South Wichita GEAR UP (SWGU) is a U.S. Department of Education funded project. The overall goal of the project is to increase the number of students graduating from high school who are prepared for enrollment in postsecondary institutions. Annually, the project serves 925 students from six target schools in the Wichita Public School District (USD 259). Wichita State receives $740,000 with a match equal to that amount. Over the life of the grant, funds will total nearly $10,000,000 including matching funds.

Project components include counseling (career, academic, personal), early intervention programs, rigorous curriculum advising, mentoring, Saturday and after school tutoring, and workshops/trainings for parents and professional educators.

SWGU has three main goals for project students and their families: Increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education; increase the rate of high school graduation and enrollment in postsecondary education; and increase knowledge of postsecondary education options, preparation and financing.