

UPWARD BOUND MATH SCIENCE PROGRAM

o. (201) 684-7851 ramapo.edu/stem-center/programs-grants/upward-bound

September 1, 2025

Dear Applicant and Family,

You have expressed interest in the Upward Bound Math Science Program at Ramapo College of New Jersey (UBMS). This program is funded by a federal TRIO grant through the United States Department of Education. The Ramapo College Upward Bound Math Science program gives support to secondary school students (grades 10 through 12) with college potential, in the Paterson grant target schools of Eastside High School, John F. Kennedy High School, STEAM High School and Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology. It is our goal to help them successfully complete high school with the foundation and skills necessary to pursue post-secondary education in the areas of science, math and technology. While not specifically a target school, students from PCTI may apply.

Ramapo College Upward Bound Math Science is funded to admit approximately twenty (20) new students each year. The Ramapo College UBMS program is 96% federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education at a total annual amount of \$313,568 for 61 students served for the upcoming funding year. Participants are selected based on their school record, teacher recommendations, interviews, and eligibility according to federal guidelines.

Participation

<u>Academic Year:</u> September – June

- Students remain actively involved in program from admission to graduation (sophomore—senior year) and are expected to attend all parts during the school year, in addition to the summer.
- Weekly tutoring at schools: one day/week, one hour after school with high school teachers
- Six full day Saturday sessions at the Ramapo College Campus with college professors
- 2-3 day overnight college tour in November

Summer Residential Program

- 6 week mandatory summer residency program at the end of school in June 28, 2026 August 7, 2026
- academic program designed to help students prepare for the upcoming school year
- students dropped off at Ramapo College Sunday evening and picked up Friday by 5:00pm

Eligibility

Student applicant MUST:

- 1. Attend one of the target Paterson high schools, or reside in Paterson, depending on availability
- 2. Provide proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residency, current and not expired
- 3. Provide a copy of his/her social security card
- **4.** Be eligible under <u>at least one</u> of the following criteria:
 - neither parent with a Bachelor's Degree, or
 - family income not more than 150% of the federally determined poverty level.

Please note that, as a government program, we are required to obtain personal information such as copies of birth certificates, legal immigrant status cards, social security cards and tax returns. This information is used solely to verify eligibility and is maintained in a confidential file.



Costs and Funding

- Program is **FREE** to selected students
- Fully funded by federal grant NO out of pocket cost to student/student's family except for misc. spending money
- grant covers all necessary supplies, books, transportation and lunch for Saturday sessions, and summer room and board; family provides summer residency transportation

Included with this letter is an application to participate in both the academic and summer programs for the duration of your high school years; you do not have to fill out a new application each year. Please read through **ALL** the application material carefully, and direct any questions or concerns to the UBMS staff.

NOTE: *Students observing* <u>Ramadan</u>: In years that Ramadan overlaps the summer program, special meal time considerations are granted to observant Muslim students.

Thank you for your interest in the Upward Bound Math Science program at Ramapo College. We look forward to learning more about your academic goals and aspirations.

Sincerely,

Sandra Suarez, Ph.D.

Director

e-mail: ssuarez@ramapo.edu telephone: (201) 684-7774

Brigid Nonas Assistant Director

Email: bnonas@ramapo.edu
Telephone: 201-923-1723

Some words about the program from current and former students....

Upward Bound is one of the best opportunities I've gotten to experience! This program has helped me understand and learn the material that I will have for my next school year. I've done better than ever on my state tests and have excelled in my academics. Upward Bound not only prioritizes our learning but also our mental health. This program gives us time to wind down from learning and just have fun. This program is strict but it is helpful, and they will tell you when it's time to have fun and when it's time to be serious.

