

Office of Educational Opportunity Programs

The Office of Educational Opportunity Programs was created in January 1992 to organizationally locate the MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program, the MIT Educational Talent Search Program (which operated from 1991 to 1998), and all future programming serving low-income Cambridge youth. The federal Upward Bound program was created under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and is one of the US Department of Education's TRIO Programs. The MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program has operated at MIT since 1966. This year, due to the loss of federal funding, the program was sponsored through the consortia of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Wellesley College, and the City of Cambridge.

MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program

The MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program is a year-round, coeducational, multicultural college preparatory program for high school youth who reside in and attend school in Cambridge, MA. The 2012–2013 academic year marked the program's 46th year, and with the financial support of the City of Cambridge, MIT, and Wellesley College, the program continues to serve academically promising young men and women from low-income backgrounds and from families where parents have not had the opportunity to attend college and/or graduate with a baccalaureate degree. The goal of Upward Bound is twofold: to motivate client high school youth to continue on to postsecondary education and to provide them with the fundamental skills necessary for success at the collegiate level.

Enrollment Statistics

While the program traditionally has had the capacity to accept 75 students or more, due to uncertainty about funding, a total of only 58 students were enrolled in the 2012–2013 program year. Student data is presented in the table below.

Summer Session

The 2012 summer session, which ran from July 1 to August 15, provided participants with a rigorous academic, college-like experience. Fifty of the total 58 students who were served during the 2012–2013 academic year participated in the session. Program services offered during the summer included:

Total number of students served in FY2012–2013	58
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Females	38
Males	20
Black	33
White	0
Hispanic	10
Asian	13
Native American	0
Other	2
Black females	24
Black males	9
White females	0
White males	0
Hispanic females	6
Hispanic males	4
Asian females	7
Asian males	6
Native American females	0
Native American males	0
Other females	1
Other males	1
Low-income and first-generation	43
Low-income only	10
First-generation only	5
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Classes and Academic Support

Students enroll in courses taught by experienced high school teachers from school districts in the Greater Boston area. Each participant enrolls in a mathematics class, an English class, and an elective in social studies, science, or world languages. Courses offered included freshman-senior English; algebra I, algebra II, geometry, pre-calculus, calculus, and statistics; physics, biology, and chemistry; the African-American experience; Arabic, Spanish for home speakers, and Spanish II. Through a longstanding agreement with the Cambridge Public Schools, three students enrolled in no more than two classes in an effort to receive summer school credit for courses that they had failed during the 2011–2012 school year; credit was granted. Classes are held Monday to Friday from 9 am–12 pm, with accompanying study halls from 3–6 pm Monday through Thursday. In addition, students received specialized tutorial assistance on an “as needed” basis in the evening from 7–9:30 pm.

Workshops

Students participate in educational, recreational, and cultural workshops Monday to Thursday from 1:30–2:30 pm. Each student is enrolled in two workshops that are designed to expose them to new and creative interests or to strengthen their knowledge in more familiar areas. Workshops included a senior seminar, reading skills, math skills, financial literacy, event planning, talent showcase, yearbook, swimming, and dance.

College Advising

The program hosted its annual College Day event on July 18 at Wellesley College. Representatives from 51 colleges and universities participated and over 300 students, representing 11 visiting TRIO Upward Bound programs from the Greater Boston area, were in attendance.

School-year Program

The school-year session, located at MIT and conducted from September 2012 through June 2013, plays an important role in participants' educational development and provides assistance and support with coursework for students' regular classes at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS). Program services offered during the school year include homework supervision, academic advising, workshops, college and career advising, and field trips.

Homework Supervision

The Upward Bound office is open for study/homework supervision on a drop-in basis four days a week, Monday to Thursday, beginning in October. Usually staffed by part-time employees, this year volunteer tutors (primarily from MIT, Wellesley College, and other local institutions) were available to assist participants with homework problems and to meet with individuals or small groups for specific content-area tutoring.

