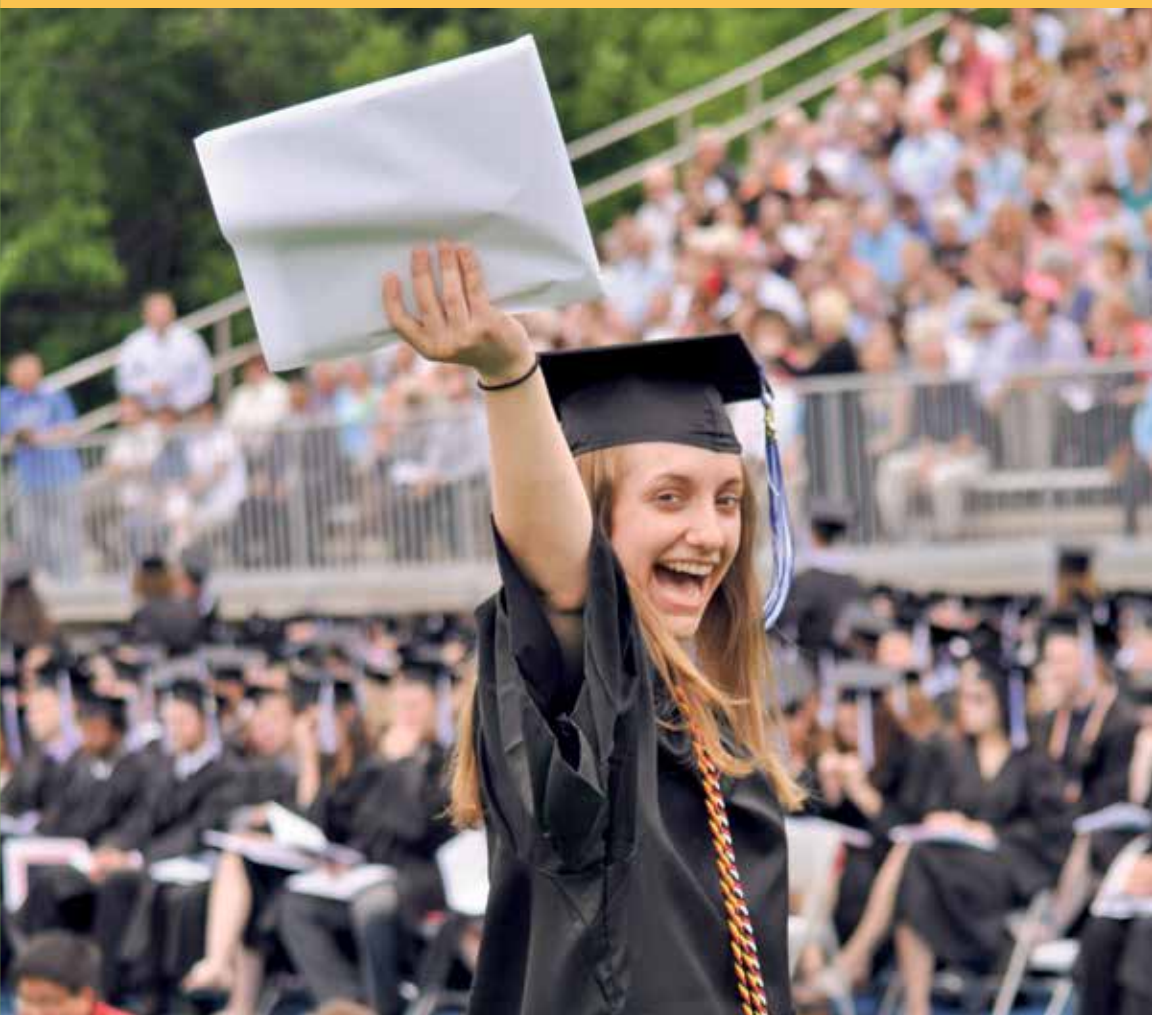


TRIO Achievement Program



A federally funded student retention program that helps first-generation and income-eligible Luther College students make the most of their college experience and reach their potential.

Engage. Aspire. Achieve. **TRIO.**

**LUTHER
COLLEGE**

Who can be in

TRIO?

“Thriving college students not only are academically successful, they also experience a sense of community and a level of psychological well-being that contributes to their persistence to graduation and allows them to gain maximum benefit from being in college.

—Thriving in
Transitions: A
Research-Based
Approach to College
Student Success

Who is eligible for TRIO?

TRIO participants must first be U.S. citizens or permanent residents eligible for federal student aid. Generally, students receiving a Federal Pell Grant and students whose parents do not have a 4-year college degree (“first generation”) qualify for TRIO. Students with documented disabilities also are eligible to apply to the TRIO Achievement Program. For federal income guidelines, visit www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trl/incomelevels.html

What is the cost to participate?

All services and activities are free to participating students. In fact, TRIO students can benefit financially in numerous ways.

How many Luther students are involved in the TRIO Achievement Program?

The program is funded to serve 160 students, and participants take advantage of services from college entrance through graduation. On occasion, students enter the program after their first year.

What types of students are a part of TRIO?

Luther students involved in TRIO are diverse. They come to Luther from different parts of the country, their academic background varies, they represent different races and ethnic groups, and they have different majors, interests, goals, and dreams. There is no one “type” of student participating in TRIO.

How can I participate in TRIO?

Candidates must apply to the TRIO Achievement Program and be accepted in order to participate. If you believe you might qualify and are (or soon will be) attending Luther, you can pick up an application in the TRIO office or submit the online application available at trio.luther.edu. The majority of students who apply are accepted, as long as their eligibility and ability to benefit are confirmed.



