

The Upward Bound Academy

The University of Alabama at Birmingham



Dear Upward Bound Applicant and Parent(s)/ Guardian(s),

Thank you for your interest in our Upward Bound Academy and for wanting your child to become a part of a program that will empower and educate them in all areas while also preparing them for their post-secondary educational experience. All application materials must be filled in completely. Incomplete applications will delay the acceptance process. After the application has been reviewed, students will be requested to participate in a scheduled interview.

Upward Bound is a nationwide federally funded college-preparatory program that serves first generation college-bound high school students and/or students who reside in income-eligible households. Program benefits include individual academic tutoring, academic advising, field trips, college visits, career planning, ACT prep, assistance finding money for college, Financial Aid and FAFSA workshops, leadership academy, cultural enrichment, Saturday college, and a 6-week summer residential experience on campus at The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The Upward Bound Academy serves high school students each year and to be eligible, a student must be a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident, must meet the U.S. Department of Education's socio-economic income level guidelines and/or they must be a potential first-generation college student (neither parent or guardian has a bachelor's degree). Also, the student must be scheduled to attend a high school in Birmingham City or the Birmingham Metropolitan target area.

Please feel free to contact us at upwardbound@uab.edu if you have any additional questions!

Vibert Garraway Jr.

Vibert Garraway Jr.
Director
The Upward Bound Academy

Confidentiality and Information Assurance

The personal information requested of you in the Upward Bound Academy Application and by the Upward Bound Academy staff is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Education and is considered necessary to substantiate your eligibility to participate. The Federal Privacy Act protects this information. No one may view this information, unless they work for the Upward Bound Academy, or are otherwise specifically authorized to see the information. *The information on The Classic Upward Bound Academy application will be used to determine whether students are eligible for the Upward Bound Academy.*

The Upward Bound Academy
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
917 13th St S, SL 222H2
Birmingham AL, 35294

Admission into The Upward Bound Academy is based upon eligibility, need, and readiness for the program. We may not be able to admit every student who is eligible, depending on the number of applications received. Since we do have a limited number of openings available, each application will be carefully considered before the final selection is made. We will especially weigh recommendations and the student assessment of needs to choose those students who truly need our services.

Checklist of Forms that must be submitted:

Enclosed Forms (please check off once each form is completed):

- _____ 1. Student Application
- _____ 2. Student Needs Assessment
- _____ 3. Student Writing Sample
- _____ 4. Parent Information Form
- _____ 5. Family Income Verification (a signed U.S. tax return, verification of income from another governmental source, a signed statement regarding income from parent(s)/guardian(s), or free lunch form.)
- _____ 6. Teacher Recommendation Form
- _____ 7. Counselor Recommendation Form
- _____ 8. Community Member (Pastor, YMCA Director, etc.) Recommendation Letter that speaks to who the student is and their ability to be successful in the Upward Bound Academy. (*Preferred but not required*)
- _____ 9. Certification of Information and Release Statement

Once ALL completed forms are received, including the income documentation, the Upward Bound office will contact the applicant for an interview. Your application will not be considered unless it is filled out completely and includes the necessary documentation.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the package is complete.

I certify that the information provided in this packet is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature

Date

I certify that the information provided in this packet is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

The Upward Bound Academy
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Student Application
2025-2026

Please print clearly using ink.

Last name, First name, M.I.: _____

Sex (M/F): _____ Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____ SSN: _____ - _____ - _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Student Cell Phone: _____

Student E-mail Address: _____

Student Citizenship Status: (Please check one)

_____ U.S. Citizen _____ U.S. Permanent Resident _____ Other: Please specify _____

Ethnicity: Are you Hispanic or Latino? _____ No _____ Yes

What is your race? (Choose all that apply)

_____ American Indian or Alaskan Native

_____ White or Caucasian

_____ Asian

_____ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

_____ Black or African American

_____ Other: Please specify _____

What is the primary language(s) spoken in your home? _____ English _____ English/Spanish _____ Other

Which high school do/will you attend?

Current Grade: _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____ 11 _____ 12 Expected High School Graduation Year: _____

What do you plan to do after you graduate from High School? (Check all that apply)

_____ Attend a four-year college/university (4 year degree) _____ Attend a Community College (2 year degree)

_____ Enroll in a technical college program

_____ Enlist in the military

_____ Get a job

_____ Attend a trade school

_____ Other (please specify) _____

How did you hear about the Upward Bound program? _____

Do you plan to work this school year or next summer? _____ No _____ Yes

If yes, when? _____ While in school _____ During the Summer Estimated hours per week: _____

T-Shirt size (adult): _____ Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large Other: _____

Student Certification:

I, _____, applicant for admission to The Upward Bound Academy, verify that all the information within this entire application, to the best of my knowledge, is factual and that no information was presented with any intent to defraud.

