



**The Robert Presley Student Scholarship for Justice-Impacted Students
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

DEADLINE January 16, 2026

The Center of Crime & Justice studies is a research center housed within UCR's School of Public Policy that conducts empirical research to improve the criminal justice system and advance evidence-based practice. We are pleased to announce the call for applications for the Robert Presley Student Scholarship for justice-impacted students.

By justice-impacted, we mean students:

- a) who have been directly impacted by a family member's incarceration or contact with the justice system;**
- b) who have been incarcerated, arrested, or convicted of a crime themselves; or**
- c) whose lives have otherwise been negatively impacted by a crime.**

We recognize involvement with the criminal justice system can negatively impact the formerly incarcerated and their families for years to come, which is why we established a scholarship endowment to support justice-impacted students pursue their educational and professional goals.

Funding & Use of Funds

The Robert Presley Student Scholarship provides a **\$500.00+ scholarship¹ to currently enrolled UCR students who self-identify as justice-impacted.** The Center entrusts each recipient to use their award to support their education and professionalization in a manner consistent with the intent of this scholarship. Examples from prior recipients include, but are not limited to, using the scholarship to pay for tuition and fees, books and equipment (e.g. laptops), on-campus expenses (e.g. parking permits, printing costs), conference registration and travel, and GRE, LSAT and other preparatory courses.

The exact number of scholarships awarded will be contingent on the quality of applications and the availability of funds, but we anticipate awarding up to three scholarships this academic year. Funds may be used during Winter 2026, Spring 2026, or Summer 2026.²

Eligibility

We welcome applications from UC Riverside students, who:

- Are currently enrolled in an undergraduate program;
- Are in good academic standing;
- Will not graduate before June 2026; and
- Self-identify as justice-impacted.

Previous recipients of the Robert Presley Student Scholarship may reapply, but priority will be given to those who have not previously been awarded the scholarship.

¹ Final award amounts depend on available funds for the academic year and are expected to be at least \$500.

² Scholarships may be taxable or affect other financial aid arrangements the recipient has in place. Funds will be automatically applied to any balance the recipient has on their student account at the time the award is processed. It is incumbent on the recipient to understand tax and aid implications prior to accepting the scholarship. If you have questions regarding your financial aid status, please contact UCR's Financial Aid Office.



How to Apply

Interested students must submit the following application materials by January 16, 2026.

- A **cover letter** that includes the applicant's:
 - Name
 - Major
 - Year in Program
 - Whether they are a member of the Underground Scholars Initiative
- A **personal statement**, not to exceed 2 single-spaced pages, that answers the following questions:
 - How are you justice-impacted and how has being justice-impacted affected your life?
 - What are your long-term educational and professional aspirations?
 - How will this scholarship help you achieve your goals?
 - What is something you would like to highlight about your educational successes, personal or professional accomplishments, or extracurricular activities that makes you an exceptional fit for this scholarship? This is an opportunity to provide the review committee with additional insight into your application.
- A copy of your **unofficial transcript**

Materials should be **saved as a single PDF** and sent in an **email with the subject line “Presley Scholarship Application”** to justine.ross@ucr.edu **by midnight on January 16, 2026**.

Please note, incomplete applications and applications received after the deadline will not be considered. The Presley Center will review all complete applications submitted by the deadline and notify applicants of decisions within two weeks of the application deadline.

Questions?

Please contact the Presley Center's Associate Director, Justine Ross (justine.ross@ucr.edu), if you have questions.