



For Office Use Only  
Checklist for application:  
 Completed and signed application  
 Copy of last year's tax return  
 Completed teacher recommendation

## What is Upward Bound?

Upward Bound is an academic support program designed to increase high school students' opportunities to attend college.

## Who is eligible for Upward Bound?

The ETSU Upward Bound program serves high school students from Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Sullivan Counties as well as Elizabethton, Johnson City, Kingsport, and Bristol City Schools. Students must meet one of the following criteria:

1. family income must meet federal guidelines **AND/OR**
2. neither parent obtained a four-year degree from a college or university.

Students start the program in the beginning of their freshman or sophomore years and remain in the program until they begin their college careers.

## What academic support is available?

The program is designed to supplement the high school curriculum and is focused on individual student academic need in all high school classes. Students will receive tutoring and advanced skill development geared toward college preparation.

## How can Upward Bound help students get into college?

Aside from providing an academic support system, UB provides workshops and individual counseling sessions for financial aid and scholarship information for college, ACT preparation, and career planning. Upon graduation from high school UB students have the opportunity to enroll in a college class at ETSU. The UB program provides tuition assistance, tutoring, books, and supplies for up to two summer classes.

## When and where does Upward Bound meet?

During the school year, UB has monthly meetings on Monday evenings at ETSU's main campus. The UB Program provides transportation from designated pick-up points to ETSU and back to the designated pick-up points for these academic sessions. During the school year, a UB representative will visit each school once a week for a short meeting with each UB student. During the summer, students participate in a six-week residential program at ETSU's main campus. The students attend classes in academic subjects (math, science, writing, literature, and foreign language). The summer schedule also offers a variety of classes in topics related to interest (art, crafts, music, dance, and physical fitness activities to name a few). UB students also attend several educational and cultural activities throughout the year.

## What is the cost to participate in the Upward Bound program?

Program activities are provided at **no cost** to the student. Upward Bound is a federally funded grant program through the U.S. Department of Education.

## When will I know if I've been accepted to the ETSU Upward Bound program?

We will be interviewing applicants as we can and will let you know if you have been accepted into the program within several weeks. Please call us if you have any questions about your application status.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding ETSU Upward Bound please call 423-439-5619, visit our website ([www.etsu.edu/ub](http://www.etsu.edu/ub)), email us ([upwardbound@etsu.edu](mailto:upwardbound@etsu.edu)), or find us on social media: Facebook (@UBETSU) and Instagram (@etsuupwardbound)

**2025-2026**  
**ETSU UPWARD BOUND**  
**STUDENT APPLICATION**

<b>For Office Use Only</b>		
Date received: _____ Grant: _____ School: _____		
Eligibility (circle one): FE FG ARAF DY		
Entry Grade (circle one): 9 10 11 12		
First date of service: _____ Prior TRIO: _____ Limited English _____		
Other Academic Need _____ W-9? _____		

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Personal Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Racial/Ethnic Background (select all that apply):

American Indian/Alaskan Native  Hispanic/Latino  
 Asian  White  
 Black or African American  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Are you a citizen or permanent resident of the United States? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: 9 \_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_ Current GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently part of another TRIO program (Talent Search)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever applied to an Upward Bound program before? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in a career in math, science, or technology fields? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Why do you want to be in the ETSU Upward Bound program, and how do you think Upward Bound can be of help to you in your educational endeavors?**

**Please continue on an additional page if necessary. Your essay should be specific as to why you are motivated to succeed in school and how Upward Bound can help you.**

## **ETSU Upward Bound Activities**

Each year while your student is a participant in the ETSU Upward Bound program, we provide various activities for students to further their academic success. In the event of circumstances beyond our control Upward Bound may offer any and all activities in a virtual format. These activities include:

**Weekly School Visits** - Each week a staff member from the ETSU Upward Bound program visits one of our twelve target high schools to speak with our students. Many of our visits occur during the student's lunch period allowing them to meet with us without missing class. These visits typically take between 5 - 10 minutes in which they will receive our Community Scoop - a weekly newsletter with information about the program and upcoming dates. The Upward Bound staff also discusses with our students about their academic success and/or needs. These weekly check ins are the primary way we communicate information to our students; thus, consistent attendance is critical.

**M2o-nday Night Sessions** - The ETSU Upward Bound program hosts up to 10 Monday Nigh Sessions during the academic year on campus at ETSU, which is open to all of our students. Transportation will be provided from the area high school to and from ETSU, and students will be served dinner at ETSU. Students attend seminar classes, guest speaker lectures, and workshops during these sessions.

**Summer Residential Program** - Every summer our students are invited to live on the ETSU campus for a five-week residential program. Students will be on campus Sunday evenings through Friday afternoons taking various academic and enrichment classes to help prepare them for their next year of high school. Upward Bound will not be providing transportation to/from the area high schools to ETSU during the summer component. Students will be living in residential halls on campus with Upward Bound staff and will be supervised while on campus. Students who successfully complete the summer program will have the opportunity to attend our summer trip. All of these activities (including summer trip transportation, food, housing, and admission tickets) are provided at no cost to the students or their families.

The ETSU Upward Bound program believes that students who actively participate in these activities will enhance themselves academic and ultimately better themselves for college success. While we recognize and desire for students to participate in a wide range of activities in their schools and communities, participation in the above-mentioned activities are required for students to remain in the program. The ETSU Upward Bound program, within reason, will try to accommodate students' unique situations that may prevent them from full participation in every event (for example, there have been numerous students who check out early during the summer residential program to attend practice for athletics, band, and other activities).