-Geraldine, Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology, class of 2025, Rider University

I am thankful for ioining Upward Bound because Upward Bound reminded me that I shouldn't overthink doing new things. I shouldn't be so scared, and I should just let things happen...My (Upward Bound) classmates have very important things in common. They want to be successful. Daily in our schools, we see students who don't care about their grades, skipping classes, and not doing what they are supposed to do, but that's different in Upward Bound. I watch that all of us want to improve in the things that we are bad at, as well as in the things that we are good at, to be a better version of ourselves. Upward Bound's desire for improvement and success setting is a motivation to push me not to give up, to stand out, and to be college-ready. Upward Bound made me realize that I am not 100% prepared yet to be in college, which is understandable, but Upward Bound made me think further than I used to. Upward Bound taught me I need a time management plan. I need to know how to distribute my time between classes, homework, family, activities, hobbies, free time, and in the future when I get a job. Time management is a huge key to success, and I realized it widely thanks to Upward Bound. Flexibility, organization, and going out of your comfort zone are other meaningful things to implement. I am informed and have listened to what it takes to get into a respected college, the work, preparation, effort, time, and sacrifices that students who have goals have to make to get what they want, not just because "they want it" but because they give the amount of work that it needs to have the things that they are pursuing. At the end of the day, I enjoyed every single thing. I learned and experienced different things daily. From learning a new game in the pool, being comfortable jumping in the pool and tasting new flavors, to learning about real life, money, and advanced things that can help in my high school years.

-Isbel, Eastside High School class of 2025, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Ramapo Upward Bound Math & Science is where I can gain more experience with college life, thus I AM GRATEFUL TO BE A PART OF THIS PROGRAM. This is the best program to be a part of because it helps me through the academic year, including every Wednesday SAT prep class, the first Saturday of each month I get to do lab work, explore colleges during the November college trip, and last but not least everything we need help with academically or socially we get it from Ramapo UBMS! Ramapo Upward Bound has helped me with many things and if I had to sum it up in one phrase, it would be "how to succeed in school and college life." I've learned from UBMS that as long as we give it our all, we can do anything! The Ramapo UBMS is wonderful in every way. Classes, summer evening activities, the trips on Fridays, and the college trip in November! In conclusion, time management, self-advocacy, and the value of communication are the most significant lessons I have gained from the UBMS from my sophomore year to the present. With these abilities and knowledge, I can succeed in any aspect of my life! Being a student in the Ramapo Upward Bound Math and Science program makes me extremely happy and proud of who I am.

-Mohammed Arham, John F. Kennedy High School, class of 2024, Nursing major at William Paterson University

Being part of the Upward Bound of Ramapo College helped me a lot. I am grateful to the program because it gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge based on the classes I took in the summer. The program specifically helped me improve my English in the sense of speaking it with other people and losing my fear. Some memorable activities for me were when we visited the universities, because it helped me to know more about all the things that I might need. Also, the evening activities allowed me to meet new people from different schools. Some important lessons I learned were to always check your emails and creating a schedule will help you organize a lot. -Flavia, John F. Kennedy High School, class of 2023, Architecture major at Marywood University

Upward Bound, in my opinion, is about assisting ambitious students in accomplishing their goals. When I first joined Upward Bound, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life after high school. Now, I am leaving for NJIT in the fall to study chemistry in hopes of one day contributing to cancer research. My time at Upward Bound has been absolutely incredible. I have developed close relationships with other students who share my interests and have benefited from the mentoring of Dr. Suarez, Mrs. Nonas, and other teachers. I particularly like the summer program because I could actually picture myself in college. It helped me realize the potential I have for the future. This program offers a lot of fantastic opportunities and hope for students.

-Gisselle, Passaic County Technical Institute, class of 2023, Chemistry major at NJIT

I am very grateful to have found a program like Upward Bound. I entered Upward Bound in my junior year of high school, and it was one of the best decisions I've made. Thanks to Upward Bound, I was able to learn how beautiful and interesting physics can be, and I was also able to learn more about some stories of the Greek gods in our Latin class. Although, for me, the most amazing thing about UBMS is that they not only taught us academic things but also provided us with activities to help us socialize with our peers and counselors; one of my favorite activities was when we went fishing; without a doubt, that is a memory that will always remain in my heart. I am sure that Upward Bound summers are what I am going to miss the most from my high school experience.

