Student Services and Administrative Operational Annual Program Review and Planning Update Form Fall 2024

## BACKGROUND:

**Program review is an integral part of the campus planning process. As programs and areas monitor their progress on the current comprehensive four-year program review, changes in need and scope can be expected. This Annual PR Update form is designed to outline and request modifications to the current program review that occur between comprehensive four-year review cycles, as needed.**

**Examples of a requested change include new information such as action plans, outcomes modifications, personnel changes, technology needs, and capital expenditures requirements. As programs and areas monitor their progress on the previous comprehensive four-year program review, the form provides the basis to suggest a change in plans and processes to improve student success and institutional effectiveness.**

## SUBMISSION:

**Program:**

Rising Scholars

**Principal Author(s):**

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**Manager:**

Jorge Gamboa

**Submission Date:**

11/27/2024 7:45:08 PM

**Author Signature:**

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# Part 1: Review of Data

1. **List the outcomes from your Fall 2022 self-study. Which outcomes has your program assessed in the last year and/or which do you plan to assess in the coming year?**

The Rising Scholars Program at Fullerton College (FC) was established after 2022 and has yet to complete a formal Program Review self-study. Piloted in Fall 2023 under EOPS in Student Services, it transitioned into a stand-alone program within the Ethnic Studies Department in the Social Science Division. By Fall 2025, it will move to the newly formed Division of Ethnic Studies.

As a new program, we set the following goals in Spring 2024:

Secure sustainable funding for growth and implementation.

Build program infrastructure by hiring dedicated staff.

Establish a dedicated space to foster community and belonging.

Develop services and programming aligned with the needs of our population, leveraging available resources.

This report highlights how we have achieved significant progress on these goals and demonstrates the program's impact, warranting institutional support, and funding.

Achievements Toward Program Goals

1. Securing Funding

The Rising Scholars Program has braided funding from multiple categorical budgets and grants, including the NASH Catalyst Grant and the HireUP Pilot Program, which supports formerly incarcerated students. Through partnerships with organizations such as Project Kinship, Orange County Probation, and the Anaheim Parole Office, we have expanded resources and strengthened community networks. However, sustained funding is critical. We formally request institutionalization to secure the program's future.

2. Building Infrastructure

In the Fall of 2024, we established a clear organizational structure and hired key personnel:

A program coordinator, an alumnus of Rising Scholars, who provides leadership and continuity.

One student worker, who is a current program participant.

A faculty lead from Ethnic Studies, serving as a professional expert, facilitating the transition from EOPS, and offering programmatic support.

An Outreach and Intake specialist, whose hiring is in progress.

Institutionalizing the program will ensure these positions are secure, fostering stability and growth.

3. Establishing a Dedicated Space

We have finalized and opened the Rising Scholars Center, equipped with essential resources such as computers, printers, and supplies. After a soft launch in November 2024, we will host a grand opening in February 2025. This dedicated space provides a safe and inclusive environment where students feel a sense of belonging and community.

4. Developing Services and Programming

We refined eligibility criteria, application processes, and service frameworks to ensure accountability and quality.

Future Directions: Spring 2025 and Beyond Our Spring 2025 priorities include:

Empowering Students: Supporting persistence and reducing barriers through practical support such as book stipends, transportation assistance, housing referrals, and access to academic resources.

Fostering Belonging: Hosting events like the Rising Scholars Center Grand Opening, expungement clinics, and cultural celebrations to create an inclusive, stigma-free environment.

Enhancing Navigation Services: Offering workshops on reintegration, legal rights, and leadership to help students overcome systemic barriers.

Strengthening Advocacy: Expanding collaborations with community organizations and advocacy groups to ensure comprehensive support.

Expanding Partnerships: Developing partnerships with faculty across campus who are part of the Rising Scholars Faculty Network to enhance interdisciplinary support for students.

Supporting Adult Re-entry Students: As an essential service for adult re-entry students—who make up the majority of our recipients—our program emphasizes professional training, career readiness, and holistic support tailored to this population. This focus aligns with Vision 2030, contributing to demonstration projects like Increasing Pathways for Learners with Low Income, Mental Health for Veterans, and the continued development of Rising Scholars Programs.

Impact and Call to Action

The Rising Scholars Program has established a solid foundation, showing measurable growth and effective support for formerly incarcerated students. Starting with 22 students identified by EOPS staff during its pilot in Fall 2023, the program has expanded its outreach systems and now serves 98 students as of Fall 2024. This growth highlights the program’s transformative impact. Institutionalizing Rising Scholars will provide the stability and resources needed to sustain its success and align with Fullerton College’s mission to empower underserved populations.

