



Parent Academy Goals & Objectives

The Parent Academy is open to all parents/guardians who have GEAR UP students in schools and grade levels within the UW federal grant.

The Parent Academy travels throughout the Yakima Valley in close proximity to GEAR UP schools served by the UW federal grant. Two or three classes are scheduled throughout the year.

Graduates of the Parent Academy can take advanced courses and become facilitators to open new career fields for themselves. They can then teach and support other parents in the GEAR UP Parent Involvement Programs.

Parent infrastructure is built for the Parent Academy within the local community-based support groups. Parent knowledge is shared with other parents.

Graduates are encouraged to support their GEAR UP schools and students through involvement in the school's activities. The Parent Academy has its own identity.

Parent Academy monthly meetings and special networking events are planned.

Parent Academy Activities promote:

- leadership roles within the school system
- small group discussions to identify goals
- prioritizing what parents would like to learn in subsequent classes
- student/family/school communication and networking skills
- parent empowerment - gaining knowledge of supporting school activities
- parent support for students preparing for higher education

Parent Academy Curriculum Addresses:

- GEAR UP's purpose and funding for operating at the school level
- Financial Aid - FAFSA application Process
- College Bound Scholarships - Scholarship Researching
- Community Partner Programs that support GEAR UP students
- College Prep Courses & GPAs - Pathways to Success
- WASL, PSAT, SAT, ACT Tests - deadlines and how to prepare students
- Scholarship Application & Submission Requirements/Deadlines
- Student Life on a College Campus - trip to University of Washington

Parent Academy Parent Involvement Goals:

- guiding parents to acquire knowledge skills to support their students towards higher education
- building parent infrastructure to support GEAR UP Programs

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

University of Washington GEAR UP at 3240 Fort Road in Toppenish, WA 98948 (509) 865-8670