Upward Bound: Objectives & Outcomes - Portland Public Schools

Upward Bound has been hosted by Portland State University since 1980. The goal of Upward Bound is to generate in participants the skills and motivation necessary to complete a program of secondary education and to enter and succeed in a program of post-secondary education. Eligible project participants who demonstrate academic need will be identified by target school instructors, counselors, parents, students, friends, community agency personnel, and selected by Upward Bound staff.

The Upward Bound project consists of an academic year program and a six-week summer component. During the academic year, tutorial services and individual advising will be available after school daily and on Saturdays at PSU. Credit retrieval and credit-in-advance courses will be offered by certified instructors during the summer. Other instruction in core curriculum and technology will occur monthly in workshops and mini-courses. Both the academic year and summer components contribute to improving students’ skills in math, English, science, foreign language, and technology. A PSU Bridge Program offers graduating seniors the opportunity to experience college courses, with academic and personal support available from Upward Bound staff. 91% of UB students come from low income families where the parents do not have Bachelor’s degrees.

Primary Objectives for Upward Bound – 2013 Achievements

Academic Performance—Grade Point Average (GPA)
75% of participants served during the project year will have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better at the end of the school year. Performance: 110/117 = 94%

Academic Performance on Standardized Test:
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. Performance: 18/22 = 82%

Secondary School Retention and Graduation
80% of project participants served during the project year will continue in school for the next academic year, at the next grade level, or will have graduated from secondary school with a regular secondary school diploma.
Performance: 117/117 = 100%

Secondary School Graduation (Rigorous Secondary School Program of Study)
70% of all current and prior year UB participants, with expected high school graduation date of 2013, will complete a rigorous secondary school program of study and graduate with a regular secondary school diploma.
Performance: 28/30 = 93%

Postsecondary Enrollment
70% of all current and prior UB participants, with expected high school graduation date of 2013, will enroll in a program of postsecondary education by the fall term immediately following high school graduation or will have received deferred enrollment until the spring semester.
Performance: 25/29 = 86% for all students; 25/26 = 96% for students who remained in UB through graduation

Postsecondary Completion
40% of participants who enrolled in a program of postsecondary education will attain either an associate’s or bachelor’s degree within six years following graduation from high school. Performance: TBD in 2014 for 2008 Cohort