Student Applicant Signature

Date

The Upward Bound Academy
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Student Needs Assessment
2025-2026

PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY. (You may check more than one in each category)

Career Choices/Planning:

- My career choice is: _____
- I am undecided about my choice of career and would like assistance/information about careers.
- I would like information on the following careers: _____

Tutoring/Academic Assistance:

- I would like to increase my grade point average. My grade point average is: _____
- I would like assistance with study skills/test taking skills and strategies.
- I would like assistance with communication skills.
- I would like assistance with SAT/ACT preparation.
- I need assistance in deciding whether or not I should take/retake the SAT/ACT.
- I have not taken the SAT/ACT.
- I would like a tutor to assist me with: _____ Math _____ English _____ Science
_____ Other Please specify: _____
- I need to turn in homework on a more consistent basis.
- I need to learn how to take better notes.
- I need to learn how to have better relationships with my teachers.

College/University Choice:

- I would like assistance in choosing a school to attend after high school graduation.
- I would like information on the following colleges/universities: _____
- _____
- My college choices are: _____
- _____
- I plan on obtaining: _____ Associate's degree (2 year) _____ Master's degree
_____ Bachelor's degree (4 year) _____ Doctorate or professional degree

Financial Assistance:

- I would like financial aid assistance and help applying for the FAFSA.
- I would like information about the financial aid programs available.
- I would like information about scholarships, and assistance applying for scholarships.

Counseling:

- I would like personal counseling.
- I would like academic counseling.
- I need to talk with a counselor about a career plan.
- I would like to improve my confidence, self-esteem, and/or social skills.
- I feel that I need additional guidance and support.

The Upward Bound Academy
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Parent Information
2025-2026

Please print clearly using ink.

Student Applicant Information:

Child's Name: _____ High School: _____

Natural or Adoptive Parent / Legal Guardian 1:

First & Last Name: _____ Male _____ Female

Occupation/Job Title: _____

Has this person earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution? _____ No _____ Yes

Parent/guardian email: _____

Parent/guardian phone: _____

Natural or Adoptive Parent / Legal Guardian 2:

First & Last Name: _____ Male _____ Female

Occupation/Job Title: _____

Has this person earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution? _____ No _____ Yes

Parent guardian email: _____

Parent/guardian phone: _____

Household Income Information:

With whom does the applicant live? _____ Parent 1 _____ Parent 2 _____ Both Parent 1 & Parent 2

Total number of people in household (including those away in college) : _____

Total annual gross income for all parent(s)/guardian(s) living with the student: \$ _____

Total **taxable income** (adjusted gross income – deductions and exemptions): \$ _____

(This is featured on line 6 of the 1040EZ form, line 27 of the 1040A form, or line 43 of the 1040 form.)

At school, your child receives: _____ Full cost meals _____ Reduced cost meals _____ Free meals

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: *(To be completed only if it applies to your child's current situation.)*

If your child is under 18, are they a ward of the State of Alabama (foster care placement) _____ Yes _____ No

Have they aged out of the foster care system? _____ Yes _____ No

Presently, where are they living? *(Check one)*

_____ Shelter _____ With more than one family in a house or apartment _____ In a motel, car or campsite

_____ With friends or family members (other than parent or guardian)

Parent Certification (required):

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____, verify that all of the information in this application for The Upward Bound Academy at UAB is, to the best of my knowledge, factual and that no information was presented with any intent to defraud.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

The Upward Bound Academy
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Income Level Information
2025-2026

This page is informational ONLY. You do NOT need to complete anything on this page.

Federal TRIO Programs 2025 Annual Income Levels

(Effective January 15, 2025 until further notice)

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions
1	\$23,475
2	\$31,725
3	\$39,975
4	\$48,225
5	\$56,475
6	\$64,725
7	\$72,975
8	\$81,225

For family income units with more than 8 members, add the following amount for each additional family member: \$5,500 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions. \$6,880 for Alaska; and \$6,330 for Hawaii.

The term “low-income individual” means an individual whose family’s taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount.

The figures shown under family income represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the Census Bureau for determining poverty status. The poverty guidelines were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register, January 15, 2025.

