

Empowering first-generation students through community, advocacy, and mentorship at UVU

Mission

The First-Generation Student Success Center is dedicated to empowering first-generation students through personalized mentoring, academic resources, and community-building initiatives. We aim to address the unique challenges faced by first-generation students and provide them with the connections and support needed to thrive in their education, careers, and beyond.

Vision

We are a beacon of support, empowerment, and opportunity for first-generation students, fostering their academic success and personal growth within a welcoming and nurturing community.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students know where the First-Generation Student Success Center is and how to access its resources
- Students feel safe, welcome, respected, and appreciated in the First-Generation Student Success Center
- Students are confident in navigating day-to-day life at UV
- Parents and guardians know how to contact us and locate information they need to support their students

Programs and Services Goals

First-Generation Crew:

Create a student leadership program that allows students to explore their strengths and weaknesses while cultivating an environment of connection.

Campus Community:

Build awareness of the First-Generation Student Success Center and its location. Would like to see an increase in emails and collaborative efforts across campus.

Mentoring Programs:

- First Steps: 100% persistence of students from year to year for 2-6 years
- First Steps: Course success rates. Identify courses where students struggle on a granular level and discover how we can provide better support in these areas.
- FGE: Measure post-college career/education outcomes.

Academic Navigation and Success:

- Equip first-generation students with the skills, resources, and support necessary to excel by providing academic mentoring, study strategies, time management techniques, and access to academic resources. Peer mentors will proactively identify and reach out to at-risk students and leverage family and community to increase student success.
- Promote growth and resilience among first-generation students by implementing workshops and activities focused on personal development, stress management, and resilience.
- Create a supportive and welcoming community for first-generation students by facilitating regular UVU community-building events, peer support groups, and networking opportunities.

General:

- Increase first-generation student retention by 3%, measured by the percentage of first-generation students who persist from freshman to sophomore year.
- Increase first-generation student graduation rate by 2%.
- Increase first-generation student engagement in activities and events by 10%, as measured by attendance and participation rates in campus clubs, organizations, internships, and mentorship programs.
- Create a robust and engaging social media presence, providing a platform for students to be informed and engage with the First-Generation Student Success Center, measured by the number of followers, post interactions, and reshares.
- Increase traffic and usability by launching a new, simplified website.
- Request and implement a first-generation-focused dashboard with BIRS to increase easy data access.

2023-2024 Impact Data

- UVU had 16,308 first-generation college students in fall of 2023, accounting for 36.5% of the total student population. Of these students, 3,734 are also adult learners.
- 33.05% of spring 2023 graduates were first-generation students. This percentage has been maintained since 2019.
- UVU awarded \$208,051 in first-generation scholarships and waivers for the 2024-25 academic year
- 18% of first-generation students earn a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- 65.47% of first-generation students persist from fall to fall. This rate has been maintained since 2019. We are on track to have somewhere between 62%-65% for fall 2024.



TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

U T A H V A L L E Y U N I V E R S I T Y

Purpose/Mission

TRIO SSS is a federally-funded program committed to supporting 150 first-generation, low-income, and/or students with disabilities at UVU. Our mission is to empower students to develop academic and career skills and knowledge, engage in a community, and improve financial literacy to support their academic achievement and persistence through graduation into a successful career.

Learning Outcomes

Persistence Rate (4-year institution):

88% of all participants served by the SSS project persisted from 2022-2023 to the 2023-2024 academic year or earned a bachelor's degree from UVU during the academic year.

Good Academic Standing Rate (4-year institution):

97% of all enrolled SSS participants being served met the performance level required to stay in good academic standing at UVU.

Graduation Rate (4-year institutions only):

53% of participants served in 2017-2018 cohort year graduated from UVU with a bachelor's degree or equivalent within six years.

Programs and Services

Tutoring- Individually assigned tutors who support academic content and skill-building and mentorship, in addition to providing students access to 24/7 online tutoring via Net Tutor.

Financial Aid- Fall/Spring Half-Tuition Scholarships and FAFSA/Scholarship workshops.

Advising- 1:1 advising to create personalized career and educational goals, CliftonStrengths coaching, access to priority registration, counseling, grad school prep, etc.

Financial literacy - Education and support through appointments with the Money Success Center coaches and participation in FAFSA and scholarship workshops.

Community and social activities - Activities/events on designated days, gathering in the lounge area of the TRIO offices, and cultural activities offered throughout the semester.