We outline the resources needed to transition Rising Scholars to institutional funding, ensuring its permanence at Fullerton College and sustaining its success and transformative impact on our students and community.

1. **What changes, if any, have been made to your program or outcomes as a result of outcomes assessment?**

N/A

1. **How is your area collecting or working to collect disaggregated, student-level outcomes assessment data?**

As the Rising Scholars Program stabilizes and expands its staffing, we are prioritizing the development of a robust system to effectively track student participation, persistence, and outcomes. This will enable us to measure the program's impact accurately and inform strategic decision-making for the Spring 2025 semester and beyond.

Currently, we are collaborating with the Admissions and Records office and the Starfish Team to collect and disaggregate student-level data. These efforts ensure a detailed understanding of our students' progress and challenges. Additionally, in Fall 2024, we held our first student focus group to gather qualitative insights into the experiences of formerly incarcerated and systems-impacted students in the program.

This combination of quantitative and qualitative data will be instrumental in driving future program improvements, aligning our services with student needs, and ensuring Rising Scholars continues to provide meaningful and effective support.

# Part 2: Additional Resource Request Reasoning and Support

**We have reviewed our most recent self-study and have not identified any significant changes that necessitate resource requests for the upcoming academic year.**

**We have reviewed our most recent self-study and have identified significant changes that necessitate additional resource requests.**

**For programs that have identified significant changes that necessitate additional resource requests, answer the following questions for each separate resource request:**

1. **Briefly describe your resource request.**

Institutional Funding for the Rising Scholars Program

Institutional funding is essential to securing the future of the Rising Scholars Program (RS) and ensuring its long-term sustainability. Institutional funding provides the stability needed to maintain the program's operations, support its staff, and offer the resources necessary for students to succeed. It allows for comprehensive long-term planning, including expanding services, enhancing support structures, and scaling the program to serve more students. Without ongoing institutional support, the program may face limitations in its capacity to meet the growing needs of formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted students.

1. **Is this request related to an essential safety need?**

No

**Why must this resource request be processed now rather than during the Fall 2026 comprehensive self-study?**

The Risings Scholars program does not have secure funding beyond Spring 2025.

**How will this additional resource allocation specifically enhance your program’s services, activities, processes, etc. to continue or improve student learning and achievement?**

Institutional funding not only secures the day-to-day operations of the program but also strengthens its ability to advocate for permanent, systemic change in the educational landscape and community. With a consistent funding base, the Rising Scholars Program can better navigate shifts in higher education, grow its partnerships, and continue to provide critical services that address the barriers faced by these students. Institutional funding is vital for maintaining operations until such external opportunities arise. This combined support ensures that the program is not dependent on sporadic funding streams but has a stable foundation to grow and serve its students effectively.

**Is the resource request personnel-related? If so, please provide evidence to justify the requested positions such as retirements, program growth or curricular demands, full-time/adjunct ratios, etc.**

Yes.

Allocating institutional funds to the Rising Scholars Program is critical for sustaining and enhancing its transformative impact on formerly incarcerated students. Since its pilot in the Fall 2023, the program has demonstrated remarkable growth, expanding from 22 students to 98 students by Fall of 2024. This growth underscores the program's effectiveness in addressing the unique needs of a historically marginalized population and advancing equity on campus. Institutional funding ensures long-term stability, enabling the program to maintain and scale its essential services, including academic counseling, book grants, transportation support, and career readiness initiatives. By securing these resources, Rising Scholars can strengthen its capacity to serve a growing student base, foster retention, and close equity gaps.

Moreover, institutionalizing the program aligns with Fullerton College’s mission to empower underserved populations through access to education and resources. Dedicated funding would allow Rising Scholars to build lasting partnerships across campus and in the community, support innovative programming, and provide consistent support that adapts to students’ evolving needs.

**How will this additional resource allocation help you serve the college mission or strategic initiatives, and your program’s goals for improvement, as stated in your last self-study?**

Ultimately, institutional funds not only solidify the program's foundation but also amplify its potential to transform lives, reinforcing Fullerton College's leadership in equity-focused education. Allocating institutional funds for the Rising Scholars Program directly supports Fullerton College’s mission of fostering equity, inclusivity, and student success by addressing the unique needs of formerly incarcerated students. This funding enables the program to provide comprehensive support services, resources, and opportunities that empower these students to achieve their educational and personal goals.