*****Note: Please be sure to report taxable income on your application.*****

The Upward Bound Academy is a federal TRIO program and is 100% federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

**The Upward Bound Academy
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Certification of Information and Release Statement
2025-2026**

As a federally funded educational program, the Upward Bound Academy is required to maintain student records. Under rules established by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, you are hereby notified that the program's student records, and the information they contain are kept confidential, and that the student (and your parents, if the student is younger than 18 years) have the right to inspect the contents of your record. By signing below, you are authorizing the release of school records for your son/daughter's file that may be requested by The Upward Bound Academy. You understand that the U.S. Department of Education funds The Upward Bound Academy and will use these records to provide academic advisement for my son/daughter. You understand that these records will be handled in a confidential manner and that they will be made only available to program staff and representatives from the Federal and State Department of Education.

As indicated below, please initial the statement if you agree:

_____ I hereby certify that the information in this application is correct and true to the best of my knowledge and hereby authorize The Upward Bound Academy at The University of Alabama at Birmingham to release and receive information to assist my son/daughter with his/her educational planning. I understand that ***any false or misleading information may result in disqualification of the applicant.***

This authorization provides the following records to be shared with The Upward Bound Academy:

- Official school transcript
- High School Assessment (HSA) and PARCC test scores
- Standardized test results (PSAT, SAT, ACT, etc. if available)
- Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) test scores
- Attendance records
- Student grades/progress reports
- Information concerning disciplinary actions
- Educational Development Plans
- Information regarding special accommodations

Student's Full Name: _____

Student's High School: _____

Student's ID Number: _____

Student's Date of Birth: _____

Parent(1) or Guardian's Name: (Print) _____

Parent(1) or Guardian's Name: (Signature) _____

Parent(2) or Guardian's Name: (Print) _____

Parent(2) or Guardian's Name: (Signature) _____

The Upward Bound Academy
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
School Counselor Recommendation Form
2025-2026

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

School Counselor Name: _____

In reference to the student indicated above, please provide/attach the information listed below:

- Applicants Cumulative GPA: _____
- HSA/PARCC scores, standardized test scores, AP test scores
- High School Transcript
- Most recent grade report

Student's attendance record: () Excellent () Good () Fair () Poor

Student's motivation for enrolling in post-secondary education: () High () Medium () Low

Does the student have limited English proficiency? () Yes () No

Is this student receiving any special accommodations or services? Please explain and attach documentation.

In your opinion, does this student have a need for academic support? Please briefly explain.

What is your perception of this student's academic potential? Include academic and social factors.

On the basis of academic potential/promise, how would you recommend this applicant?

() Highly recommend () Recommend () Recommend with reservations () Do NOT recommend

On the basis of character and personal promise, how would you recommend this applicant?

() Highly recommend () Recommend () Recommend with reservations () Do NOT recommend

Has the student ever been subject to school disciplinary action or suspension? () Yes () No

If yes, please explain: _____

School Counselor Signature

Date

Please return to The Upward Bound Academy, 917 13th Street South, SL 222H2, Birmingham, AL 35294

The Upward Bound Academy
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Teacher Recommendation Form
2025-2026

Student Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Does the student receive special services? () Yes () No

In reference to the student indicated above, please complete the information below:

Current program of study: () Advanced Diploma () Standard Diploma () Occupational Diploma () Other

Please note the items below. (Check any that might indicate success in the TRIO Upward Bound Academy.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| () Academic Ability | () Interest in Learning |
| () Willingness to Work Hard | () Respect for Self and Others |
| () Integrity and Honesty | () Interest in Attending Upward Bound |
| () Positive Attitude | () Projected Persistence in Upward Bound |
| () Persistence in Other School Activities | () Encouragement/Help from Home |
| () Potential to Earn a Bachelor's Degree | () Sibling participation in Upward Bound |

Use the qualities listed above as a guide to rank the student according to the following scale:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| () 5 | I have absolute confidence in this candidate's ability to complete the program and each a college degree |
| () 4 | I strongly recommend this candidate and feel the program will be very beneficial |
| () 3 | I recommend this candidate with reservations but feel the program will be beneficial |
| () 2 | The candidate may benefit from the program but lacks motivation and persistence |
| () 1 | I do not feel this candidate will benefit from this program. |

General Comments:

Teacher Signature

Date

Please return to The Upward Bound Academy, 917 13th Street South, SL 222H2, Birmingham, AL 35294