qualifications, meet the criteria for being a first-generation college student, or have an academic need as determined by the Project RISE Program Director. The academic need determination is based on the historical analysis of the student's academic history and have not met state assessment requirements. Also, students must be willing to meet the program's high academic expectations, as well as have and maintain a grade point of average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF JOINING THE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM?

The UB Program provides comprehensive services to high school students and recognizes that every student is unique and uses an individualized approach in working with them and their parent(s)/legal guardian. The commitment from the UB Program is lengthy – starting at the time the student enters the program throughout high school, college, and beyond. The UB staff work with students individually and in small groups to address their needs. Also, students are encouraged and supported in their efforts to reach their academic potential, to learn from others and their cultures, and to identify and meet realistic goals.

WHAT KIND OF COMMITMENTS MUST STUDENTS AND FAMILIES MAKE IF THEY WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM?

The UB staff seeks to build a robust working relationship with each student and their parent(s)/legal guardians, so it is essential to strongly consider the program's purpose, academic services, time commitments for the school year and summer program, and the importance of open communication. In committing to the program, students must attend and actively participate in all mandatory sessions and turn in all required documentation by established deadlines. The parent(s)/legal guardians are encouraged to also participate in Financial Aid and Financial Literacy workshops. Moreover, students must exhibit appropriate behavior at all UB events and respect UB staff, peers, tutors, and themselves at all times. Students and parents will sign a contract pledging their agreement to uphold UB standards upon entering the program.



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DOES THE UB PROGRAM PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION?

Transportation is only provided during **group activities** such as field trips to cultural events/activities or college tours that take place during the school year or summer program. Transportation will not be provided for Saturday sessions.

DO I REAPPLY TO UPWARD BOUND EACH YEAR?

No. Upon admission, students are in the UB Program until they graduate from high school or decides to terminate their participation in the program.

WHAT KINDS OF SERVICES/ACTIVITIES DOES THE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM PROVIDE FOR STUDENTS?

During the school year, students receive:

- Academic tutoring to enable them to complete secondary or postsecondary courses, which may include instruction in reading, writing, study skills, mathematics, science and other subjects;
- Advice and assistance in secondary and postsecondary course selection;
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance examinations and completing college admission applications;
- Information on the full range of Federal student financial aid programs and benefits (including [Federal Pell Grant](#) awards and loan forgiveness) and resources for locating public and private scholarships;
- Education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students or the students' parents, including financial planning for postsecondary education;
- Exposure to cultural events, academic programs, and other activities not usually available to disadvantaged youth; and
- Information, activities, and instruction designed to acquaint youth participating in the project with the range of career options available to the youth.

During the Summer Residential Program, students receive the services provided during the school year in addition to:

- Experiencing a simulated college experience by residing on the University of Central Florida's campus for a week and utilizing the university's student facilities;
- Engaging in a college readiness academic curriculum – English, Math, Science, Foreign Language, and SAT/ACT prep courses;
- Engaging in professional development and career assessment workshops;
- Traveling to tour different college campuses; and
- Participating in the Florida TRIO Olympics where students compete against other Upward Bound Programs in academic and sporting events.



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THERE ARE TWO COMPONENTS OF THE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM – SCHOOL YEAR AND SUMMER RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM. ARE THE STUDENTS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN BOTH COMPONENTS?

No. During the school year, students attend weekly tutoring, workshops, and Saturday sessions, which are held once a month from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at University of Central Florida. Students who are not seniors should commit to participating in the summer residential program to gain the simulated experience of college life. However, due to the limited number of summer program slots (20), the selection of students is by invitation only, which is determined by the student's overall academic performance and program attendance and behavior during the school year.

DOES UPWARD BOUND PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION?

No. The UB Program provides resources and assistance in helping students and their parent(s)/legal guardian locate financial resources to aid them in paying for their postsecondary education. For example, but not limited to, filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

DOES MY PARTICIPATION IN THE UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM GUARANTEE ME ADMISSION INTO THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA?

No. The UB program is a federally funded program and cannot guarantee admission to any postsecondary institution. If a student is interested in attending the University of Central Florida, we can help facilitate the process. However, the student must meet the requirements of the university admissions office.