By aligning with Vision 2030, this investment helps advance the college's commitment to breaking down systemic barriers and creating equitable access to higher education, specifically those who are justice-involved and/or justice-impacted. It fosters a culture of belonging, enhances student persistence and retention, and contributes to the broader mission of transforming lives through education. Supporting the Rising Scholars Program reflects Fullerton College’s dedication to serving historically marginalized communities and preparing all students to contribute meaningfully to society.

**For each separate resource request, complete this chart with the itemized requested dollar amount:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Resource** |  |
| Personnel | Manager |
| Facilities |  |
| Supplies | Promotional Materials: $12,000  Raises awareness and engages campus and community stakeholders.  Non-Instructional Supplies: $10,000  Provides essential tools and materials for staff and student use |
| Computer Hardware |  |
| Computer Software |  |
| Training | Professional Development: $8,000  Ensures staff stay current on best practices and innovations for serving formerly incarcerated students. |
| Other | Special Projects Director  Supports strategic leadership, program development, and day-to-day operations.  Counseling Services: $40,000  Dedicated counseling support for academic planning and personal development.  Professional Experts: $50,000  Includes specialized support roles for program operations and full-time faculty collaboration.  Student Workers: $15,000  Provides peer support, administrative assistance, and event staffing.  Book Grants: $40,000  Reduces financial barriers to academic success for students.  Vendor Cards: $40,000  Covers immediate student needs like food and basic supplies.  Hospitality: $8,000  Supports program events, community building, and networking opportunities.  Seminars/Workshops/Guest Speaker: $5,000  Offers skill-building opportunities and educational programming tailored to student needs. Brings in inspiring individuals to provide mentorship and motivation.  Guided Exit/Recognition Ceremony: $8,000  Celebrates student achievements and milestones.  Tuition/Fees Assistance: $2,000  Helps cover education costs for students in need. |
| **Total Requested Amount:** | $243,000.00 |

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| --- |
| **Is the funding requested ongoing or one-time funding?**  Ongoing |
| **Is the funding requested for**[**enrollment and reengagement activities?**](https://ie.fullcoll.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2024/05/ER-2.0-Program-Review-Guide.pdf)  Yes |

**For each separate resource request:**

1. **Briefly describe your resource request.**

PT Program Counselor

Part-time dedicated counseling support for academic planning and personal development.

1. **Is this request related to an essential safety need?**

No

**Why must this resource request be processed now rather than during the Fall 2026 comprehensive self-study?**

The Rising Scholars Program does not have secure funding beyond Spring 2025.

**How will this additional resource allocation specifically enhance your program’s services, activities, processes, etc. to continue or improve student learning and achievement?**

An academic counselor is essential for serving formerly incarcerated students at Fullerton College because they provide tailored guidance and support to address the unique challenges these students face. These challenges often include navigating unfamiliar academic systems, addressing educational gaps, and balancing personal responsibilities such as employment, family, or reintegration into society. Counselors help students connect their academic progress to career aspirations, including exploring fields that align with their lived experiences and personal goals, which boosts motivation and long-term success.

**Is the resource request personnel-related? If so, please provide evidence to justify the requested positions such as retirements, program growth or curricular demands, full-time/adjunct ratios, etc.**

Yes.

The Rising Scholars Program has built a solid foundation, demonstrating measurable growth and impactful support for formerly incarcerated students. Beginning with 22 students identified by EOPS staff during its pilot in Fall 2023, the program has expanded its outreach and now serves 98 students as of Fall 2024, showcasing its transformative impact. As the program continues to grow, the need for dedicated academic support and guidance becomes increasingly critical to help students identify clear pathways to success and achieve their goals. A dedicated counselor can help students create academic plans that align with their goals, ensuring a clear pathway to graduation or transfer. They provide critical insight into course selection, credit transfer, and meeting degree requirements, which is especially valuable for students who may lack prior exposure to higher education.

**How will this additional resource allocation help you serve the college mission or strategic initiatives, and your program’s goals for improvement, as stated in your last self-study?**

Allocating funds for a part-time academic counselor for the Rising Scholars Program aligns with Fullerton College's mission by directly addressing the unique needs of formerly incarcerated and systems-impacted students, empowering them to achieve their educational and personal goals. A dedicated counselor provides personalized academic planning, career guidance, and emotional support, fostering a sense of belonging and helping students overcome barriers to success.

