



Abilene Christian University Upward Bound Mission Statement

The Abilene Christian University Upward Bound Program provides low income and first generation high school students with academic, cultural and personal support for the purposes of high school graduation, postsecondary enrollment, and lifelong success.

Abilene Christian University Upward Bound Vision Statement

The Abilene Christian University Upward Bound Program in collaboration with local area high schools guides, empowers, and educates students to become future social leaders ready to self-advocate, think critically and succeed in a diverse and global society.

What is Abilene Christian University Upward Bound?

Abilene Christian University's Upward Bound (UB) is an academic and college preparatory program, funded by the Department of Education, designed to help students graduate from high school and enroll in the college or university of their choice.

What does Upward Bound offer?

Upward Bound offers a variety of **FREE** services including but not limited to:

- Afterschool Academic Enrichment and Quarterly Saturday Focus Forum
- College and cultural events/trips
- College and Career exploration
- A six-week summer residential program at Abilene Christian University
- Complete assistance with the college admission and financial aid processes
- Opportunities to earn stipends for participating in UB events

Upward Bound helps students:

- Stay accountable with academic performance throughout high school
- Determine what college fits their career interest and personality
- Experience college before graduating high school
- Increase chances to win scholarships
- Develop leadership skills



APPLICATION CHECKLIST:

- Student/Parent Information
- Needs Assessment*
- Student Expectations Contract
- Academic Transcript Release
- Typed essay*
- Letter of Recommendation
- Social Security Number (optional)
- Signed Tax information* (1040 Form lines: 6d & 43) (1040A Form lines: 6d & 27)
- Transcript (Sophomores/Juniors only) *
- Most Recent Report Card*
- Most Recent Test Scores*
- Current Grade Report (From the Grade Portal)

Upward Bound is the right program for you.

If you are interested in applying, complete the attached application. ***Make sure you provide us with ALL of the requested documentation and complete form in blue or black ink. An incomplete application cannot be considered.***

**If you have any other questions, feel free to contact your campus advisors or visit our website at:
www.acu.edu/community/offices/resources/trio/upward-bound/overview.html**

Upward Bound Program Application

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____

High School: _____ Grade Level: _____

Social Security#: _____ School ID#: _____

Student Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Student Cell #: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ Gender: ___ Male ___ Female

T-shirt size: Small Medium Large XL 2XL 3XL

Citizenship: ___ Yes ___ No If no, are you a permanent resident? ___ Yes ___ No Resident # _____

Ethnic Background: ___ African American/Black ___ American Indian/Alaskan Native ___ White
___ Hispanic ___ Asian ___ Native Hawaiian/Islander

(OTHER TRIO SERVICES)

Are you a participant in TRIO Talent Search? ___ YES ___ NO

PARENT INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian 1: _____ Relationship Parent/Guardian 2: _____

to Student: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Work #: _____ Work #: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

Has either parent received a 4- year degree from a college or university? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, which parent: ___ Father ___ Mother Which institution? _____

What is the primary language spoken in your home? ___ English ___ Spanish ___ Other _____

Who does the student reside with? ___ Father ___ Mother ___ Guardian ___ Other

Name of Guardian (if you do not live with one of your parents) _____

STUDENT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1. Do you have below an 85 on your most recent report card in Math, English or Science? Yes or No
2. Do you have a GPA above a 2.6? Yes or No
3. What is the highest degree you plan to pursue? You can check more than one.
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High School Diploma | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational/Technical School Degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year/Associate Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Year/Bachelor's Degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Master's Degree | <input type="checkbox"/> Doctoral Degree <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
4. Do you know what career you plan to pursue? Yes or No
- A.) If yes, what career?

- B.) Do you know what major you will need to pursue this career? Yes or No
- C.) Do you think you will change your career choice or major before you graduate from college? Yes or No
5. Do you have a diagnosed learning disability? Yes or No
- A.) If yes, please explain? _____
6. Have you taken an ESL class in the last 2 years? Yes or No

7. Please rate the following on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest.

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| A) Do you feel you are aware of all of your educational opportunities?
(ie: College Fairs, College Visits) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| B) Do you feel your school provides good academic support?
(ie: tutoring) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| C) Are you encouraged to take challenging courses?
(ie: Pre AP, Advanced Placement, or Dual Credit Courses) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| D) How would you rate your self-confidence? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| E) How would you rate your self-esteem? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| F) How would you rate your social skills? | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

ACADEMIC INFORMATION RELEASE FORM

I, _____,
(First Name) (Last Name)

am applying for participation in, or am currently a student with the Upward Bound Program at Abilene Christian University.

I authorize the staff of the Abilene Christian University Upward Bound Program to access academic and personal information in my/my student's legitimate educational interest. This information may include but is not limited to: public assistance, free & reduced lunch documentation; standardized test scores (PSAT, TAKS, STAAR, AP, SAT, ACT, TSI, GED); report cards; unofficial transcripts; official transcripts; attendance and disciplinary records; information about the status of post-secondary education admission/enrollment; financial aid documentation including Texas Common Application information, FAFSA pin code, SAR, and financial aid award letters in accordance with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99). I understand this information is essential in assisting me/my child in preparation for post-secondary education. *I further understand all information received is for Upward Bound use only and is held strictly confidential.*

Furthermore, I give permission for Upward Bound to access and collect this information for a period of ten years or until I/my student successfully completes a program of post-secondary education. However, if I choose to withdraw this permission, I can call the Program Director at 325-674-2448.

