

# UVU PREP

## Purpose/Mission

UVU PREP is a free STEM summer program for middle school students with an interest and aptitude in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics fields. Participants are provided three summers of rigorous academic instruction, educational hands-on projects, challenging assignments, career awareness speakers and field trips in preparation for high school and higher education. UVU PREP strives to provide opportunities for underrepresented and first-generation students to pursue STEM studies and careers.

## Learning Outcomes.

Because students engaged with UVU PREP, they can now...

- have confidence to enroll in advanced academic courses in high school and college.
- feel empowered to pursue STEM fields in higher education and career pathways.
- easily connect to university and community resources to facilitate their path towards higher education.
- maintain lasting relationships with mentors and peers that support and encourage one another.

## Programs and Services.

**Advanced STEM Courses:** Students complete 9 different advanced STEM courses taught by professional instructors. Participants attend from Monday-Friday, 8:20am-3:00pm for 6-weeks each year.

**Mentorship:** 31 AmeriCorps Summer Associates (SAs) offer one-on-one mentorship and tutoring to UVU PREP participants. Mentors motivate students to develop a growth mindset and self-identify as future college attendees and graduates.

**Career Awareness Speakers:** Participants attend 17+ STEM Career Awareness Presentations each summer given by local STEM professionals. Career Speakers provide a broad understanding of the career and educational opportunities available to students in a variety of STEM fields.

**Field Trips:** Frequent excursions provide students with first-person STEM industry exposure and help them connect the concepts they learn in their courses to real-world applications.

**Tech T Days:** Access to recent technological innovations is provided through bi-weekly technology activities. Expert instruction is provided during these hands-on experiences.

# Impact Outcomes

## DEMOGRAPHICS

1094

middle school students have participated in UVU PREP since 2013.

38%

Of the 1094 UVU PREP participants...

were students of color. UVU PREP enrolls proportionally more students of color than the current population of Utah County on average.

41%

identified as female. This is nearly 20% higher than Utah's current rate of women in STEM occupations.

## ACADEMIC GAINS

UVU PREP students complete pre- & post-tests for each of the 9 classes they participate in. They are also surveyed on their attitudes towards various STEM topics after having participated in the program.

+35%

Average annual academic gains in STEM courses offered at UVU PREP.

### Top 5 STEM Attitudes Gains - 2023

"I see myself as an engineering person."	16%
"I expect to do well in next year's science class."	15%
"Others see me as an engineering person."	14%
"Others see me as a science person."	14%
"I will study science in college."	14%

## ALUMNI SUCCESS

At least 70% of UVU PREP alumni have enrolled in college. Of those students...

90%

attended UVU as their first institution of higher education.

73%

of alumni's most recent college enrollment was at UVU.

28%

are likely still in high school and participating in concurrent enrollment.

Multiple UVU PREP Alumni have returned as Mentors to give back to the program they enjoyed as middle schoolers.



"Throughout high school, I used what I learned in the PREP program as a focus and took classes that would prepare for statistics as I go into college. The experience I have now could allow me to get an internship or a job offer, and overall, the experience boosted me to find what I am passionate about..."

-Ian Chang, UVU PREP Alumni