The Upward Bound Program is dedicated to helping at risk high school students achieve success through higher education. Students in their Freshmen, Sophomore, and Junior year of high school participate in the Non-Bridge portion of the program. The program consists of monthly meetings, a yearly academic bowl versus other Upward Bound programs, and various visits to college campuses. During the year, students also participate in weekly tutoring sessions to help improve their academic performance. The goal of the program is to help the students become more competitive applicants for college. Students have the opportunity to participate in extra academic classes and live on a college campus during the Summer Academic Institute portion of the program. This year, the Summer Academic Institute took place from June 2, 2008 to July 7, 2008.

At the end of the summer portion, students are asked to evaluate their experiences throughout the year in the classes, during field trips, with staff, the food, and in the dormitories. The survey instructs students to rate the various categories using the following scale: 1) Unacceptable, 2) Acceptable, 3) Average, 4) Above Average, 5) Excellent. In addition, the students fill out a free response section in which they answer questions about their favorite and least favorite portions of the program. This allowed students the opportunity to provide positive and constructive feedback. A total of 31 surveys from Non-Bridge students were compiled and analyzed. Areas of excellence are defined by a score of 4.5 or higher, while areas of concern are defined as rating below 3.0. The following report includes highlights from the students’ responses.
During the Summer Academic Institute, students participated in academic courses throughout the day including electives in the morning and core classes in the afternoon (Math, English, and Science). Students rated their elective courses an average of 4.06, with Cultural Awareness (4.88), Government (5.00), Psychology (4.25), Spanish 1 (3.80), and Spanish 2 (4.25). The least liked electives were Performing Arts (2.67) and Sociology (3.60). Overall, Math classes had a mean score of 4.96. Students evaluated Geometry (5.00), Algebra II (5.00), Pre-Calculus (4.83), Calculus (5.00), and Math classes in which students did not specifically state which class received an average score of 4.75. English classes obtained a mean score of 4.47. Students evaluated English II (4.33), English III (4.00), English IV (5.00), and English classes in which students did not specifically state which class received an average of 4.56. Science classes obtained a mean of 3.73. IPC (4.67), Chemistry (2.50), Anatomy (4.00), Physics (3.83), and Science classes in which students did not specifically state which class received an average of 3.63.

Other areas of interest are food quality and food quantity, which averaged 4.26 and 4.07 respectively. The two categories are evaluated more in depth in an expanded survey that focused on the food component of the program. On the other hand, students averaged the UB Bowl as 4.35, and our Flagship/Aquarium fieldtrip, with a mean score of 4.54. Students also felt that the Resident Advisors during the Summer Academic Institute rated an average of 4.20. Upward Bound Intervention Specialists Belinda De La Garza (4.59) and April Jasso (4.50), Program Specialist Danny Galvez (4.81), Office Clerks L.D Ramos (4.70), Rosa Jimenez (4.60), and Amanda Rodriguez (4.50), and Program Director Herminio Ibañez (4.84) received excellent mean scores. Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi campus obtained an average score of 4.74.
In the free response section students were asked to state their opinion to specific questions; the most frequent responses are cited. Students stated that their favorite parts of the program were the dorms, afternoon activities, the classes, and spending time with fellow students. Some of the least favorite portions of the program were the early hours and the discipline. In order to have a more enjoyable program students suggested that more activities be provided. Thirty-one students (100%) responded yes when asked if they would be returning in the following academic year. In the additional comment section, students responded with positive comments about having enjoyed their time during the program.

The goal of the survey is to provide a comprehensive assessment of the student experience in the 2008 Upward Bound Program and Summer Academic Institute. The survey and the summary were designed to be objective and provide a positive and constructive evaluation of all portions of the program.