Print Student Name

Student Signature

Student ID#

Student's Current School

Print Parent Name

Parent's Signature

Date Signed

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 20 U.S.C. §1232g, and the Texas Public Information Act, Texas Government Code §552.001 et seq.) are respectively federal and state laws providing for the review and disclosure of student educational records. Abilene Christian University Upward Bound will not permit access to or the release of personally identifiable information contained in student educational records to any party without the written consent of the student and parent (if applicable), except as authorized by FERPA.

**INCOME VERIFICATION/STATEMENT SHEET
(IN ABSENCE OF IRS TAX FORM OR STUDENT IS IN FOSTER CARE)**

Please answer each question listed below. Have the applicant return this form to the Counselor's Office at his or her high school, scan and e-mail it to upwardbound@groupmail.acu.edu, or fax it to 325-674-2898. For questions regarding this form, please call 325-674-2529.

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Income and Family Verification (must be completed by parent/guardian)									
1.	Is the student applying a ward of the State or in Foster Care? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <i>If yes, please skip to section 8.</i>								
2.	Did you file income taxes with the IRS last year? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO								
3.	Number of people living in your household: _____								
4.	<p>I verify the taxable income for my household (last year) was: \$ _____ If ZERO, please write "0"</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>This information can be found on your U.S. Tax Return using the following chart:</u></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #cccccc;"> <th style="padding: 2px;">U.S. Form</th> <th style="padding: 2px;">Line Number:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1040 EZ</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1040 A</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">27</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">1040</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">43</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	U.S. Form	Line Number:	1040 EZ	6	1040 A	27	1040	43
U.S. Form	Line Number:								
1040 EZ	6								
1040 A	27								
1040	43								
5.	Are you living on a fixed income? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO								
6.	<p>Do you or your child receive any of the following? (Check all that apply):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Free or reduced Lunch Program <input type="checkbox"/> Social Security Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> Food Stamps/TANF/WIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Housing Assistance <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>								
7.	<p>Did you have a reduction in your household income from last year to this year? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>If yes, give a brief explanation: _____</p>								

8.	<i>I certify that the income information provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand the information provided will be used in determining my child's eligibility for the Upward Bound program. It will also serve as a statement of income for project reporting purposes.</i>		
	Parent Name (Print)	Parent Signature	Date

Essay Questions

In a 4-6 paragraph essay, tell us about yourself: who you are, what dreams you have, what obstacles you see in your way, and finally, why you believe you possess the determination, strong work ethic, and desire to make the needed sacrifices to be a thriving member of our Upward Bound family.

Attach your essay questions to your completed application. Handwritten essay questions will not be accepted. Please remember, this is a sample of your writing and staff will be able to tell if this is not your own work.

Please give the attached **Recommendation Form** to a teacher or counselor at your high school. Remind your teacher/counselor to mail or fax these forms to our office as soon as possible. They can also return the completed Recommendation Form to you in a sealed envelope to submit with this application.

RECOMMENDATION FORM (Completed by a Teacher/Counselor):

Dear Teacher/Counselor:

The student listed below is applying for admission into the Abilene Christian University Upward Bound program. Your assessment of the student's conduct, character and academic need for program services is an integral element in the admission process. Please give us your honest assessment of this student's desire and ability to learn. Please mail the completed Recommendation Form to the address below or fax to (325) 674-2898. You may also return the completed Recommendation Form to the student in a sealed envelope to submit with his/her completed student application. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the UB office at the number listed below. The time and effort you have taken to complete this form is sincerely appreciated.

Student's Name _____ Grade Level _____ School _____

Class/Course Subject: _____ Current Class/Course Grade _____

Please place an "x" in the appropriate column for each characteristic listed below:

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS	EXCELLENT	AVERAGE	FAIR	POOR
CONDUCT IN CLASS				
WILLINGLY PARTICIPATES IN CLASS				
RESPECTS OTHERS AND THEIR PROPERTY				
ABILITY TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS				
COMPLETES ASSIGNED WORK ON TIME				
STUDY SKILLS/HABITS				
ANALYTICAL THINKING SKILLS				
MATURITY/INTEGRITY				
PUNCTUALITY				
EAGER TO LEARN NEW THINGS/ TAKES INITIATIVE				
DEMONSTRATES MOTIVATION TO COMPLETE A 6-WEEK SUMMER PROGRAM				

Please provide comments on motivation, behavior, personality, strengths or weaknesses that you feel are pertinent to the student's performance in Upward Bound. Additional comments may be written on the back.

 School Official Printed Name & Title

 E-Mail address / Phone Number

 School Official Signature

 Date

Abilene Christian University
 1600 Campus Court - Hardin Administration
 Abilene, Texas 79699 p: 325.674.2529 f: 325.674.2898
<https://www.acu.edu/community/offices/resources/trio/overview.html>