# Student Eligibility Form-

## THIS PAGE MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/GUARDIAN

Student is currently in the custody of the state or in a foster home: Yes  No

If yes, you do not need to fill out the remainder of this page. Please continue to the Student Information portion of the application

### I. Family Income Information

Please list the names of the people who live in your household (including yourself):

Name

Relation to student

1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____
8. _____	_____

**Please check the following accurate statement below:**

I (parent/guardian) FILED INCOME TAX FORMS LAST YEAR (2024)

If you filed income taxes last year (2024), please complete the following and submit a copy of your 2024 tax form with this application.

The information we need is your family's **TAXABLE INCOME**, not your total annual income. Taxable income is smaller than total income. Taxable income is the amount on your tax return **after all adjustments, exemptions, and deductions** have been subtracted. This amount appears on **line 15 on the 1040**. Please look at your most recent tax form before completing the following.

Taxable Income \_\_\_\_\_

Number of exemptions claimed \_\_\_\_\_

I (parent/guardian) DID NOT FILE INCOME TAX FORMS LAST YEAR (2024)

If you did NOT file income tax forms last year (2024), please complete the following:

Estimated Family Income \_\_\_\_\_

Source(s) of this income \_\_\_\_\_

Number of dependents in family \_\_\_\_\_

### II. First Generation Eligibility

Educational status of natural/adoptive parents (check all that apply):

Parent/Guardian 1

Lives with student?  Yes  No

High School Diploma

GED

2-year college

4-year college (BA/BS)

Degree beyond a BA/BS (please list):

Certifications (please list):

Parent/Guardian 2

Lives with student?  Yes  No

High School Diploma

GED

2-year college

4-year college (BA/BS)

Degree beyond a BA/BS (please list):

Certifications (please list):

## **Student Information Form**

High School Schedule: Please include both semesters of the school year:

#### Extracurricular activities: (church, sports, etc.)

Activity	Days	Time

If you have a job, where do you work? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your work schedule?                       
Mon. Tues. Wed. Thurs. Fri. Sat. Sun.

I am academically strong in:  Math  Science  Foreign Language  Social Studies

I struggle academically in:  Math  Science  Foreign Language  Social Studies

In what areas can Upward Bound help you? (Check all that apply)

- Accessing College Information
- ACT/SAT Prep
- Career Information
- Developing Leadership Skills
- Developing New Interests
- Developing Study Skills
- Discovering Learning Styles
- Finding and understanding scholarship information
- Improving English/Writing Skills
- Improving Foreign Language Skills
- Improving Math Skills
- Improving Science Skills
- Learning more about other cultures
- Meeting New People
- Personal Development
- Self-esteem & Confidence
- Setting Goals
- Time Management
- Tutoring
- Understand Financial Aid
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please write three long-term academic goals below:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## **USDA Non-Discrimination Statement**

The ETSU Upward Bound program participates in the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Summer Food Service Program. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or by fax (202) 690-7442 or by email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## **Information Release**

I hereby authorize all officials to release my high school and/or college transcripts, TCAP scores, Gateway scores, EOC scores, and any other pertinent school records and test scores to the ETSU Upward Bound program.

I understand that Upward Bound will track my post-secondary participation in accordance with grant requirements.

I understand and agree that all information furnished in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and that all information will be kept confidential.

## **Parental Consent and Release**

During the Program, students may participate in dangerous and/or hazardous activities. I expressly assume all risks involved with my Child participating in these activities. Minors may be unsupervised at certain times during the Program. Program activities include attending college preparatory academic classes, attending enrichment/elective activity classes, attending off-campus cultural/educational activities, participating in job shadowing and internship opportunities, living in a residence hall, participating in small group/large group activities and participating in recreational activities.

Release. I agree to release, waive, identify, and forever discharge the University, its agents, employees, officers, and trustees from any and all claims or liability for injury or damages (including loss or damage to property) arising from or attributable to my child's participation in or travel associated with the Program, unless it is due to the wilful fault or gross negligence on the part of the University.

Photo/Video. I hereby authorize the University and those acting pursuant to its authority to record my child's likeness and voice in any medium; use my child's name in connection with these recording; and use, reproduce, exhibit, or distribute in any medium these recording for any purpose that the University deems appropriate, including promotional or advertising efforts.

## **Parent and Student Signature**

I certify that the education and financial information that I am submitting in this application is accurate.

I certify that I agree to the Information Release and the Parental Consent and Release Statements provided in this application packet.

By signing below, the student agrees to participate in the various Upward Bound activities mentioned in the application packet. Furthermore, the parent/guardian signature below states that you (parent/guardian) support your student participating in the various activities offered by the ETSU Upward Bound program. If you have any question about activities, please do not hesitate to call the office at 423-439-5619.

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Date	Student Signature	Parent/Guardian Signature
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East Tennessee State University is fully in accord with the belief that educational and employment opportunities should be available to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, disability, veteran's status, or genetic information.

## Teacher Recommendation

## for the ETSU Upward Bound Program

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

This recommendation is to be filled out by an instructor or school administrator and returned to the student **signed and sealed**. Please rate the following areas on a scale of **1-5** (1 being the least, 5 being the greatest, and N/A if the question is non-applicable or if you have not had the opportunity to observe the student demonstrating these qualities).

## Academics

Overall academic performance	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Overall desire for academic achievement	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Overall academic effort	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Completes all academic work on time	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Goes above and beyond all academic assignments	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Organization skills	N/A	1	2	3	4	5

## Character

	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to get along with others	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Communication skills	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Respects authority	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Accepts responsibility	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Determination	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Enthusiasm	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Commitment to extracurricular activities	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Maturity	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Coping skills	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Leadership skills	N/A	1	2	3	4	5

### **Additional Comments**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title** \_\_\_\_\_