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Favorite Part

- **Summer Component**
  - **Live-in**
    - The dorms (9)
      - Roommates (1)
    - Activities (10)
      - Soccer (5)
      - Running (1)
      - Free Time (3)
      - Breakers (1)
  - **Classes (5)**
    - Learning
    - English class
    - My favorite part is the classes
    - Learning a lot
    - Class
  - **Everything (4)**
    - Everything
    - All of it
    - Everything it’s awesome
    - Having fun
  - **Students (8)**
    - Getting the chance to meet new people
    - Always being with my friends and meeting new people
    - Getting the opportunity to know and interact with great people
    - Meeting new people
    - Conversing with others and making new friends
    - I feel like all the students have become closer because of this experience
    - Meeting my friend
    - My roommate
Least Favorite Part

- **Time(3)**
  - Waking up early but it’s ok it’s understandable
  - Waking up early and lights out
  - The early hours

- **Classes(4)**
  - Spanish class
  - Theatre Arts teacher
  - Homework
  - Science class

- **Dorms(7)**
  - Disrespectful students
  - Pushups
  - Punishment
  - Not a lot of free time (2)
  - Ant problem
  - Roommate
  - Rules

- **Moving out(3)**
- **Food(2)**
  - Breakfast
- **NA/Nothing(11)**
  - I don’t have one
  - Nothing
  - My suitemate…. just kidding nothing
  - Well, I wasn’t here for a while so I appreciated all of it
Suggestions

- **Dorms (3)**
  - Make sure dorms are clean and no bug problems
  - Have computers in dorms because we would have homework and it was involving computers
  - Please make sure there is someone to do dorm maintenance because our toilet overflowed and I had to clean it myself

- **Activities (9)**
  - Have us in groups more often. We have so much fun when we are all together.
  - Create more afternoon activities.
  - Give more free time. (2)
  - Little more free time but activities are so much fun.
  - Football
  - Basketball court
  - Keep Soccer
  - To have running and volleyball as activities.

- **Discipline (5)**
  - Punishment should be implemented on all students no exceptions.
  - Punishment should not always occur.
  - More discipline
  - Chill on some of the rules.
  - More freedom to walk by ourselves.

- **Students/Staff (3)**
  - Some staff members should be more friendly and not rude.
  - Get rid of Chris.
  - Fire Mr. Lee he was mean. But keep Ryan.

- **N/A/Nothing (11)**
  - IDK
  - Nothing(2)
  - None(3)
  - N/A(4)
  - No I just loved it …..What can I say?
Will you continue your participation in Upward Bound Program next school year?

Yes - 31  
No – 0  

Additional Comments

- N/A (10)
- There was a particular certain student who brought a lot of fun in the program way down. *Chris Munro, but he did get better but still bad though.
- This year was the best year ever!
- It was a great experience and I’m looking forward to attending next year. Danny was cool and so awesome. Frankie and Chelsea were cool.
- The staff rocks! Danny is awesome, April is kind, and Mr. Ibañez is great. These people really help people in need. Bell is cool, Mrs. Olive was one of my favorite teachers, Angelica was a great teacher, and Mr. Ibañez is a great government teacher.
- I had a great time this summer! The only bad thing about it was the food choices but we still had good food! Thank you to all the staff who helped make this happen! I’m looking forward to next summer!
- Danny was cool! Chelsea was cool too! Hated dorm mates!! Theater Arts was falsely advertised and when complaints were made the staff was slow to act about the poor quality of the class.
- Good program, I liked it very much.
- There as a scorpion found in our suite, and yeah…that was a little scary.
- Spanish teacher needs to lay off Myspace and actually teach Spanish. And Danny is doing a great job. ☺
- I love you guys and ladies.☺
- Everybody was great I had fun when I was here and to my RA Jessica you were a good RA because you always did special little things for your girls.
- I had so much fun making new friends and by doing this I am able to learn more about myself. I love all the staff soooo much and hope to see them again next summer!
- Danny was the Best!!
- Please keep the program going.
- Chris, Chris, Chris, Disrespectful, rude, antagonizing.
- I ♥ Upward Bound!
- Thanx guys for once again making my participation in this program one of the highlights of my summer 😊 Can’t wait for next year. 😊
- Love all of you
- Didn’t like suitemates. Danny is cool, the best head resident. Frank was pretty cool.  
  Frank = cool  
  Luis = cool
- Eat Subway