

Cal Poly
Student Academic Services
Upward Bound Program

Upward Bound provides key academic support services to low-income, first-generation college and high school students in five local schools. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits.

The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. Services provided include a six-week residential summer school session at Cal Poly, tutoring, career advisement, supplemental instruction, plus cultural and recreational activities.

2006-2007 Outcomes

Extent to which the project participants demonstrated improvement in academic skills and competencies as measured by standardized achievement tests:

More than 75% of the participants who were tested meet the state grade level standard. Of the 100 students who were supported by the program for this reporting period, 88 students (88%) were tested and UB has retained copies of their Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) or CA State High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) scores. Of these 88 students 72 (85%) met standards and 16 students (15%) did not meet standards. 12 students (12%) did not take the state assessments (or were not tested). Of those students who did not initially meet the grade 8 Reading and Language Arts (RLA) and MATH tests, 69% improved and passed the CA State High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE).

Extent to which the project participants demonstrated improvement in academic skills and competencies as measured by grade point average:

The objective was not met when comparing the beginning GPA for the reporting period and the ending GPA. Out of 100 students who were serviced during this reporting period 62 (62%) students have reportable GPA's. Of those 62 students, 20 (32%) showed an improvement or no change in their GPA with an average improvement of .103. The overall average beginning GPA was 3.218 and the average ending GPA was 3.123. The difference between the two was -.095. Therefore, this objective was not met. However, the average ending GPA of 3.123 is still above the minimum admissions requirements for four year universities.

Extent to which project participants continued to participate in the Upward Bound Program until they graduated from high school:

The objective was met with a 99% retention rate. Of the 100 students who were served during the reporting period, 1 student was not retained in the program because they moved out of the area; hence, the 99% retention rate.

Extent to which project participants that completed the project undertook programs of postsecondary education:

This objective was met; in the reporting period, 16 seniors participated in the program. 16 seniors (100%) graduated from high school. Of the 16 seniors who graduated from high school and who completed the program, 15 (94%) enrolled in postsecondary education.

Extent to which project participants that completed the project, or were scheduled to complete the project, succeeded in education beyond high school, including the extent to which they graduated from postsecondary education:

40 students (29%) who went on to postsecondary education graduated from college within the last 6 years. However, 61 students (44%) are currently enrolled in college and are making progress toward the completion of their degree. Summary of results for project participants who participated in the program since 1999: Of the total of 139 participants, 37 students who graduated from high school are not currently enrolled or not making progress towards a degree, 1 student is unknown or unable to track, 40 students have attained a postsecondary degree and 61 students are making progress towards a postsecondary degree.