
UVU PREP

Purpose/Mission

UVU PREP is a free STEM summer program for middle school students with an interest and aptitude in Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics fields. Participants are provided three summers of rigorous academic instruction, educational hands-on projects, challenging assignments, career awareness speakers and field trips in preparation for high school and higher education. UVU PREP strives to provide opportunities for underrepresented and first-generation students to pursue STEM studies and careers.

Learning Outcomes

Because students engaged with UVU PREP, they can

- have confidence to enroll in advanced academic courses in high school and college.
- feel empowered to pursue STEM fields in higher education and career pathways.
- easily connect to university and community resources to facilitate their path towards higher education.
- maintain lasting relationships with mentors and peers that support and encourage one another.

Programs and Services

Advanced STEM Courses: Students complete 9 different advanced STEM courses taught by professional instructors. Participants attend from Monday-Friday, 8:20am-3:00pm for 6-weeks each year.

Mentorship: 31 AmeriCorps Summer Associates (SAs) offer one-on-one mentorship and tutoring to UVU PREP participants. Mentors motivate students to develop a growth mindset and self-identify as future college attendees and graduates.

Career Awareness Speakers: Participants attend 17+ STEM Career Awareness Presentations each summer given by local STEM professionals. Career Speakers provide a broad understanding of the career and educational opportunities available to students in a variety of STEM fields.

Field Trips: Frequent excursions provide students with first-person STEM industry exposure and help them connect the concepts they learn in their courses to real-world applications.

Tech T Days: Access to recent technological innovations is provided through bi-weekly technology activities. Expert instruction is provided during these hands-on experiences.

Impact Outcomes

DEMOGRAPHICS

1,187

middle school students have participated in UVU PREP since 2013.

41%

Are First-Generation college students

41%

Identified as female. This is 20% higher than Utah's rate of women in STEM occupations & 5% higher than the current national average

38%

Are students of color. Proportionally, UVU PREP enrolls over 2.5x more students of color than the population of Utah County

39%

Qualify for free or reduced lunch

ACADEMIC GAINS

UVU PREP students complete pre- & post-tests for each of the 9 classes they participate in. They are also surveyed on their attitudes towards various STEM topics after having participated in the program.

+35%

Average annual academic gains in STEM courses offered at UVU PREP.

Top 5 STEM Attitudes Gains - 2025

"I expect to do well in next year's science class."	20%
"I am good at science."	19%
"When something is hard, it makes me want to work more on it, not less."	19%
"I keep trying to improve myself, even when it takes a long time to get there."	18%
"Learning science can help me get a good job."	18%

ALUMNI SUCCESS

At least 83% of UVU PREP alumni have enrolled in college. Of those students

89%

Attended UVU as their first institution of higher education

74%

Average annual enrollment of PREP Alumni at UVU 2019 - 2024

30%

Are likely still in high school and participating in concurrent enrollment

Multiple UVU PREP Alumni have returned as Mentors to give back to the program they enjoyed as middle schoolers.



"Throughout high school, I used what I learned in the PREP program as a focus and took classes that would prepare for statistics as I go into college. The experience I have now could allow me to get an internship or a job offer, and overall, the experience boosted me to find what I am passionate about." **Ian Chang, UVU PREP Alumni**