TRIO Fact:

The number of Luther College TRIO students graduating or progressing toward graduation exceeds 90 percent every year.



What exactly is

TRIO?

“I love knowing that there are people who want me to succeed, who believe that I will succeed, and who will help make it happen.
—TRIO student”

TRIO Fact:

The Luther TRIO project is funded at \$284,754 annually, with the current grant cycle running 2015–2020.

The TRIO Achievement Program positions and empowers students to thrive at Luther College. Funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Student Support Services Project serves first-generation college students and students with financial need.

TRIO provides participating students with holistic, individualized support and comprehensive programming that promotes their academic success, personal development, and sense of community.

TRIO helps participating students access the resources, opportunities, and information they need to capitalize on their liberal arts education and maximize their return on investment (ROI).

Resources: TRIO provides or connects students to important resources that support their academic, financial, professional, and personal goals.

+

Opportunities: TRIO provides or connects students to a multitude of opportunities inside and outside the classroom that stimulate academic engagement, performance, and progress.

+

Information: TRIO provides or connects students to relevant and timely information that helps them successfully navigate “academia.”

=

Return on Investment (ROI)

One in five Luther students is first generation.

Program Benefits

Foundation Course

Incoming TRIO students have access to a course in the fall that serves as the foundation for their learning and development over the next four years. Taught by professional staff with assistance from peer leaders, the class meets twice a week and is worth 2 hours of college credit. The course sets the stage for the Luther experience and helps students (regardless of academic profile) get off to a strong start. It is the cornerstone of TRIO programming.

Advising

Every participating student is paired with a TRIO advisor (in addition to his/her faculty advisor) who serves as a mentor, guide, coach, and cheerleader. Advisors ensure that participants have the necessary resources, opportunities, and information to achieve their goals and to progress toward graduation. The student-advisor relationship creates a comfortable environment in which students may openly discuss the possibilities for their future, while celebrating successes and addressing challenges along the way. Conversations with students occupy the majority of staff time, and advising complements programming designed to foster the academic skills, habits, and mindset necessary to thrive.

Peer Tutoring

TRIO offers both tutor-led study groups and individual tutoring to promote effective and deeper learning. Tutoring helps participants stay on top of academic work, strengthen study skills, master content, and gain the most from their studies.

TRIO staff also direct students as needed to additional tutoring resources on campus, including the Writing Center, Language Learning Center, Student Academic Support Center, and departmental tutoring.

Some of the ways that TRIO positions students to thrive:

- Foundation course
- Peer mentoring
- Personal coaching/advising
- Financial education and support
- Academic and career planning
- Networking activities
- Individual and group tutoring
- Textbook and technology lending library
- Leadership development opportunities
- Graduate/professional school admission assistance

TRIO Fact:

TRIO is NOT an acronym. It was the name given to the original three programs established by the federal government in the 1960s to ensure equal educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnicity, or economic circumstance.



Financial Fitness

Participants benefit from a wealth of resources that contribute to their immediate and long-term financial health. Wise money management practices are cultivated through an online financial literacy tool known as GradReady, along with workshops and other activities. Key topics include budgeting, building credit, repaying loans, saving, and investing. In addition, TRIO equips students to secure funding for undergraduate and graduate study while minimizing debt. The college contributes directly to their bottom line by awarding grants and scholarships (including Steven Mark Anderson Scholarships and the Karen Julesberg Scholarship) designated for TRIO students.

Connections

While the TRIO office and Facebook group provide settings for participants to meet, the TRIO Achievement Program also hosts opportunities throughout the year that build community through meaningful connections with staff, professors, and peers. The Eat & Greet, BBQ & A, Soup's On, and Kick Off to Finals are some of the established events that students anticipate. Peer leaders also host spontaneous activities, and each academic year culminates with a big celebration banquet. Food, fellowship, and fun are a guarantee with TRIO!

Textbook & Technology Lending Programs

Initiated by the TRIO student leadership council, the textbook lending library contains more than 500 textbooks donated by TRIO students and available for checkout by TRIO students. In addition, participants may borrow educational tools that enhance classroom learning. The technology lending program currently includes laptops, Smart Pens, calculators, and voice recorders. The TRIO office also maintains a reading collection (and a list of helpful online resources) relevant to college student success.

Graduate School Assistance

Approximately 20 percent of Luther College graduates continue on to graduate or professional school. TRIO supports participants with these aspirations in several ways, such as assistance with entrance exam preparation and sponsored attendance at the TRIO graduate school preparation conference.

“Getting involved has contributed to my success at Luther in numerous ways... most key are the meetings I have with my TRIO advisor. Taking the time to sit down with her always helps me organize my ideas and goals.

—TRIO graduate”

TRIO Fact:

Luther College TRIO students are among more than 200,000 college students across the country earning a bachelor's degree with the support of TRIO programs.





TRIO Team

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The staff that make up the TRIO team are knowledgeable and compassionate, and they effectively empower students on a daily basis.

Contact and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr.

TRIO Program

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**TRIO
Achievement
Program**

Luther College, 700 College Drive
Decorah, Iowa 52101-1042

TRIO Fact:

Eligibility is based on first-generation status and family income.

“The TRIO Achievement Program has provided me with indispensable tutoring services, personal advice, and professional guidance.
—TRIO graduate”

TRIO Fact:

Program evaluation and funding are based on persistence and graduation rates of participating students.

TRIO Fact:

The program supports students holistically from college entrance through graduation.

TRIO Fact:

Luther has offered a TRIO program to its students since 1973.