



# RENAISSANCE SCHOLARS

EMPOWERING FORMER FOSTER YOUTH THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY:

*"I feel like I belong here and can succeed in college. I've also learned that I am not alone, and I have gained a stronger sense of self-confidence and motivation."*  
-1<sup>st</sup> year Renaissance Scholar

*"Renaissance Scholars gave me the support I needed when things were hard going through my transition from community college to university. It also helped me understand how important it is to build a support system at school, and I used those skills to transfer into building relationships outside of the program"*  
-Transfer Renaissance Scholar

*"Renaissance Scholars allowed me to see that I am more than the unfortunate circumstances I was born into, more than my trauma and mental illness. Through my years of being a Renaissance Scholar, I have learned I am worthy of love, a high-quality education, and high-quality care."*  
-Renaissance Scholars Alumni



## WHO WE ARE

Launched in 2002, Renaissance Scholars (RS) is a comprehensive program dedicated to support the success of current and former foster youth attending Cal Poly Pomona. This innovative program draws its holistic service model from the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Casey Family Programs' It's My Life Framework for Transitioning Foster Youth.

The program has expanded to serve undergraduate and graduate students through drop-in services. Through partnership with EOP, eligible undergraduate RS participants are also members of the Educational Opportunity Program and have access to EOP services.



## OUR MISSION

We are dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students through a broad range of high-quality programs and services that promote access and equity, transition, and educational opportunities in support of student learning and success; thus, empowering them to become educated and engaged citizens who go on to lead productive and meaningful lives.



## OUR VALUES

We strive for excellence in everything we do. We emphasize **learning**, demonstrate **resiliency**, encourage and model **wellness**, act with **integrity**, exemplify personal and social **responsibility**, and cherish **relationships** with others.



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## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Students interested in applying to the Renaissance Scholars Program must meet **all the following criteria:**

- Be a current or former foster youth.  
*(If you were in placement as a dependent of the court or ward of the court at any time since birth)*
- Must provide verification documents of foster care status.
- Be a California resident or an AB 540/2000 nonresident tuition exemption student

## HOW TO APPLY

- 1 Apply for admissions to Cal Poly Pomona through [Cal State Apply](#) between October 1<sup>st</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>  
*\*\*\*Strongly recommended\*\*\*  
Apply to EOP  
Within Cal State Apply, complete the [Educational Opportunity Program \(EOP\)](#) application by January 15<sup>th</sup>, and submit the two online recommendation forms by the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline*
- 2 Apply to the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or [California Dream Act Application \(CADAA\)](#) by April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 3 Complete the online application for [Renaissance Scholars \(RS\)](#):
  - **Prospective CPP Students**  
Apply by January 15<sup>th</sup>
  - **Current CPP Students**  
Apply now for next semester
- 4 Applicants will be invited to a program interview as a final step in the application process
- 5 Sign the RS Program Partnership Agreement

**PROGRAM BENEFITS** Renaissance Scholars provides current and former foster youth with critical educational resources and a supportive environment that are key in assisting students to obtain their degree. Program participants receive the following services:



Financial Assistance (Scholarships and Emergency Funding)



On-Campus Housing Support (Year-Round)



Priority Registration



EOP Summer Bridge/Transfer Bridge (for eligible students)



RS Success Seminars (Life-skills and Transition)



Holistic Academic Advising



Peer Mentoring



Academic Skills Development and Tutorial Services



Access to Mental Health Counseling Services



Educational Enrichment Opportunities & Student Engagement  
(Financial Literacy, Retreats, Celebration of Excellence)



Leadership and Career Development  
(Community Service, Career Center Workshops, etc.)

## RS FOSTERING SUCCESS DROP-IN SERVICES

Renaissance Scholars offers **Fostering Success Drop-In Services** to Cal Poly Pomona undergraduate and graduate students with a lived experience in foster care.

To access drop-in services students must verify their foster care status through Renaissance Scholars. Drop-in services available include; Priority registration, holistic academic advising, tutoring, and limited educational enrichment and student engagement opportunities.

Contact RS at [rensolars@cpp.edu](mailto:rensolars@cpp.edu) to learn more about resources and eligibility.

