GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a discretionary grant program that increases the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP utilizes a whole school–cohort approach that works with entire grade levels and becomes a systemic vehicle for change and innovation. GEAR UP partners with schools to support ongoing efforts toward college and career readiness and postsecondary enrollment.

The GEAR UP Approach
GEAR UP is not a cookie-cutter model but is rather a program designed to meet the unique needs of each school district partner. Our GEAR UP Team partners with school district leadership to devise an optimal plan of services based on data and input from site participants.

GEAR UP Goals and Priorities
• Increase students’ academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education
• Increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education
• Increase student and family knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation and financing

These goals are delivered with a focus on the GEAR UP priorities of STEM education, public speaking and creating internship opportunities.

GEAR UP Participants
GEAR UP Participants that qualify for services include students, families, school administration, faculty and staff. All GEAR UP services are provided free of charge. There are no applications or federal recruitment obligations.

Federal Eligibility
All schools in the GEAR UP Rural Valley Partnership qualify by:
• Having at least 50% free and reduced-price lunch rate
• School enrollment numbers
• Their willingness to partner in support of college and career readiness
The UC Davis School of Education is committed to eliminating inequities in schooling and creating learning opportunities for diverse learners using the power of knowledge and the promise of education. The School administers Educational Talent Search, Upward Bound and GEAR UP programs in locations across Northern California. For more information about the School of Education, visit education.ucdavis.edu.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. GEAR UP’s six-year grants fund services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school.