



# UChicago Promise

**UChicago Promise is the University of Chicago's pledge to help increase college access and readiness for Chicago high school students**, as part of the University's long-standing commitment to providing opportunities for students in the city. Launched following a 2008 study that found only 28% of Chicago Public Schools students who were academically qualified to attend a selective college enrolled in one, UChicago Promise offers a variety of resources for those interested in attending the University of Chicago or another selective college.

The goal of Promise is to support Chicago students in achieving their educational aspirations and to ensure that they have the tools necessary to make 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. **We must do better—and we will.**

## UChicago Promise includes the following:

### OUR PLEDGE: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The University of Chicago awards full-tuition, merit-based scholarships to select Chicago families every year. Scholarships include the Chicago Public Schools Scholarship, The City Colleges of Chicago Star Scholarship, The Chicago Police and Fire Scholarship, and individual scholarships to students from specific high schools.

### APPLICATION FEE WAIVER

All Chicago residents who attend high school in Chicago will have the \$75 application fee automatically waived when applying to UChicago. In addition, any applicant who intends to apply for need-based financial aid, regardless of residency, will have the fee automatically waived.

### ADMISSIONS ACADEMY

The Admissions Academy supports educators by providing professional development and other assistance. It also provides guidance for students and families navigating the college admissions and financial aid processes—whether they are applying to UChicago or any other selective four-year college.

For more information or to register for events, please visit [promise.uchicago.edu](http://promise.uchicago.edu).

### MENTORING AND PREPARATION

In coordination with professional staff from the Admissions Office, current college students serve as UChicago Promise Interns, working with counselors to help coach students at schools in the community where they are assigned.

## University Engagement in K-12 Education

UChicago Promise builds on a strong foundation of programs and initiatives sponsored by the University that help Chicago students get the best chance at an excellent education. These include, but are not limited to:

### Civic and Community Engagement

**The Early Achievers Program** was designed exclusively for Chicago K-8th grade students. It 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 First Lady Michelle Obama, the UCSC provides students with service opportunities that complement a rigorous academic experience. UCSC offers different community service options that tailor to student interests: volunteer referral, student-run groups, campus-wide days of service, first-year pre-orientation service week, community-building and social justice programs, tie-ins with course work, and internships and federal work-study employment at local organizations, including community non-profits, hospitals, businesses, and government agencies. Each year, more than 2,000 students participate in UCSC programs and events in partnership with more than 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. NSP, founded 40 years ago, matches over 350 undergraduate and graduate students to 50 sites within 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 and impact the lives of thousands of children each year.



UChicago supports students early on in their academic career in order to 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

**Collegiate Scholars Program:** The University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program (CSP) was founded in 2003 as 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 is shaped around a core curriculum of humanities, social science, math, and science courses during the summer months taught by University of Chicago faculty and PhD candidates, and enrichment activities geared toward college readiness, leadership development, cultural awareness, and civic engagement during the academic year.

**Upward Bound/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 to produce reliably excellent schooling for children growing up in urban America. UEI operates the four campuses of the University of Chicago Charter School, serving approximately 1,700 students on the South Side of Chicago; prepares outstanding urban teachers and leaders through the Urban Teacher Education Program; undertakes rigorous research to improve policy and practice, anchored by the Consortium on Chicago School Research; and provides tools, analytics, and training to improve schools nationwide.