



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

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 15th, 2027

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.

The Robert Presley Student Scholarship is a funding opportunity for UCR's justice-impacted students. **By justice-impacted, we mean students:**

- a) who have been **directly impacted by a family member's incarceration;**
- 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 individual 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 **awards of varying amounts, contingent on available funding and anticipated to be at least \$500**, 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 include, but are not limited to, using the scholarship to pay for:

- Tuition and fees
- Books and equipment (e.g. laptops, etc.)
- On-campus expenses, like parking permits and printing costs
- Conference registration and travel
- 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 three scholarships this academic year. Funds may be used during Winter 2027, or Spring 2027.¹

Eligibility

We welcome applications from UC Riverside undergraduate students, who:

- Are/will be enrolled in a degree-seeking program by Winter 2027;
- Are in good academic standing;

¹ 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.



Robert Presley Center of Crime and Justice Studies

- 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.

How to Apply

Interested students must submit the following application materials by Friday, January 15th, 2027.

- 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 1 single-spaced page, that answers the following questions:
 - How are you justice-impacted and how has being justice-impacted affected or informed who you are today?
 - 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 transcripts**

Materials should be **saved as a single PDF** and emailed to justine.ross@ucr.edu by **midnight on January 15th** with the **subject line "Robert Presley Scholarship Application"**. 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 by early February.

Questions?

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