

Purpose/Mission

The Educational Opportunity Center seeks to enhance the lives of 1,000 first-generation and low-income students, as well as students with disabilities and other marginalized populations (veterans, women, nontraditional, adult learners, and returning students) through outreach for postsecondary opportunities and support. Our program helps individuals remove barriers and connects them with educational and financial opportunities that increase their skills and abilities.

Learning Outcomes

Secondary school diploma:

67% of participants served during the project year who do not have a secondary school diploma or its equivalent will receive a secondary school diploma or its equivalent during the project year.

Financial aid applications:

71% of participants served during the project year who are not already enrolled in a postsecondary education program and who 1) are high school seniors, 2) are high school graduates, or 3) have obtained a high school equivalency certificate will apply for financial aid during the project year.

Postsecondary education admissions:

90% of participants served during the project year who are not already enrolled in a postsecondary education program and who 1) are high school seniors, 2) are high school graduates, or 3) have obtained a high school-equivalency certificate will apply for college admission during the project year.

Postsecondary education enrollment:

83% of participants who graduate from secondary school and are not already enrolled in a postsecondary education program will enroll in a postsecondary education program immediately following participation in an EOC program or will have received notification by the fall semester of acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic semester (e.g., spring semester).

Programs and Services

1:1 Advising (English- and Spanish-Speaking):

- Educational and vocational exploration and planning
- HS/GED and postsecondary admissions and application completion
- FAFSA completion, verification, and appeals
- Job/career search and application
- Residency and other logistical verifications
- Accommodations
- Connections to community resources

Workshops:

- FAFSA educational sessions and completion
- Scholarship informational sessions and search/apply
- Admissions processes and application workshops
- Financial literacy

2023-2024 Impact Data

From 2022-2023, the EOC supported:

- 1,000 total participants
- 946 low-income and/or first-generation participants

In taking their first steps toward postsecondary education through

57 community events:

- Alpine School District
- Workforce services
- Vocational rehab
- Encircle
- Nebo School District
- Provo School District
- San Juan School District
- San Juan Foundation
- Community schools

76 UVU events with:

- Women’s Intercultural Engagement Program
- Military-Affiliated Student Hub
- Multicultural Engagement Program
- Office of Accessibility Services
- Financial Aid and Scholarships Office
- First-Generation Student Success Center
- Access and Outreach

Student Story

“TRIO is the reason I am in school right now. They helped me appeal my financial aid, making it possible for me to be at UVU.” — Shelly Saldivar