

Arise Educational Advisory Institutionalization Request 02.17.2021

The Arise Program is funded by the federal AANAPISI Part F grant. This grant period ends 9/30/21. The Arise Program is designed to provide counseling, advising and student development programming for the Asian and Pacific Islander student community that is culturally-relevant. Program staff apply culturally-competent strategies to appropriately and respectfully acknowledge cultural values and practices when engaging with students. The Arise Program has attained significant success over the past 10 years. Most notably, students' academic progress is managed through the Arise Student Action Plan! (ASAP!), which is a personalized progress check on key academic markers. The Educational Advisor reviews the ASAP! data and follows up with students who need attention (e.g., missing educational plans, GPA concerns, undecided majors). During the transition forced by the pandemic, the Program also sustained virtual services and communication by establishing the Arise Canvas Hub and a virtual front desk. These platforms enabled consistent access to resources, services, and events. Student development programming (e.g., leadership retreat, digital stories project, fale fono-Samoan for "house meeting") have addressed holistic development (e.g., cultural identity, leadership, personal narratives, career exploration, and personal growth). Most recently, the Arise Program became part of the Knowledge is Power Learning Communities (KPLC), together with Umoja Aspire and El Centro. The Arise KPLC will offer course pairings to examine the socio-historical foundations of AAPI students in Fall 2021 (SOC 36 & ENGL 1A) and Spring 2022 (HIST 9 & ENGL 1C).

As part of the grant, the Educational Advisor position was to be fully institutionalized (college funded) by the end of the grant period. This request is to implement the institutionalization of this position effective 10/1/21. Regardless of whether the program is successfully refunded, the institutionalization of this key position will enable the program to become more stable and to expand the scope of services provided. Asian Pacific Islander students continue to be a significant percentage of our student enrollment. For many low income, first generation, immigrant, Asian Pacific Islander Americans, the Arise program is a critical source of support.

The full-time Educational Advisor position serves a key role in the delivery of services for the ARISE Program. The position provides educational advising and assistance to students by planning schedules, recommending courses and determining appropriate education solutions. The individual provides guidance, interpretation and information related to district policies and regulations, as well as interprets UC, CSU, private and out-of-state transfer policies and procedures; this may include review and completion of transfer paperwork as needed. Supporting the ARISE director, this advisor provides advice and support services to students applying for and enrolling in the program. The Educational Advisor conducts workshops and delivers presentations to students, prospective students, parents and community members about the College and the specific requirements for the ARISE program. The advisor also applies culturally competent knowledge in working with Asian American and Pacific Islander communities and has a critical understanding of how familial relationships/hierarchies can affect institutional engagement.

Request to Institutionalize the Arise Program Educational Advisor

As stated in the AANAPISI grant, the institutionalization of this position is critical and something Mt. SAC planned to incorporate by the conclusion of the grant period in September 2021. For years the ARISE program has served a wide range of students, beyond the targeted AAPI students. Institutionalizing the position would enable the program to continue on its growth trajectory and expansion of services. This advisor is key in ensuring we remain compliant with the focus and outcomes of the grant. As an example, currently 90% of our students have an educational plan on file. Culturally-competent counseling/advising strategies and student development programming (e.g., ARISE student leadership retreat, Fale Fono) are crucial to the success of our population of students. In practice, the advisor position must maintain balance between the application of traditional institutional practices and culturally-responsive techniques for students who are historically marginalized within the higher education system.