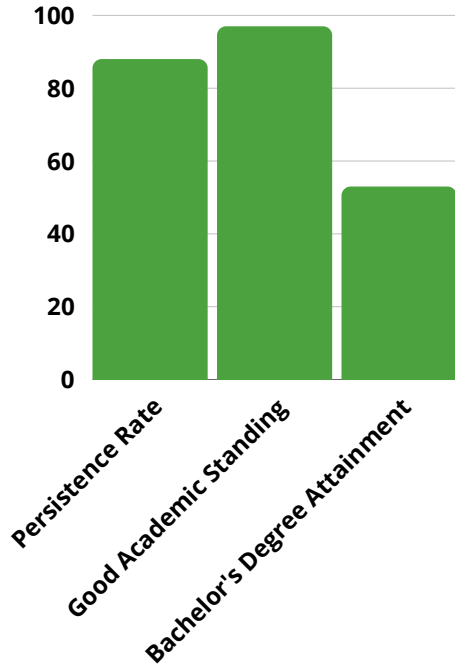
Career Coaching - Connecting with the career and internship center for a robust career preparation experience with job shadows, internships and informational interviews.



TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

2022-2023 Retained Rates

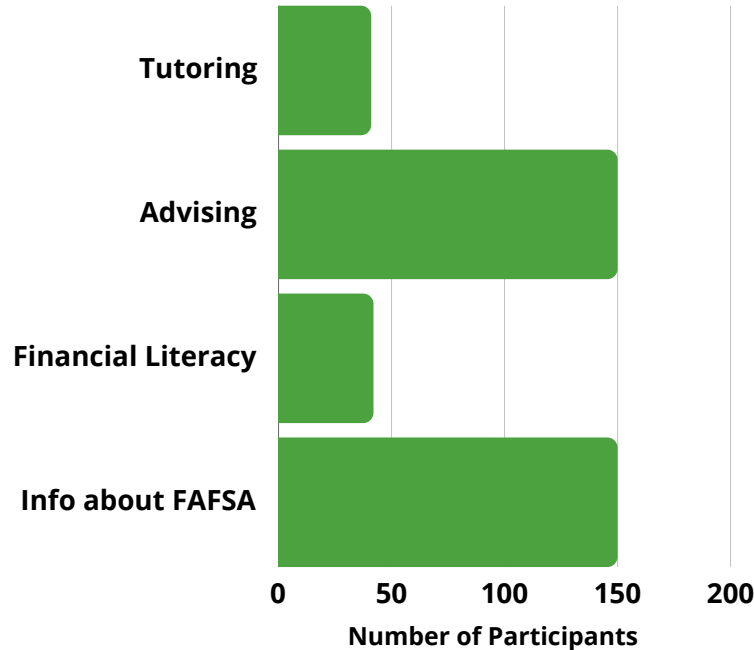


My name is Adelynn Bennion and I was referred to TRIO by vocational rehab. I am a dependent of a military service member and a student with multiple disabilities. I transferred from another institution out of state and was facing multiple barriers returning to school and was anxious that I might not be successful in college again considering what I had gone through before. I changed my major a few times and wasn't very sure about my career goals. Once I started working with TRIO I saw how TRIO could be and is such an amazing support. TRIO EOC advisor helped me get back to school as a transfer student and assisted me with financial aid and more. I was introduced to the SSS program, applied, and was accepted. One of the biggest things for me is that the TRIO office recognizes, accepts, and accommodates me for my disabilities and who I am more than any other place on campus! My disabilities come into consideration in this office and that her disabilities don't define me but are part of who I am. TRIO programs have been so helpful for me this year and they've made a big impact!

150+ students served each year!



2023 Services Utilized





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

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

SCUP Syllabus

Purpose

The mission of SCUP is to recognize and value the experiences of community members within the Central Utah Region to provide asset-based community outreach programs that increase academic access for student success, enhance economic viability, and facilitate community-based partnerships.

Learning Outcomes

Because students engaged with our department, they can now do the following:

After School Early Literacy Programs:

Obtain current reading grade level standards or exceed standards

America Reads and Counts:

Be provided support for academic progress

Private Tutoring:

Successfully complete targeted academic courses

Adult Spanish GED:

Successfully complete Spanish GED while learning about future educational options

UVU Prep:

Feel empowered to pursue STEM fields in higher education and career pathways.

