



# UCHICAGO PROMISE

UChicago Promise is the University of Chicago's pledge to increase college access and readiness for Chicago high school students.

Following a 2008 study that found only 28% of Chicago Public School students who were academically qualified enrolled in a selective college, UChicago Promise was launched as part of the University's long-standing commitment to providing opportunities for students in the city. UChicago Promise offers a variety of resources for Chicago students who are interested in attending the University of Chicago or other selective institutions. The goal of Promise is to support Chicago students in achieving their educational aspirations and ensure that they have the tools necessary to find the best college match. This extends to every student who is a resident of Chicago and attends any high school within the City of Chicago.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Thanks to our No Barriers policy, any applicant who intends to apply for need-based financial aid, regardless of residency, will have the \$75 application fee automatically waived. In addition, all Chicago residents who attend high school in Chicago, regardless of their intent to apply for need-based aid, qualify to receive a UChicago fee waiver.

The University of Chicago awards up to full-tuition, merit-based scholarships to select Chicago families every year. These scholarships include:

- **Chicago Public Schools Scholarship**
- **City Colleges of Chicago Star Scholarship**
- **Chicago Police and Fire Scholarship**
- **Chicago Public Schools Educators Award Scholarship**
- **Individual scholarships to students from specific high schools**

## COUNSELOR RESOURCES

We will tailor a year of programming and Admissions Academy curriculum according to your school's specific interests and needs.

### Options for workshops and programs through the Admissions Academy include:

- Highly selective admissions session (available in English and Spanish)
- Financial aid session (available in English and Spanish)
- Coalition Application information session
- Finding the Right Fit session
- Navigating the College Application (Common and Coalition applications) session
- Why the Liberal Arts session
- Essay writing workshop
- Mock applications / case studies program

## University Engagement in K-12 Education

UChicago Promise builds on a strong foundation of programs and initiatives sponsored by the University that seek to foster educational excellence in Chicago students. These include, but are not limited to:

### Civic and Community Engagement

**The Early Achievers Program:** Designed exclusively for Chicago students in kindergarten through eighth grade, this program includes campus visits for local primary school children and age-appropriate workshops that promote a college-going culture.

**University Community Service Center:** Founded in 1996 by former First Lady Michelle Obama, the University Community Service Center (UCSC) connects University students with service opportunities around the city, many related to education. Each year, more than 2,000 students participate in UCSC programs and events in partnership with over 250 organizations throughout Chicago.

**Neighborhood Schools Program:** The Neighborhood Schools Program (NSP) connects University of Chicago students with schools, public service offices, and local community organizations. Founded in 1976, NSP matches over 500 undergraduate and graduate students with 50 sites in South Side communities. Together, these students provide more than 35,000 hours of support each year. University students work as teaching assistants, technology assistants, administrative interns, and general support staff, impacting the lives of thousands of children annually.



UChicago offers support to students early on in their academic career to help give them the tools for success at any of the nation's top universities.



UChicago Admissions Counselors advise students on campus and at their schools, offering mock interviews, essay-writing workshops, and recommendations for putting together a strong application.

### College Prep Initiatives

**College Bridge Program:** The College Bridge Program enables advanced CPS students who have completed all of their school's requirements in a particular subject area to enroll in rigorous coursework at the University of Chicago with tuition, fees, and textbooks fully funded by the University. The program is open to rising juniors and seniors in high school and serves students during summer and the academic year.

**Collegiate Scholars Program:** The University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program (CSP) is a three-year program that aims to prepare high-achieving and underrepresented Chicago Public Schools students in grades 10-12 for admission and success at the nation's top colleges and universities. CSP students pursue a core curriculum of humanities, social science, math, and physical science courses taught by University of Chicago faculty and graduate students in the summer, and enrichment activities geared toward college readiness, leadership development, cultural awareness, and civic engagement during the academic year.

**Upward Bound and the Office of Special Programs:** The University of Chicago is home to the nation's first Upward Bound college readiness program. The program is federally funded, and many prominent Chicagoans have completed the program before going on to successful college and professional careers. It includes Saturday School, after-school tutoring during the week, a robust summer program, college tours, and a host of other programs aimed to prepare Chicago high school students for collegiate study.

## Urban Education Institute

# UEI

The University of Chicago Urban Education Institute is dedicated to creating knowledge that produces reliably excellent schooling for children growing up in urban America. UEI operates the four campuses of the University of Chicago Charter School, serving approximately 1,900 students on the South Side of Chicago. It prepares outstanding urban teachers and leaders through the Urban Teacher Education Program; undertakes rigorous research, anchored by the Consortium on Chicago School Research, to improve policy and practice; and provides tools, analytics, and training to schools nationwide.