

## Progress Update (Past Two Years) - Student Services

1. Provide an update on your program or department's progress on your last objectives or action plans:

Progress Update Past Action Plans

### Progress Update Past Action Plans

Hide this section

What type of program review did you last submit?

- Old annual
- Old six-year
- PU
- CPR

What is the status of your last program review action plan/objective?

- Completed
- In Progress
- No Longer Pursuing

Discuss the progress made on the goals in your action plan(s) (if last program review was a PU or CPR) or annual objective(s) (if last program review was an annual or old six-year).

2020-21 was our last required Annual Report. We had noted two specific objectives:

1. The Scholars Program will create and establish concrete initiatives to enhance the enrollment of all students with particular attention to racially minoritized students.
2. Actively incorporate the Scholars faculty into the program to encourage innovation and collaboration.

Both are ongoing priorities, and we continue to make significant gains in these areas, and others. Progress below respectively:

1. TAP certified UCLA admissions data disaggregated by race (categories and data are provided by UCLA in Fall 2024 preliminary data). *Note the significant acceptance rates for our underrepresented minority students.*

African American – 100% of Scholars/TAP applicants admitted (12 out of 12 students). This represents 32% of the overall SMC admits to UCLA (38/133 = admitted/total applicants)

Chicano/Latino – 75% of Scholars/TAP applicants admitted (30 out of 40 students). This represents 35% of the overall SMC admits to UCLA (85/392 = admitted/total applicants)

79% of underrepresented minority students are admitted from TAP (43 out of 54 students).

Our TAP admission remains above 80% each cycle, using between 85-90%. **TAP students make up about 30% of SMC's total admitted students to UCLA each year.**

Success and Persistence Rates for Black and Latin/e students:

It's important to note that **Course Success Rates** have increased from 70% to 88% for Black students from Fall 2019 to Fall 2024. Scholars Program **Term-to-Term Persistence Rates** from Fall 2019 to Fall 2023 have hovered at or above 90 percent overall. Persistence rates for our Black students have increased from 84% to 95% and Latin/x students has hovered above 90% consistently.

In reviewing the last three admitted cohorts to Scholars (Fall 2024, Spring 2025 and Fall 2025, 50% of our students demonstrated documented financial need. 70-75% of our students are 1st generation college students. Our admitted classes of Black and Latin/e students have increased to 5% and 37% respectively. An additional 5% identify as mixed race.

2. The Scholars Program was developed to play an important role in ensuring and maintaining SMC's transfer relationship with UCLA. Due to the considerable curricular offering and instructional faculty involvement, the program falls under the leadership of SMC's Academic Affairs. As such, the Scholars Program has initiated and hosted, and continues to host, several transfer related communications, events, and meetings with UCLA.

To highlight one about which Academic Affairs and the Scholars Program is particularly excited, during the 2022-23 year, the Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Scholars Program leaders collaborated with the UCLA Dean of Undergraduate Education and her staff to plan a meeting between UCLA and SMC faculty members to discuss curriculum alignment, pedagogy, student skills, and course outcomes. UCLA hosted this event in Fall of 2023. We are planning future events as it was incredibly successful. SMC was also asked by UCLA to join them at the WASC/ARC Conference on April 18, 2024 in San Diego to present on how universities can partner with their local CCC to better serve students. We highlighted TAP and our faculty event that took place in Fall 2023. Scholars Program leadership continues to hold bi-annual meetings with Melissa Nessman, TAP Director, Ffiona Rees, Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Kelly Wahl, Assist Dean of Summer Sessions and Strategic Initiatives.

The Faculty Leader and Program Leader of Scholars host Orientations for new Scholars faculty to ensure the integrity of the Program and offer support in developing unique Scholars course sections for our students. We continue to diversify our faculty and offer a wide range of courses to meet the needs of our students. Bi-annual newsletters and email communications and updates are consistently shared with Scholars faculty.

The Scholars Faculty Homeroom in Canvas serves as a support for our faculty to share syllabi, access resources and share best practices.

#### End of Progress Update Past Action Plans

2. Considering your program's past plans and the developments over the past two years, what challenges and concerns need to be addressed in the next two-year review period?

Scholars has traditionally been an on-ground Program. The pandemic contributed to expected challenges in this area, but we are slowly reimagining the mission and vision of TAP. Approximately 80% of our courses are offered as hybrid or fully on-ground. Currently, 65-70% of Counseling services in Scholars are fully on-ground. Program Orientations for all new incoming Scholars students are fully on-ground (with a HYFLEX option for very few students). These challenges will continue as we and the college recover, but our priorities and efforts remain.

Continuing to reach our minoritized student population, and onboarding them upon entry to SMC. This involves very intentional in/out-reach to our students in our feeder high schools and continuing student population, presence in C20 classes, collaboration with Black Collegians/MOCAN and Adelante, marketing, and messaging. This does take significant effort, and the current state of the budget continues to cut this Program and others at a time when we are being asked (and are needing) to do more. The challenge is how to deliver adequate support services with fewer resources and discussions have taken place as to how to accomplish this. We may need to decrease the number of students in our Program in order to maintain the high quality of service that we promise our students. A service that they expect and deserve. These discussions will continue as we navigate this very difficult budgetary year in Counseling.

3. Broadly discuss the most critical resources you anticipate needing to effectively implement the goals in your program's action plan in the next review period. If applicable, your answers here should inform the specific line item requests in your future Annual Resource Requests (ARR).

Another challenge is to endure the significant cuts to counseling support services in the last two years and specifically in 2025-26. FT retirements were not backfilled and great efforts were extended to make sure we had backfill for our recent retiree in August 2025, who was also our ONLY full-time Counselor in Scholars. We are the largest Special Program outside of General Transfer and International. This is significantly challenging as is the consistent 5% district cut over the last two years (and we are a fully district funded program). Fortunately, we were able to ask for SEAP funding from Academic Affairs to offset these cuts and it amounted to 12 hours/week of Counseling in Fall/Spring. This amount was denied for Fall 2025 and we will be operating with fewer hours, but serving a larger number of students. All the while without a FT Counselor. This puts the Scholars Program in a very challenging place in upholding the mission of Scholars, our critical relationship with UCLA, and our transfer numbers (specifically to the UC's) that contribute heavily to SMC's brand of "#1 in Transfer".

---

This form is completed and ready for acceptance.