-Suleimy, John F. Kennedy High School, class of 2023, Biology major at St. Peter's University

Upward Bound was one of the greatest opportunities I was able to experience in my high school years. I have grown and learned so much knowledge about college life but also myself. Honestly, this program is what made my high school experience more memorable to look back on. If I could go back to being an rising sophomore again I would, just to experience everything over again. Some may think the work is a lot but it's not, everyone that helped with the program were willing to assist if needed, which is one thing that helped a lot. One thing I would say is cherish this moment as a high school student doing this program.

-Kaylah, Panther Academy, class of 2022, Photography major at Ramapo College

There are no words to describe how grateful I am for having had the fabulous opportunity to be part of the Upward Bound program. Being part of the Ramapo College Upward Bound helped me to explore and grow critical skills. Being a part of the program offered me the chance to broaden my knowledge based on the lessons I did during the summer, for which I am grateful. My writing in English has specifically improved as a result of the curriculum. Some memorable activities for me like the evening activities allowed me to meet new people from different backgrounds and have the opportunity to know them. Some important lessons I learned were to always check your emails, manage your time wisely and don't be afraid to discover new things.

-Jared, John F. Kennedy High School, class of 2023, Engineering major at Rutgers University

One of my best life decisions was joining Upward Bound three years ago. I've benefited both academically and socially. Ramapo helped me with science, which is the subject I struggle with the most, and also taught me how to speak up for myself throughout the academic year. Along with assisting me with my studies, Ramapo has introduced me to many new friends and taken me on numerous adventures, including ice skating and a glass-making workshop. Without Ramapo, I would not have acquired the skills necessary to advocate for myself while getting the support I needed during the school year.

-Amelia, STEAM High School, class of 2024, Nursing major at Rutgers University

During my first year of college I've participated in different community services through this past semester. I've also attended different workshops about career opportunities paths and other skills. I have been having a really good time here in college. And, I couldn't be here without UBMS and I'm very thankful.
-Piero, John F. Kennedy High School, class of 2022, Psychology major at Stockton University

Ramapo College Upward Bound Math Science Program

Once your **completed** application is received and evaluated, qualified applicants will be contacted to schedule a

VIRTUAL interview. THIS IS YOUR APPLICATION CHECKLIST DO NOT return checklist with application.

Check list							
My application is complete (all 4 pages) – late and/or incomplete applications may not be reviewed							
☐ I have signed the application							
My parents have signed the application							
I have included verification of my income, A copy of my family's 2024 tax return. Page 1 & 2 – see examples for reference (based on last year's income) and it is Signed by my parent. NOTE: W-2 forms are NOT ACCEPTABLE. We did not file a tax return, so have provided other documentation as proof of income (eg. Signed form in packet - PG 3- stating your income for the last year and where it came from).							
 I have included a copy of my Citizenship or permanent residency documentation. Acceptable forms of documentation are: A. Birth certificate from the United States or Puerto Rico B. <u>United States</u> passport, or C. Current Permanent Resident Card / Green Card (<u>not expired</u>) 							
☐ I have included a copy of my social security card.							
☐ I have given the recommendation form to two of my teacl	ners (preferably math and/or science).						
I have asked my guidance counselor for my report card/so	hool transcript.						
I have completed the section asking about my parent's ed Please complete the application and email it to Mrs. Nonas,	ucation.						
bnonas@ramapo.edu or							
Hand the completed application to these guidance counselors:	Please return your application as						
Eastside – Ms. Patby	soon as possible.						
J.F.K. – Mr. Funicello	Interviews will be held virtually via Google Meet						
STEAM – Ms. Brown	once we have your application. A calendar link will be						
PCSST – Ms. Stephenson Or mail it to: emailed to you. Please choose a time that is available for both the student AND the parent/guardian. Both need to be present for the interview.							
Ramapo College of New Jersey Upward Bound Math Science 505 Ramapo Valley Road Mahwah, NJ 07430	COMPLETED student applications will be evaluated by the Upward Bound Director and Program Assistant Director and a determination made regarding whether or not an interview will be offered.						

SAMPLE PAGE - do not return with application

PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Birth Certificate

PLACE OF BIRTH

County of Citicin

Township of Leaved

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RECORD OF BIRTH

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Registered No.