ARPA Grant Programs:

Demonstrate increased interest and capability in pursuing higher education

Programs and Services

- **After School Early Literacy Programs:** UVU Work Study students provide free one-on-one tutoring in reading for low-income 1st-3rd grade students.
- **America Reads & Counts:** Hire and train UVU students who qualify for Work Study as reading and math tutors in the local elementary schools.
- **Private Tutoring:** One-on-one student tutoring to successfully pass selected academic courses.

Adult Spanish GED: Spanish-speaking community members attend free Saturday classes in Spanish (evening tutoring optional).

- **UVU PREP:** Middle school students complete nine advanced STEM courses over three consecutive summers and explore education and career opportunities through first-person STEM industry exposure.

2023-2024 Impact Data

UVU Prep (2013-Present)

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

Demographics

Of the 1,094 UVU PREP participants...

- 38% were students of color
- 41% identified as female, nearly 20% higher than Utah's current rate of women in STEM fields

Academic Gains

- +35% average annual academic gains in the nine STEM courses offered at UVU PREP

Alumni Success

At least 77% 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

After School Early Literacy Programs (July 2023-June 2024)

- The average literacy gain for students is 4 levels
- The average group literacy gains for all student combined is 26 levels

“My daughter was in second grade and was reading at a first-grade level. She graduated from tutoring in third grade and is now reading books above her grade level. She fell in love with reading due to this program.”



America Reads & Counts (July 2023-June 2024)

Partners with:

Local elementary schools, Boys and Girls Club of Utah County, Financial aid, and AmeriCorps

Provided:

- Over 5,000 tutoring sessions to the elementary school students
- Employment for 26 Work Study students
- 5 AmeriCorps educational awards
- Since 2015, 103 Work Study students received education awards equal to \$129,258.40 toward educational expenses

Private Tutoring (July 2023-June 2024)

Student Tutored:

- Attending UVU (44)
- Other college (3)
- Elementary schools (3)
- Junior high schools (8)
- High schools (7)

Provided:

- 85 students with tutoring
- Over 1,250 hours of tutoring

Employed:

- 28 Private Tutors



Adult Spanish GED (August 2023-August 2024)

60 Student Served:

- 11 students passed the math portion
- 6 students passed the social studies portion
- 6 students passed the science portion
- 8 students completed their GED assessment and have their certification

Alma, a hard-working student and mother of very young children, set out to graduate and aspire to a better position in her restaurant job. When she achieved this, she was excited because, despite not having much time for her plans, she made it a reality. Today, she is a graduate and has achieved her desired position.



ARPA Grant (Summer 2024)

Program purpose: To

provide high school students from underserved

populations with opportunities for grade-level growth and college preparedness.

Demographics of the 68 participants:

- 82% were students of color
- 77% identified as female
- 23% identified as male
- 86% are first-generation students
- 95% of participants now find college to be a realistic option for their future.

Student Impact:

“I learned a lot...and now I feel more comfortable and confident that I can achieve better things in life. I feel like this program really made me want to go to college and achieve my goals.”

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

TRIO Educational Talent



Mission

The mission of the federal TRIO programs is to advance the idea of equal education opportunities in postsecondary education. TRIO assures that low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities have a chance to enter and graduate from a higher education institution.

Through the [TRIO Educational Talent Search](#) (ETS) developmental curriculum and guidance processes, students improve their academic skills, social skills, and motivation to pursue and complete their postsecondary education.

Learning Outcomes

Secondary School Persistence (100% Reported):

95% of non-senior participants served each project year will complete the current academic year and **continue in school for the next academic year at the next grade level.**

Secondary School Graduation (regular secondary school diploma) (100% reported):

87% of seniors served during the project year will **graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma** within the standard number of years.

Secondary School Graduation (rigorous secondary school program of study) (100% Reported):

33% of seniors served during the project year will **complete a rigorous secondary school program of study and will graduate during the project year** with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years.

Postsecondary Education Enrollment (83% Reported):

44% of participants who have graduated with a regular secondary school diploma during the project year will **enroll in an institution of higher education by the fall semester immediately following high school graduation** or will have received notification by the fall semester immediately following high school from an institution of higher education of acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic semester (e.g., spring semester).

