

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 (STEM) 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 high school and college courses
- Feel empowered to pursue STEM fields in higher education and career pathways
- Easily connect to university and community resources to facilitate their paths toward 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 Monday-Friday, from 8:20 am-3 pm for six 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

1,094 middle school students have participated in UVU PREP since 2013.

Of the 1,094 UVU PREP participants...

- **38% are students of color.** UVU PREP enrolls proportionally more students of color than the current population of Utah County on average.
- **41% identify as female.** This is nearly 20% higher than Utah's current rate of women in STEM occupations.

ACADEMIC GAINS

UVU PREP students complete pre- and post-tests for each of the nine classes they participate in. They are also surveyed on their attitudes toward various STEM topics after 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 alums have enrolled in college. Of those students...

- **90% attended UVU** as their first institute of higher education
- **73% of alums'** most recent college enrollment was at UVU
- **28% are likely still in high school** and participating in concurrent enrollment

Multiple UVU PREP alums 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 Alum