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Address Of Attending physician, midwis, father, etc.*)

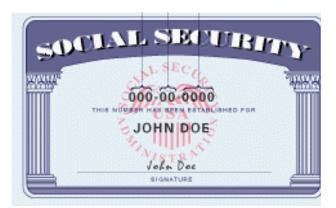
OR Permament Residence Card (Must be

Current, not expired)



Or copy of US PASSPORT

Please include a copy of your Social Security Card



Please return copies of your MOST RECENT Tax Return, pages 1-2. Page Two <u>must</u> be signed by a parent/guardian. Page One must have applicant listed as a Dependent. See below for reference.

Check only one box.	Single Married filing jointly If you checked the MFS box, enter the n person is a child but not your dependent							4 G 22
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If joint return, spo	use's first name and middle initial	Last name				JUF	7	ci estima
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Digital Assets	At any time during 2022, did you: (a) received exchange, gift, or otherwise dispose of							∏Yes ⊠No
Standard Deduction	Someone can claim: You as a d	ependent [Your spouse a	s a depen				
Age/Blindness	You: Were born before January 2,	1958	blind Spous	e: V	Vas born b	efore January	2, 1958	Is blind
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Tax return MUST be signed by a PARENT. Please only send copies that are signed.

# **Upward Bound Math Science Program Application**

Contact Information: (please print clearly)

First Name: N	1.l.: Last Nar	ne:		Gender: (	Circle) Male	e Female
Home Address:Street		Apt #	Paterson City/Town	NJ State	Zip code	
Home Phone Number:		Applicant Cell #:			•	(required for conta
Applicant Email Address:						
Mother/Legal Guardian:						
Mother/Legal Guardian Work #:		Father/Legal Guardian V	Vork#:			
Mother/Legal Guardian Cell #:		Father/Legal Guardian (	Cell #:			
Nother/Legal Guardian E-mail Address:		Father/Legal Guardian E	-mail Address:			
Citizenship Eligibility (Include a copy of your birth  US Citizen Permanent Resident Reside		ort or residency card an				
Date of Birth/ Social Security # _			(mus	t be currei	nt)	
Country you were born in:		Primary Language spok	en at home:			
f you were not born in the United States, when did you emigra	te?					
ncome Eligibility (The government requires a copy	of your <b>2024</b> incom	ne tax return – see previou:	s pages for examp	oles)		
dow many people live in your home (in addition to you	)?					
What was the approximate total family income for <b>202</b> 4	4?					
Are you eligible for free lunch? (Circle) Yes	No					
irst Generation Eligibility						
<b>Mother:</b> The highest level of education that my Mothe	r or legal guardian h	as completed was: □ Hi	gh <b>school</b> □	University	☐ Neithe	r
If your mother/guardian earned a college degree, p		·	Baccalaureate	☐ Masters	□ Doctor	
Name of University		State/Country				
<b>Tather:</b> The highest level of education that my Father	er or legal guardian c	completed was: ☐ Hig	h school 🗆 U	Iniversity	□ Neither	
If your father/guardian earned a college degree, ple	ease indicate the lev	el: 🗆 Associate 🗆 🛭	Baccalaureate	☐ Masters	□ Doctor	ate
Name of University		State/Country				
Verification of Information						
certify that all of the information provided in thi	is application is tru	ue.				
Applicant Signature	 Date	Parent/Guar	dian Signature			Date

Applicant's Name:	School/Academy

# **Upward Bound Math Science Program Application**

Educational Information:	* Fill in th	nis section with the help	of your guidance counselor	
High School/ Academy you attend	l:			
Current Grade:	Expected Year of High	gh School Graduation:	Current GPA:	
STATE testing Scores (if Available): N	ame of Test:	Date Taken:	:	
Math Score: Language	Arts/English Score:	Other:		
Guidance Counselor's name:		Guidance Cou	nselor's phone number:	
Guidance counselor's email:				
Information Release:				
I hereby give my consent that, up to the Ramapo College Upward Bo secondary institutions attended a	ound Math Science Pr	ogram for the duration of	f my child's high school enrollme	
Applicant's Signature	Date	Parent/Gu	uardian Signature	Date
		Parents/G	Guardian <i>printed</i> name	
References:				
Please list the two people you are	asking to fill out the r	ecommendation form.		
I asked Mr./Miss/Mrs./Ms.:		to fill	out one recommendation form	
This is my:   Science Teacher	☐ Math Teacher	☐ Guidance Counselor	☐ Other	
I asked Mr./Miss/Mrs./Ms.:		to fill	out the other recommendation	form.
This is my: ☐ <b>Science Teacher</b>	☐ Math Teacher [	☐ Guidance Counselor	□ Other	

