



GEAR UP Utah

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness
for Undergraduate Programs

PURPOSE/MISSION

GEAR UP provides services to low-income students to help them graduate from high school prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. It is a seven-year (2017-2024) federal, statewide grant program with partners at Utah State University, Weber State University, Utah State University Eastern, and the San Juan Foundation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Increase postsecondary academic performance and preparation for GEAR UP students.
- Increase high school graduation and enrollment rates in postsecondary education for GEAR UP students.
- Increase knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation, and financing among GEAR UP students and their families.
- Increase GEAR UP students' success in their first year of attendance at institutions of higher education.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- College Readiness Services for Students: We provide specialized services, including academic counseling, tutoring and homework help, mentoring, college campus tours, and career exploration.
- College Transition and First-Year Services: We assist students with their transitions from high school to college, including ACT prep and wavers, financial aid and college application assistance, orientation and registration support, summer melt reduction, and a summer bridge program.
- Parent Support: We provide workshops to help parents assist their students with homework, financial literacy, applying for financial aid, and college visits.

KEY METRICS

- Serve 15 school districts in 54 schools statewide
- 12,050 students served (2017 to present)
- 40% are minority students
- 76% are first-generation students

- 96% high school graduation rate
- 56% college enrollment rate
- Total direct service hours provided to students and families (2017 to present):
- 342,406 hours provided to 11,511 students (96% of student participants)
- 11,267 hours provided to 6,205 parents and family members (52% of parent and family participants)

IMPACT

- We serve all high schools in the UVU service region, except for Park City
 - 3,928 students served in Utah County
 - 649 students served in Wasatch, North Summit, and South Summit
 - 2,654 students at East and West High Schools in the SLCS
 - 7,231 total students served
- Students from all regions who start as college freshmen each year (current grant)
 - 2018/19: 16 (first year of grant)
 - 2019/20: 497
 - 2020/21: 629
 - 2021/22: 506
 - 2022/23: 495
 - 2023/24: 487
- For the 2023/24 school year, 117 GEAR UP students were enrolled at UVU.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE



I am very happy with the GEAR UP program!!! As a mother, I have been able to see how my children have been supported to develop greatly. I love the initiative of this program. It has helped my children with counseling when they have needed it, with ACT tests, information about universities and careers, and above all, they are shy, and it has helped them to have more confidence in themselves, make good friends, and guide them about scholarships and available programs. They know that they can achieve whatever they set their minds to and improve themselves day by day. Thank you, GEAR UP!!!!!" — Ana Eslava, mother of Timpview students Nathalie Eslava, Diego Eslava, and Uli Eslava