

May 1, 2026

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

Academic Year: 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 at least one 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

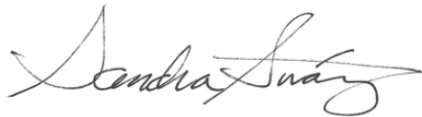
- Program is **FREE** to selected students
- Fully funded by federal grant - NO out of pocket cost to student/student's family except for misc. spending money
- grant covers all necessary supplies, books, transportation and lunch for Saturday sessions, and summer room and board; family provides summer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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sandra Suarez".

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 joining 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 **2025** 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. **United States** passport, or
 - C. Current Permanent Resident Card / Green Card (not expired)
- I have included a copy of my social security card.
- I have given the recommendation form to two of my teachers (preferably math and/or science).
- I have asked my guidance counselor for my report card/school transcript.
- I have completed the section asking about my parent's education.

Please complete the application and email it to Mrs. Nonas,

bnonas@ramapo.edu

or

Hand the completed application to these guidance counselors:

- Eastside – Ms. Patby
 - J.F.K. – Ms. Phillips
 - STEAM – Ms. Brown
 - PCSST – Ms. Stephenson
- Or mail it to:

**Ramapo College of New Jersey
Upward Bound Math Science
505 Ramapo Valley Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430**

Please return your application as soon as possible.

Interviews will be held virtually via Google Meet once we have your application. A calendar link will be 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.

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.

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

Form **1040** Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service **2024** U.S. Individual Income Tax Return **5** OMB No. 1545-0074

Filing Status Single Married filing jointly Married filing separately (MFS) Head of household (HOH) Qualifying surviving spouse (QSS)
 Check only one box. If you checked the MFS box, enter the name of your spouse. If you checked the HOH or QSS box, enter the child's name if the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent.

Your first name and middle initial: JOSE
 Last name: SMITH
 If joint return, spouse's first name and middle initial: _____
 Last name: _____

Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see instructions.
1 PATERSON AVE APT 1
 City, town, or post office. If you have a foreign address, also complete spaces below.
PATERSON State: **NJ** ZIP code: **07522**
 Foreign country name: _____ Foreign province/state/county: _____ Foreign postal code: _____

Digital Assets At any time during 2022, did you: (a) receive (as a reward, award, or payment for property or services); or (b) sell, exchange, gift, or otherwise dispose of a digital asset (or a financial interest in a digital asset)? (See instructions.) Yes No

Standard Deduction Someone can claim: You as a dependent Your spouse as a dependent Spouse itemizes on a separate return or you were a dual-status alien

Age/Blindness You: Were born before January 2, 1958 Are blind Spouse: Was born before January 2, 1958 Is blind

Dependents (see instructions):		(2) Social security number	(3) Relationship to you	(4) Check the box if qualifies for (see instructions):	
(1) First name	Last name			Child tax credit	Credit for other dependents
JEREMY	SMITH	671-22-6634	SON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Income	1a	1b	1c	1d	1e	1f	1g	1h	1i	1j	1z
1a Total amount from Form(s) W-2, box 1 (see instructions)											
b Household employee wages not reported on Form(s) W-2											
c Tip income not reported on line 1a (see instructions)											
d Medicaid waiver payments not reported on Form(s) W-2 (see instructions)											
e Taxable dependent care benefits from Form 2441, line 26											
f Employer-provided adoption benefits from Form 8839, line 29											
g Wages from Form 8919, line 6											
h Other earned income (see instructions)											
i Nontaxable combat pay election (see instructions)											
z Add lines 1a through 1h											
2a Tax-exempt interest	2a										
3a Qualified dividends	3a										
4a IRA distributions	4a										
5a Pensions and annuities	5a										
6a Social security benefits	6a										
c If you elect to use the lump-sum election method, check here (see instructions)											
7 Capital gain or (loss). Attach Schedule D if required. If not required, check here											
8 Other income from Schedule 1, line 10											
9 Add lines 1z, 2b, 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7, and 8. This is your total income											4,780
10 Adjustments to income from Schedule 1, line 26											334
11 Subtract line 10 from line 9. This is your adjusted gross income											4,386
12 Standard deduction or itemized deductions (from Schedule A)											19,400
13 Qualified business income deduction from Form 8995 or Form 8995-A											
14 Add lines 12 and 13											19,400
15 Subtract line 14 from line 11. If zero or less, enter -0-. This is your taxable income											

SPA For Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions. 1037 CPTS 2US011 Form 1040 (2022)

Student's name must be listed here. If not on your tax return, we need the tax return where the applicant is listed as dependent.