Applicant's Name: _		ool/Academy	
	Upward Bound Math Science	e Pro	gram Application
	Household Declarat	ion c	of Income
The following people,	including applicant, resided in my househ	old:	
Name		Age	Relationship to Applicant
1			Upward Bound Applicant (self)
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Our total income for 2024 was: \$	
Our income was obtained from the following	ources:
l,Parent/Guardian Name (Print)	certify that this information is correct.
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date

	PAGE 4
Applicant's Name:	School/Academy
Upward Bound Math Sci	ence Program Application
Please answer the following questions in clear and compl	ete sentences. Additional sheets may be used, if necessary.
1. What is your favorite subject in school? Please explain why.	
	<del>-</del>
2. In your opinion, what is your greatest weakness and greatest	strength (Could be academic, social, personal, etc.)? Explain.
	<del></del>
3. What extracurricular activities/sports/jobs do you participate	in?
	<del></del>
4. What are your post high school graduation plans?	
5. What careers are you thinking about? If you are not considering	—  ng a math or science related field, why are you interested in
participating in the Upward Bound Math Science program?	

# Ramapo College Upward Bound Math Science Program

# **Recommendation Form #1**

(give this form to your teacher or counselor)

Reference's Name:									
What is your current position?	☐ Math Teacher	☐ Science	Teacher $\square$ Guic	lance Counselor	☐ Other				
Student Name:	Student Name: School/Academy:								
How long have you known this stu	dent and in what	capacity?							
How familiar are you with the Ram Not at all familiar: I have only hear Somewhat: I have recommended s Very familiar – I understand the co	d of it by name tudents for it bef mmitment stude	ore and I knownts are expect	v it is an academic ed to make for thr	program. ee years.					
Does the student show the ability/	motivation to be	nefit from the	services that the p	rogram offers? V	Vill they do the work? Explain.				
Why do you recommend this stude	ent to participate	in this prograi	m?						
Please rate this student regarding	the following cha	racteristics:							
Sense of responsibility	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge				
Level of academic motivation	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge				
Level of Maturity	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge				
Cooperation with authority	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge				
Leadership abilities	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge				
Class attendance	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge				
General classroom behavior	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge				
Do you have any other comments	to make that wou	uld aid in our d	lecision about this	student?					
	Signed:				date:				

Please return to Brigid Nonas bnonas@ramapo.edu

# Ramapo College Upward Bound Math Science Program

# **Recommendation Form #2**

(give this form to your teacher or counselor)

Reference's Name:								
What is your current position?	☐ Math Teacher	☐ Science	Teacher □ Guid	lance Counselor	☐ Other			
Student Name: School/Academy:								
How long have you known this stud	ent and in what	capacity?						
How familiar are you with the Rama Not at all familiar: I have only heard Somewhat: I have recommended st Very familiar – I understand the con	of it by name udents for it be	ore and I knov	v it is an academic	program.				
Does the student show the ability/n	notivation to be	nefit from the	services that the p	rogram offers? \	Will they do the work? Explain.			
Why do you recommend this studer	nt to participate	in this progra	m?					
lease rate this student regarding th	ne following cha	racteristics:						
Sense of responsibility	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge			
Level of academic motivation	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge			
Level of Maturity	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge			
Cooperation with authority	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge			
Leadership abilities	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge			
Class attendance	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge			
General classroom behavior	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No ability to judge			
Do you have any other comments to	o make that wo	uld aid in our d	ecision about this	student?				
c:	gned:				date:			

Please return to Brigid Nonas bnonas@ramapo.edu