Mission Statement

To provide outreach and access through a wide range of services designed to facilitate the continuance and expansion of educational opportunities to individuals from diverse backgrounds facing unique challenges. By collaborating with schools, community based organizations and government agencies we will serve as an advocate for this populace, upholding ideals of integrity, leadership, accountability, and excellence.

Executive Summary (focus on programs & services offered)

The Office of Educational Opportunity and TRIO Programs continues to be one of the University’s primary vehicles for outreach to the greater Atlanta community. Its vision is to maximize student potential through experiential and traditional learning to create productive citizens and leaders capable of contribution to society, leading to local and national recognition.

The Office serves as the coordinating body for a variety of programs designed to provide access to educational opportunities, increase retention and graduation rates as well as prepare students for doctoral study. It continues its efforts to help the University in the service of students from low income, first generation and disabled groups in higher education. To accomplish these goals it coordinates the efforts of a number of externally funded projects. Among its current programs are the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS), Educational Opportunity Center (EOC), Educational Talent Search Program (ETS), Student Support Services (SSS), Student Support Services Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (SSS-STEM), Atlanta-Gwinnett Upward Bound Program (UB), DeKalb Upward Bound Program (UB) the Upward Bound /Math Science Center (UB/MS) and the Veterans Upward Bound (VUB). All of the above Programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Education and must submit a competitive proposal every four years to continue to receive funding, as well as submit annually Performance Report.

The services provided by the Department include the following:

- Academic tutoring, study skills and related workshops
- Financial literacy education
- Assistance with the FAFSA
- Assistance in applications for graduate and professional schools
- Individual counseling (academic and career)
- Career exploration and development
- Intrusive academic advisement and performance monitoring
- Academic mid-point (semester) reviews
- Cultural events-annual as well as smaller ones throughout the year
- Field trips
- Workshops-led by staff, faculty, and outside presenters
- Chat and Chew seminars- guest presenters
- Research conferences
- Peer mentoring
- Advocacy
- Collaborative referral services
- Grant Aid
- Individual Action Plans and career paths
- Individual academic assessments
- Academic, personal and career advising
- Special services for students with disabilities
Georgia State University
Division of Student Affairs
The Office of Educational Opportunity and TRIO Programs

- Research opportunities
- Faculty mentoring
- Assistance with technical writing skills
- Assistance with oral presentation skills
- Child Care services

Annual Department Major Events/Traditions
- Cultural Event held annually for the entire GSU campus and surrounding communities
- “Community Connections”
- Classic SSS and SSS-STEM Award Ceremony
- C.T. Cummings Scholarships
- Upward Bound/Upward Math Science Award Ceremonies
- Hands on Atlanta Day (Collaboration with the Office of Civic Engagement)
- Partnership with the Atlanta High Museum of Art
- Partnership with the “My College Options”, service from the National Research center for college & University Admissions Organization
- Collaboration with Georgia Perimeter College Educational Outreach Program (Senior Student “Futures Fair”)

Major New Initiatives Implemented Within the Last Five Years
- College Goal Sunday
- Council for Opportunity in Education’s “eProfiles” college search information system
- Freshman Male Institute
- Student Support Services Summer Bridge Component
- Cultural Competency (Awareness) Symposium
- TRIO Ambassador Program
- Upward Bound Parent Advisory Board
- Student Council Representing Upward bound Students (S.C.R.U.B.S.)
- Participation with the Atlanta University Center Graduate Forum
- Requiring all students in our program to learn about financial literacy each semester (repaying loans, avoiding debt, budgeting, etc.)
- Focusing on recruiting female STEM students and creating a program specific to their needs - currently
- Online tutoring
- Combining resources with Classic SSS and SSS-STEM to best utilize funds, time, staff
- Student Ambassador group
- Community Service
- Honor Society (XAE) for SSS participants with a GPA of 3.0 or higher - currently
- Established new partnerships with the Georgia Piedmont and Atlanta Technical Colleges, Salvation Army Kroc Center, the Fatherhood Program and the Dunbar Center (assisting the participants with college admission standardized test preparation and financial aid as well as GED participants with continuing their education)
- Participate with the Dream Team and Congressman David Scott Job Fairs

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