This role also ensures equitable access to critical resources and support systems, enabling students to navigate challenges and persist in their educational journeys with proper guidance. By helping students transition successfully into college life and empowering them to reach their full potential, the counselor contributes to creating an inclusive and supportive campus environment. This directly supports Fullerton College’s commitment to equity, inclusion, and the transformation of lives through education, while advancing the Vision 2030 goal of closing equity gaps and increasing access for underserved populations.

**For each separate resource request, complete this chart with the itemized requested dollar amount:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Resource** |  |
| Personnel | Classified |
| Facilities |  |
| Supplies |  |
| Computer Hardware |  |
| Computer Software |  |
| Training |  |
| Other |  |
| **Total Requested Amount:** |  |

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| --- |
| **Is the funding requested ongoing or one-time funding?**  Ongoing |
| **Is the funding requested for**[**enrollment and reengagement activities?**](https://ie.fullcoll.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2024/05/ER-2.0-Program-Review-Guide.pdf)  Yes |

**For each separate resource request:**

1. **Briefly describe your resource request.**

PE - Faculty

Full-time Faculty collaboration.

In their specialized role, the Professional Expert Faculty (PE-Faculty) provides advanced technical assistance and instructional guidance that meets the unique needs of this student population. Their responsibilities include developing targeted programming that not only addresses academic challenges but also bridges gaps between students and staff, creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

1. **Is this request related to an essential safety need?**

No

**Why must this resource request be processed now rather than during the Fall 2026 comprehensive self-study?**

The Rising Scholars program has not established funding beyond Spring 2025.

**How will this additional resource allocation specifically enhance your program’s services, activities, processes, etc. to continue or improve student learning and achievement?**

Ultimately, the PE-Faculty’s role is essential in cultivating a culture of inclusion, ensuring the program is well-integrated within the campus, and helping students thrive academically, professionally, and personally. The PE-Faculty fosters collaboration with faculty across campus through the Rising Scholars Faculty Network. This partnership enhances interdisciplinary support, bringing together diverse academic perspectives and resources to empower students. By building these faculty connections, the program creates a campus-wide network of allies who understand the unique barriers faced by formerly incarcerated students and work collectively to support their educational journeys.

**Is the resource request personnel-related? If so, please provide evidence to justify the requested positions such as retirements, program growth or curricular demands, full-time/adjunct ratios, etc.**

Yes.

Absolutely. In addition to supporting program enhancement, the PE-Faculty role is instrumental in bridging the gap between Instruction and Student Services to achieve successful student outcomes through a holistic approach. This partnership fosters a seamless integration of support systems that speak to curricular and programmatic needs, ensuring that formerly incarcerated students receive well-rounded assistance that addresses their academic, personal, and professional needs.

By uniting the strengths of Student Services and Instruction, the collaboration enhances interdisciplinary support, bringing together diverse academic perspectives and campus resources to empower students. This integrated approach not only enriches the educational experience but also creates a campus-wide network of allies. These allies are equipped to understand and address the unique barriers faced by formerly incarcerated students, fostering an environment where they can be, thrive, and succeed.

**How will this additional resource allocation help you serve the college mission or strategic initiatives, and your program’s goals for improvement, as stated in your last self-study?**

A faculty member plays a vital role in supporting formerly incarcerated students by leveraging instructional expertise and fostering connections between students, staff, and the campus community. The PE-Faculty role and Rising Scholars Program align with Fullerton College's mission and Vision 2030 by promoting equity, access, and inclusion for this marginalized group, advancing a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

By bridging Instruction and Student Services, this role removes barriers, expands access to higher education, and ensures holistic support for students. It fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, amplifies faculty engagement, and builds a campus-wide network of allies. These efforts enhance student success, reduce equity gaps, and reinforce Fullerton College's leadership in equity-focused education, fulfilling its mission to empower all through the transformative power of education.

**For each separate resource request, complete this chart with the itemized requested dollar amount:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type of Resource** |  |
| Personnel | Faculty |
| Facilities |  |
| Supplies |  |
| Computer Hardware |  |
| Computer Software |  |
| Training |  |
| Other |  |
| **Total Requested Amount:** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Is the funding requested ongoing or one-time funding?**  Ongoing |
| **Is the funding requested for**[**enrollment and reengagement activities?**](https://ie.fullcoll.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/27/2024/05/ER-2.0-Program-Review-Guide.pdf)  Yes |