

Office of Educational Opportunity Programs

The [Office of Educational Opportunity Programs](#) was created in January 1992 to bring the MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program, the MIT Educational Talent Search Program (which operated from 1991 to 1998), and all future programs serving low-income youth in Cambridge, MA, together in one organizational location. 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.

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 Cambridge, MA, and attend Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS). Academic year 2017 marked the program's 50th year, and with the financial support of the Institute and Wellesley College, the program continued 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 graduate with a baccalaureate degree. The goal of Upward Bound is twofold: to motivate the program's clients to continue on to postsecondary education and to provide them with the fundamental skills necessary for success at the collegiate level.

Enrollment Statistics

Only 54 students were enrolled in the 2017 program year. Student data is presented in the table below.

Table 1. Student Data 2017

Total number of students served in FY2017	54
Females	19
Males	35
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Eligibility Breakdown in FY2017	
Low-income and first-generation	40
Low-income only	11
First-generation only	3

Summer Session

The 2016 summer session, which was housed at Wellesley College and ran from June 26 to August 5, provided participants with a rigorous academic, residential, college-like experience. Forty-seven of the 54 students who were served during the 2017 academic year participated in the session. Program services offered during the summer included the elements listed below.

Classes and Academic Support

Students enrolled in courses that were taught by experienced high school teachers from school districts in the Greater Boston area. Each participant enrolled 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/trigonometry, geometry, pre-calculus, and calculus; physics, biology, and chemistry; world history, US history, and the African American experience; Spanish II, Spanish III, and American Sign Language. 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 2016 academic year; credit was granted. Classes were held Monday through Friday from 9 am to 12 pm, with accompanying study halls held from 3 to 6 pm Monday through Thursday. In addition, students received specialized tutorial assistance on an “as needed” basis in the evening from 7 to 9:30 pm.

Wellesley College Summer Course Experience

Two rising seniors from the class of 2017 were given the opportunity to take a college-level sociology course through Wellesley College Summer School. Both students excelled in the course and were granted three college credits each.

Wellesley College Poster Presentations

On July 28, the students in the science classes (physics, biology, and chemistry) participated in the Wellesley College Summer Research Program Poster Session, which included Wellesley College students and Framingham High School students. These students had the opportunity to put into practice what they were learning in the science classes by sharing their scientific findings with their Upward Bound peers and staff members, Wellesley College professors and researchers, and the community. This partnership also provided the students a chance to develop research and public speaking skills, as well as to learn about careers in research and the sciences.

Workshops

Students participated in educational, recreational, and cultural workshops Monday through Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Each student enrolled in two workshops that were designed to expose them to new and creative interests or to strengthen their knowledge in more familiar areas. Workshops included a senior seminar, leadership development, team sports, dance, event planning, talent showcase, yearbook, female empowerment, fitness, tennis and swimming.

College Advising

The program hosted its annual College Day event on July 13 at Wellesley College. Representatives from 43 colleges and universities participated and more than 300 students, representing three visiting TRIO Upward Bound programs from the Greater Boston area, attended.

School-Year Session

The school-year session, located at MIT and conducted from October 3, 2016, through June 16, 2017, played an important role in participants' educational development and provided assistance and support with coursework for students' regular classes at CRLS. Program services offered during the academic year included homework supervision, academic advising, workshops, college and career advising, and field trips.

Homework Supervision

The Upward Bound office was open for study and homework supervision on a drop-in basis four days a week, Monday through Thursday, beginning on October 3. Part-time employees and volunteer tutors from MIT 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 received academic advising through monthly class meetings that took place on the following days: October 25–27, November 14–17, December 12–15, January 23–26, February 14–16, March 27–30, April 24–27, and May 22–25. The meetings provided students in each class with an opportunity to learn new material or strengthen their knowledge in the following areas: understanding current academic status, course selection requirements (in high school and in 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 and engagement.

Enrichment Workshops

Saturday enrichment workshops, which helped to address more specialized participant needs such as study-skills development, preparation for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System and the Scholastic Aptitude Test, information about the college application process, computing skills, time management, and job-readiness skills, were held on October 15, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 8, and May 6.

College Advising

Weekly individual meetings were held with senior students to guide them through the college admissions and financial aid processes.

Students visited Bentley University (October 12) and Lesley University (April 20). Furthermore, all students were required to attend and participate in the CRLS College Fair (October 5). Eleven students attended a college fair on February 24 in Warwick, RI, as part of the New England Educational Opportunity Association annual TRIO Day Celebration. Participants were able to communicate with representatives from more than 58 postsecondary education institutions.

Representatives from the following institutions visited the program office to make in-house presentations: University of New Hampshire (October 17 & 18), Salem State University (November 28), Endicott College (March 20), Boston College (May 1), and University of Massachusetts Boston (May 3).

Financial Aid Night was held on October 1 to assist parents of seniors with the financial aid application process. A financial aid counselor from MIT facilitated the workshop. A representative from the University of New Hampshire facilitated a College Application Process Workshop for seniors and seniors' parents on October 18. Representatives from the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund visited Upward Bound on January 10 to share information about this scholarship opportunity. Finally, representatives from the Posse Foundation visited the program on May 25 to discuss this scholarship opportunity and the application process.

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 or companies participated on the dates noted: students in the doctoral program of MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences (November 29); vice president of [Health Care Systems](#) (November 30); MIT's Museum Program Coordinator (December 6); immigration law and citizenship through naturalization (February 7); computer science and corporate lawyer (March 1); nurse (May 9); Montessori school teacher (May 10); student athletes coordinator (May 16); hospital web developer (May 17).

Field Trips and Activities

The students participated in the following trips and activities: a mock-interview workshop (March 1), a Cambridge Science Festival presentation (March 7), TRIO Day in Warwick, RI (February 23–24), and a community service project—a canned food drive to benefit the Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House Food Pantry (May 11). The male students participated in Young Men Leadership Development workshops on April 4 and May 3. Students from the program participated in the Cambridge Science Festival—Robot Zoo (April 15) as event volunteers.

Class of 2017

All of the program's graduating seniors (16 students) were accepted into postsecondary education institutions. Students from the program's class of 2017 will enroll in the following colleges and universities in September 2017: Boston University, Bunker Hill Community College, Clark University, Denison University, Johnson & Wales University, Lesley University, Massachusetts Bay Community College, New England College, Temple University, the University of Massachusetts Boston, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, the University of New Haven, and Wheelock College.

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. Several alumni from the classes of 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 volunteered as tutors and mentors during the winter breaks and the end of the spring semester (May–June). Two alumni from the class of 2013 continued to work with the program as staff in the 2016 summer session.

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