TRIO Educational Talent Search

www.uvu.edu/trio/ets

Purpose/Mission.

The mission of the **TRiO** programs is to advance the idea of access to educational opportunities in postsecondary education. It is to assure that the least advantaged segments of the American population have a realistic chance to enter and graduate from a postsecondary institution. Our purpose here at UVU is to empower youth who have academic potential, but who lack adequate information or school preparation to enter and continue in postsecondary education. Through the **TRiO** (Educational Talent Search) developmental curriculum and guidance processes, students are expected to improve their academic skills, social skills, and motivation to pursue and complete their postsecondary options.

Learning Outcomes. Academic Year 2023-2024

1) **Secondary School Persistence:**
95% of non-senior participants served each project year will complete the current academic year and continue in school for the next academic year, at the next grade level.
REPORTED 100%

2) **Secondary School Graduation (regular secondary school diploma):**
87% of seniors served during the project year will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years. **REPORTED 100%**

3) **Secondary School Graduation (rigorous secondary school program of study):**
33% of seniors served during the project year will complete a rigorous secondary school program of study and will graduate during the project year with a regular secondary school diploma within the standard number of years. **REPORTED 85%**

4) **Postsecondary Education Enrollment:**
44% of participants, who have graduated with a regular secondary school diploma, during the project year, will enroll in an institution of higher education by the fall semester immediately following high school graduation or will have received notification, by the fall semester immediately following high school, from an institution of higher education, of acceptance but deferred enrollment until the next academic semester (e.g., spring semester).
REPORTED 82%

5) **Postsecondary Degree Attainment:**
40% of participants served during the project year, who enrolled in an institution of higher education, by the fall semester immediately following high school graduation or by the next academic semester (e.g., spring semester) as a result of acceptance but deferred enrollment will complete a program of postsecondary education within six years. **NO DATA UNTIL 2027**

Programs and Services.

* Financial Literacy & Financial Aid Assistance
* Individualized advisor counseling in high school
* ACT PREP & 4 ACT Test Taking Waivers
* Mini College Trip
* Cultural Exposure
* STEM Activities

Assessment and Impact.

Yearly Mini-College Trip:

- Up to 40 participants from Provo, Orem, Heber, & Roosevelt high schools
- For high school juniors
- 100% free to participants
- Includes college tours & cultural exposure

University of Utah College Tour – March 2025

The ETS Summer Mini College Trip has the greatest impact on ETS students as they have the opportunity to visit college campuses in Utah. This allows them to see first-hand what kind of college will meet their specific needs. While on the mini college trip, ETS students are exposed to STEM activities, various careers, and given cultural exposure.

Recent Accomplishments.

Caleb Charles Davis

Caleb joined TRIO Educational Talent Search (ETS) during his sophomore year of high school. A dedicated student with big dreams, he recognized that college was within his grasp and that ETS could provide valuable guidance for his future. He was right! Through ETS, Caleb has learned the ins and outs of applying for colleges, grants, & scholarships. He knows that when he has a college question, he can stop by the college access room at Wasatch High School to get the answer.

As a hard-working, high-achieving student, Caleb has consistently challenged himself with honors and advanced placement courses in subjects like English, mathematics, & science. His elective choices reflect a wide range of interests, such as woodwork, graphic design, & computer science.

Caleb is also breaking new ground in his family: next year, he will be a first-generation college student as neither of his parents completed a college degree. With limited financial resources, Caleb has seized opportunities to save money, such as taking concurrent enrollment classes and earning good grades in hopes of qualifying for scholarships. Passionate about computer science, Caleb plans to major in the field. In five years, he hopes to be working as a network technician. Reflecting on his academic journey, Caleb credits ETS for helping him navigate the college application process, a significant step toward achieving his career aspirations.

When asked whether students should join ETS, Caleb encourages them to take advantage of the program: “Join – you might as well. They have good information and resources.”