

TRiO AND GEAR UP BACKGROUND INFORMATION
ST. OLAF COLLEGE

TRiO Educational Talent Search, TRiO Upward Bound, and Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) are federally funded programs that provide college preparatory services to low-income students whose parents do not have baccalaureate degrees. Each program works in designated Empowerment Zone schools.

Services provided by TRiO Upward Bound, TRiO Educational Talent Search and GEAR UP:

- Mentoring
- College and financial aid application completion
- ACT and MBST Test preparation
- Tutoring
- College visits
- Summer enrichment programs
- Career Exploration
- Postsecondary planning
- Study skills
- College Exploration

In addition to the services listed above, the following outlines differences between the programs:

	TRiO UPWARD BOUND (UB)	TRiO EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH (ETS)	GAINING EARLY AWARENESS AND READINESS FOR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS (GEAR UP)
Legislative Intent	To increase the rates at which participants enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education	To increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in the postsecondary education institution of their choice	To increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enroll and succeed in a postsecondary program by creating systemic change in a school by working with teachers, community members, and parents/guardians
Level of intensity	Very intense college preparation. Fewer students served. Students are seen weekly during the school year and daily during the summer.	Less intense college preparation. More students served. Students are seen monthly in grades 6-10 and more frequently in grades 11-12.	Intense college preparation. Students are seen weekly in grades 7-11 and more frequently in grade 12.
Population Served	St. Olaf UB serves 87 students who participate in 9 th grade through high school graduation	St. Olaf ETS serves 800 students ages 11-27.	St. Olaf GEAR UP serves 950 students, their parents, and teachers.
Unique Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-week residential, academic summer program at St. Olaf • Weekly tutoring • Parent/guardian meetings • Summer Bridge program for high school graduates to help them prepare for college in the fall • Alumni mentoring program • Services provided after-school, on weekends, and during summer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring Program in which students are paired with a St. Olaf College student mentor • Referrals to summer enrichment programs • Services provided during the school day and after school • College Club provided by Admissions Counselors • Re-entry services for secondary and postsecondary drop outs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships with local agencies and businesses • Teacher professional development • Cohort approach beginning in 7th grade through high school graduation • Parent outreach • Referrals to summer enrichment programs • Services provided mainly during the school day and during the summer
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 99% high school graduation rate¹ • 93% enroll in a postsecondary program² • 70% graduate from or are still enrolled in a postsecondary program after 6 years³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% high school graduation rate¹ • 81% enroll in a postsecondary program² • 58% graduate from or are still enrolled in a postsecondary program after 6 years³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84% high school graduation rate¹ • 96% of 2005 graduates applied and were accepted to at least one college²

¹ In 2002, Minneapolis and St. Paul had a 54% graduation rate. Suburban and outstate Minnesota had a high school graduation rate of 90%.

² In 2000, the national college sending rate for low-income students was 30%. While MN was the leader for 19 year olds that enrolled in postsecondary programs (53.3%), MN had the biggest difference (22.8%) between low-income students and their more affluent peers enrolling in postsecondary programs.

³ Although 30% of low-income high school graduates enroll in some postsecondary education nationally, only 5% graduate. 75% of students from high-income families enroll in postsecondary education and 60% of those students graduate.

Source: Postsecondary Education OPPORTUNITY