Academic Advising

Students receive academic advising through monthly class meetings that took place October 22–25, November 26–29, December 10–13, February 25–28, March 25–28, April 22–25, and May 28–30. The meetings provide students in each respective class an opportunity to learn new material and/or strengthen their knowledge in the following areas: understanding current academic status, course selection requirements (high school and college), the college application process and the college experience, career advising and assessment, managing personal finances, goal setting (academic and personal), leadership development, current affairs such as local and national elections, and community service/engagement.

Workshops

Saturday enrichment workshops, which help to address more specialized participant needs such as study-skills development, Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) preparation, Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) preparation, the college application process, computing skills, time management, and job-readiness skills, were held on November 3, December 8, February 9, March 9, April 6, and May 11.

Financial literacy workshops were conducted in partnership with the Cambridge Savings Bank on October 10 and October 16. The purpose was to familiarize participants with the basics of budgeting and saving, the importance of maintaining financial stability, credit and fraud protection, and managing personal finances.

College Advising

Due to the uncertainty of available funding, campus visits were limited this year. Students visited Pine Manor College (February 14), Colby-Sawyer College (February 21), Keene State College (February 21), and the University of Massachusetts Amherst (April 16). Furthermore, all students were required to attend and participate in the CRLS College Fair (October 3). Eighteen students attended a college fair in New Hampshire as part of the New England Educational Opportunity Association (NEOA) annual TRIO Day celebration. Participants were able to communicate with representatives from over 60 postsecondary education institutions.

Representatives from the following institutions visited the MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program to make in-house presentations: Denison University (October 15), Fisher College (November 6), Ithaca College (November 26), Clark University (December 3), and Stonehill College (April 8).

Weekly individual meetings were held with senior students to monitor them through the college admissions and financial aid processes. A special presentation on the success of first-generation college-enrolled students at MIT took place on April 24.

Financial Aid Night was held on January 16 to assist parents of seniors with the financial aid application process. A representative from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority facilitated the workshop.

Career Advising

The career-advising component of the program offered students exposure to career options through the Career Presentations Program, as well as through research on the Internet and follow-up inventories and assessments. Professionals in the following positions/companies participated on the dates noted: computer engineer/Genzyme (October 17), marketing director/Smith & Nephew (November 7), audit services manager/John Hancock (December 12), research assistant/Dana Farber–Harvard Cancer Center (February 26), program director/Science Club for Girls (April 9), and packing sales professional/International Paper (May 8).

Field Trips

Field trips were very limited this year due, once again, to the uncertainty of funding. Traditionally the program has offered field trips to places such as the Museum of Science and the New England Aquarium, local theater productions (on and off campus), Field trips have also been organized around skiing, bowling, and roller skating with the aim of furthering the students' intellectual, social, and cultural development. This year students participated in the NEOA TRIO Day Celebration (February 21–22), tours of the MIT Museum (March 5) and D-Lab (Development Through Dialogue, Design, and

Dissemination) (April 9), as well as a visit to the Basketball Hall of Fame (April 16). The Student Advisory Council, which includes members from each grade (freshman through senior), planned a community service project (a canned food drive) during the holiday season and a trip to the movies.

Class of 2013

One hundred percent of the program's graduating seniors (28 students) were accepted into postsecondary education institutions. Students from the program's Class of 2013 will enroll in the following colleges and universities: Benjamin Franklin Institute, Bunker Hill Community College, Clark University, Colby-Sawyer College, La Salle University, Lasell College, Johnson and Wales University, Mount Holyoke College, Plymouth State University, Quincy College, Sacred Heart University, Salem State University, Syracuse University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of Massachusetts Boston, and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Eight of these graduates will take advantage of the Bridge summer program at Upward Bound, and will participate in classes and workshops that are designed with the first-year college experience in mind.

Postgraduate Involvement

The Office of Educational Opportunity Programs strongly encourages its alumni to stay connected to the program and to serve as role models and mentors for current students. On December 19, the program hosted an "Afternoon with Upward Bound Alumni" and provided the opportunity for numerous alumni to visit the program and share their college experiences via panel presentations and general networking discussions. Additionally, several alumni from the Classes of 2010, 2011, and 2012 volunteered as tutors/mentors during the December through January winter break.

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