Postsecondary Degree Attainment (No Data Until 2027):

40% of participants served during the project year who enrolled in an institution of higher education by the fall semester immediately following high school graduation or by the next academic semester (e.g., spring semester) as a result of acceptance but deferred enrollment will **complete a program of postsecondary education within six years.**

Programs and Services

- Financial literacy and financial aid assistance
- Individualized advisor counseling in high school
- ACT PREP and four ACT test waivers
- Three-day mini college trip
- Career shadowing and workshops
- STEM activities

2023-2024 Impact Data

Annual Mini College Trip

- Target of 40 participants from Provo, Orem, Heber, and Roosevelt high schools
- 100% free to participants
- Includes college tours and cultural exposure

The ETS Mini College Trip has the greatest impact on ETS students and allows students to visit college campuses across Utah to see firsthand what kind of college will meet their individual needs and goals. While on the mini college trip, ETS students participate in STEM activities, learn about various careers, and experience cultural exposure.



Student Story: Izry Garcia-Medina



Izry's parents immigrated to the U.S. at a very young age. Izry and her sister would complete their homework in the car waiting for their parents to complete work. She decided to participate in the Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program to find support with her goals and the help to achieve them.

Izry graduated from Timpview High School with 30 college credits and is attending the University of Michigan in fall 2024. While Izry and her family were concerned about the costs, she received the Horatio Alger Scholarship. Izry not only wants to achieve her dreams of studying space but also help her father and family for all the love and support they have given her.

"I absolutely love how I have a strong, personal-level relationship with my ETS advisor," Izry said. "I feel comfortable talking to her about anything that I need, and I also love talking about both of our interests. My favorite part of the meetings was getting to see my ETS advisor at school and catching up with her."

TRIO UPWARD BOUND



MISSION

The mission of the federal TRIO programs is to advance the idea of equal education opportunities in postsecondary education. TRIO assures that low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities have a chance to enter and graduate from a higher education institution.

[TRIO Upward Bound](#) (UB) supports both first-generation and low-income high school students throughout the year with scholarship application help, academic and professional counseling, and skill-building activities.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Academic Performance (GPA) (99% Reported)

85% of participants served during the project year will **have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better** on a four-point scale at the end of the school year.

Academic Performance on Standardized Tests (97% Reported)

50% of UB seniors served during the project year will have **achieved at the proficient level on state assessments** in reading/language arts and math.

Secondary School Retention and Graduation (100% Reported)

96% of participants served during the project year will **continue in school for the next academic year** at the next grade level, or they will have **graduated from secondary school** with a regular secondary school diploma.

Secondary School Graduation (rigorous secondary school program of study) (100% Reported)

55% of all current and prior UB participants, who at the time of entrance into the project had an expected high school graduation date in the school year, will **complete a rigorous secondary school program of study and graduate in that school year** with a regular secondary school diploma.

Postsecondary Enrollment (81% Reported)

60% of all current and prior UB participants, who at the time of entrance into the project had an expected high school graduation date in the school year, will **enroll in a program of postsecondary education by the fall term immediately following high school** graduation or will have received notification by the fall term immediately following high school from an institution of higher education of acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic semester (e.g., spring semester).

Postsecondary Completion (48% Reported)

39% of participants who enrolled in a program of postsecondary education by the fall term immediately following high school graduation or by the next academic term as a result of

acceptance by deferred enrollment will **attain either an associate or bachelor's degree within six years** following graduation from high school.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Financial literacy and financial aid assistance
- ACT prep and four ACT test waivers
- Three-day academic trip and college tours
- Career shadowing and workshops
- STEM activities
- Foreign language exposure
- Speed reading
- Summer program college credits

2023-2024 Impact Data

ANNUAL SUMMER ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- Up to 50 participants from Provo, Orem, Heber, Roosevelt, and Vernal high schools
- Students earn up to seven college credits each year
- 100% free to participants
- 60% of students return each year
- 34% of seniors go on to attend UVU

The UB Summer Program has the greatest impact on UB students as they come to UVU and have a college experience comprised of attending college classes for credit, workshops, cultural and arts activities, and living on campus. Students also visit both local and out-of-state colleges.

STUDENT STORY: Jacob Knox

Jacob graduated from Uintah High School with 69 college credits, 45 through concurrent enrollment and 24 earned in Upward Bound. Jacob received a full four-year academic scholarship through Quest Bridge to the University of Notre Dame worth over \$200,000. Jacob's composite ACT score is 31 with an unweighted cumulative GPA of 3.999.

He is a past UVU Upward Bound president, the 2023-2024 UHS Sterling Scholar in Business and Marketing, the vice president of the Math Club, a member of the Student Senate, National Honor Society, the Science Club, and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).