

Frequently Asked Questions about Application to Upward Bound (UB)

What is Upward Bound?

Truman State University's Upward Bound Project provides selected high school students with effective preparation for college application, enrollment and success. Project participants have demonstrated academic promise, a need for project services, eligibility for TRIO program participation and a desire to earn a college degree. Our mission is to foster the development of necessary academic skills and personal motivation in eligible students to increase the rate at which students enter and complete postsecondary education. UB participants benefit from mentoring by college students, tutoring in core subjects, help with college/career exploration, visits to colleges and guidance through the college admission and financial aid application processes.

Accepted applicants should be prepared to participate fully in program activities, including weekly after school meetings during the academic year and a college-prep academy on Truman's campus during the summer. Most students join UB as high school sophomores, but occasionally UB accepts highly motivated juniors or seniors. Participants are expected to continue participation in UB until graduation from high school, complete a rigorous college-prep curriculum while in high school and start college immediately after high school graduation to earn a 2 or 4 year degree.

Who is eligible for participation in UB?

Upward Bound is a TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and applicants must meet eligibility criteria in order to be considered for project participation.

Applicants should

- ☐ Be a high school sophomore, junior or senior who attends a target high school served by UB (Putnam Co., Knox Co., Schuyler Co., Milan, Macon, La Plata, Moberly, Kirksville, Novinger or Westran High Schools) and
- ☐ Have college potential but need additional support to be fully prepared, plus

Qualify by **EITHER**

- ☐ Meeting family income guidelines established by the federal government

and/OR

- ☐ Being a potential first-generation college student (neither natural nor adopted parents living in the home has a four-year college degree).

Who pays for Upward Bound?

All Upward Bound **services are provided at NO COST** to accepted students and their families.

Upward Bound is a federal TRIO program designed to assist students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education (e.g., first in their family to earn a college degree, from income-eligible backgrounds). In program year 2024-2025, Upward Bound received 90% of total funding from the U.S. Department of Education and 10% of total funding from Truman State University.

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APPLICATION PROCESS: How Can I Apply?

Electronic application forms can be accessed on our website (ub.truman.edu). Click on Prospective Students & Families from the menu on the left to access application forms. All application materials can be submitted online. Paper application forms can be obtained from your high school counselor or by contacting our office to have them mailed to you.

For an application to be complete and move forward for review, UB must have received a:

- 1) Completed **STUDENT APPLICATION** form which gathers information about the applicant's academic plans, goals, and desire for program services. This section should be completed by the student applying to participate in Upward Bound.
- 2) Completed **PARENT/GUARDIAN HOUSEHOLD INFO** form that gathers information about the applicant's household income, parent education level, and need for program services. *Note: this information is required to determine federal program eligibility and will be kept strictly confidential. This section must be completed and signed by the parent or guardian of the student applying. *Once the student portion of the application is completed and submitted, the parent will be sent a link via email to complete the parent/household info form.**
- 3) Completed **HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR REFERRAL** form that gathers information about the applicant's test scores, grades, and high school curriculum. *Once the student portion of the application is completed and submitted, the high school counselor will be sent a link via email to complete the referral form.*

Application to Upward Bound is a competitive process and not all eligible students are accepted for program participation. Applicants who have moved on to the next stage of the application process will be contacted in November so that interviews can be scheduled.

**Incomplete applications will not be advanced to the next stage of the review process.*

Still have questions? Contact the Upward Bound office at (660) 785-4244 or ubub@truman.edu for more info about program eligibility, application or participation.

SUBMIT ALL APPLICATION MATERIALS BY OCTOBER 27,2026