What is TRIO—Student Support Services?

In the 1960s, individuals in the federal government who were committed to advancing education and opportunity recognized that a lot of intelligent, capable students struggled to make it through college because they did not have the advantage of financial or cultural capital. In response, a trio of programs—including Upward Bound, Talent Search, and what would later be called Student Support Services— was created to provide opportunity.

At Bowie State University, Student Support Services (SSS) provides a variety of services and resources to help TRIO Achievers meet their goals, including:

- Knowledgeable tutors and subject-matter experts in writing and math
- Off campus cultural, leadership, and service events
- Workshops on financial literacy, math, writing, study skills, and applying for graduate school
- Academic advising and counseling for first and second-year students
- Individualized resume, job, internship, and scholarship consultations
- Access to a computer lab and printer

Previous Achievers

- Ahmed Outarra
  Criminal Justice - Class of 2020
- Saniyah Whittington
  Social Work - Class of 2018
- Tonaye Hinton
  Biology - Class of 2018

Who are TRIO Achievers?

TRIO Achievers aspire to be doctors, lawyers, artists, and entrepreneurs. They are athletes, student leaders, book lovers, and math whizzes. They struggle in their courses and they make the Dean’s List. They work while in college and focus exclusively on their studies. They are recent high school graduates and non-traditional students. TRIO Achievers come from all walks of life. The one thing they have in common is that they chose to give themselves as many advantages as possible so they could reach their goals.

All U.S. citizens or permanent residents who meet one or more of the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- First-generation college student: a student whose parents or guardians have not yet received a bachelor’s degree
- Low to modest income household: a student whose family meets federal income eligibility guidelines
- College student with a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability that may impact their success

Bowie State University’s TRIO/SSS program receives 100% of its funding from an annual grant from the U.S. Department of Education.
WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF TRIO?

Students who choose to become TRIO Achievers are joining the ranks of highly successful individuals, including entertainer and media executive Oprah Winfrey, actresses Angela Bassett and Viola Davis, astronaut Bernard Harris, NBA basketball player A.C. Green, ABC news correspondent John Quinones, Congresswoman Gwendolynne Moore, and many more.

Bowie State University’s TRIO-SSS program aims to help Achievers reach their goals and prepare for life after college. We aspire for Achievers to:

- Bring their brilliance confidently into the world
- Understand and capitalize on their strengths
- Express ideas effectively and compassionately
- Broaden perspectives and understanding by immersing in diverse cultures and experiences
- Cultivate healthy and enriching interpersonal relationships
- Be financially empowered
- Develop a strong network of support
- Invest in high quality work
- Recognize their power to change circumstances through service and social responsibility

Bowie State University undergraduates who meet the eligibility criteria are invited to fill out an application that may be picked up in JEP 202 or accessed online at www.BSUTRIO.com

Admission to TRIO/Student Support Services is not automatic. Completed applications will be evaluated for eligibility and admission. Once admitted, applicants will be notified.

HISTORY

The TRIO name itself was born in 1968 to include the Special Services for Disadvantaged Students program – what is now called Student Support Services (SSS). The Upward Bound (UB) Program was the first Federal TRIO Program in 1964. A year later, Talent Search (TS) was created to assist students applying for newly authorized federal financial aid for postsecondary education. UB, TS and SSS formed a trio of Federal programs designed to foster increased educational opportunity and attainment.

The TRIO programs established later include Educational Opportunity Centers, Veterans’ Upward Bound, the Ronald E. McNair program, and Upward Bound Math & Science. TRIO programs are administered by the U.S. Department of Education and serve nearly 700,000 Americans nationwide.