Upward Bound Math Science Program Application

Contact Information: (please print clearly)

First Name: _____ M.I.: _____ Last Name: _____ Gender: (Circle) Male Female

Home Address: _____
Street Apt # Paterson NJ City/Town State Zip code

Home Phone Number: _____ Applicant Cell #: _____ (required for contact)

Applicant Email Address: _____ (required for further contact, do not include a PPS email)

Mother/Legal Guardian: _____ Father/Legal Guardian: _____

Mother/Legal Guardian Work #: _____ Father/Legal Guardian Work#: _____

Mother/Legal Guardian Cell #: _____ Father/Legal Guardian Cell #: _____

Mother/Legal Guardian E-mail Address: _____ Father/Legal Guardian E-mail Address: _____

Citizenship Eligibility (Include a copy of your birth certificate/passport or residency card and Social Security card)

US Citizen _____ Permanent Resident Residency Number _____ expires _____
(must be current)

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Social Security # _____ - _____ - _____

Country you were born in: _____ Primary Language spoken at home: _____

If you were not born in the United States, when did you emigrate? _____

Income Eligibility (The government requires a copy of your **2025** income tax return – see previous pages for examples)

How many people live in your home (in addition to you)? _____

What was the approximate total family income for **2025**? _____

Are you eligible for free lunch? (Circle) **Yes** **No**

First Generation Eligibility

Mother: The highest level of education that my Mother or legal guardian has completed was: High school University Neither

If your mother/guardian earned a college degree, please indicate the level: Associate Baccalaureate Masters Doctorate

Name of University _____ State/Country _____

Father: The highest level of education that my Father or legal guardian completed was: High school University Neither

If your father/guardian earned a college degree, please indicate the level: Associate Baccalaureate Masters Doctorate

Name of University _____ State/Country _____

Verification of Information

I certify that all of the information provided in this application is true.

Applicant Signature Date Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Applicant's Name: _____ School/Academy _____

Upward Bound Math Science Program Application

Household Declaration of Income

The following people, including applicant, resided in my household:

Name	Age	Relationship to Applicant
1		<i>Upward Bound Applicant (self)</i>
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Our total income for 2025 was: \$ _____

Our income was obtained from the following sources:

- Salary from working
- Social Security
- Disability
- Child support
- Other _____

I, _____ certify that this information is correct.
 Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

 Parent/Guardian Signature

 Date

Applicant's Name: _____ School/Academy _____

Upward Bound Math Science Program Application

Please answer the following questions in clear and complete sentences. Additional sheets may be used, if necessary.

1. What is your favorite subject in school? Please explain why.

2. In your opinion, what is your greatest weakness and greatest strength (Could be academic, social, personal, etc.)? Explain.

3. What extracurricular activities/sports/jobs do you participate in?

4. What are your post high school graduation plans?

5. What careers are you thinking about? If you are not considering 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 Guidance Counselor Other _____

Student Name: _____ School/Academy: _____

How long have you known this student and in what capacity? _____

How familiar are you with the Ramapo College Upward Bound Math Science Program?

Not at all familiar: I have only heard of it by name

Somewhat: I have recommended students for it before and I know it is an academic program.

Very familiar – I understand the commitment students are expected to make for three years.

Does the student show the ability/motivation to benefit from the services that the program offers? Will they do the work? Explain.

Why do you recommend this student to participate in this program?

Please rate this student regarding the following characteristics:

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 would aid in our decision 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 Guidance Counselor Other _____

Student Name: _____ School/Academy: _____

How long have you known this student and in what capacity? _____

How familiar are you with the Ramapo College Upward Bound Math Science Program?

Not at all familiar: I have only heard of it by name

Somewhat: I have recommended students for it before and I know it is an academic program.

Very familiar – I understand the commitment students are expected to make for three years.

Does the student show the ability/motivation to benefit from the services that the program offers? Will they do the work? Explain.

Why do you recommend this student to participate in this program?

Please rate this student regarding the following characteristics:

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 would aid in our decision about this student?

Signed: _____ date: _____

Please return to Brigid Nonas bnonas@ramapo.edu

