AUP Improve User Guide

Current Review Period: 2020-2021

Due Dates:

Dec. 5th: AUPs Due

Dec. 15th: 1st Level Manager Review
Dec. 18th: 2nd Level Manager Review

Jan. 2nd: Last date to make final edits to AUP & One Time Requests

Jan. 3rd: OIR starts pulling data from plans & budgets to post

How to Login into Improve:



Website: https://flc.tracdat.com/tracdat/shibboleth

<u>Username</u>: 'W' + employee ID (i.e. W0123456)

<u>Password</u>: Los Rios Password (same password you use to log into your work computer.)

Access Issues with Improve:

If you are unable to log into *Improve*, or when you log into *Improve* you are unable to access the AUP for your unit, please contact the Office of Institutional Research¹.

Quick Links:

I want to....

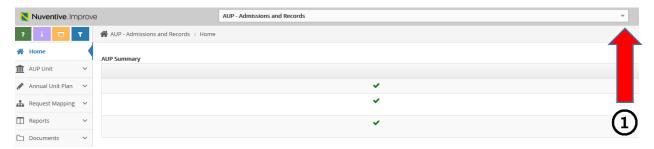
- 1. Start my AUP Jump to Step 1 (page 2)
- 2. Add/revise Resource Requests Jump to <a>Step 3 (page 6)
- 3. Request Mapping Jump to <a>Step 4 (page 11)
- 4. Share draft of AUP Jump to <a>Step 5 (page 12)
- 5. Submit my AUP for Review Jump to <a>Step 6 (page 13)
- 6. View Feedback / Final Edits Jump to <a>Step 7 (page 13)

¹ Office of Institutional Research Contact: Jill Bradshaw. Email: <u>bradshj@flc.losrios.edu</u> Phone: 916.660.2310

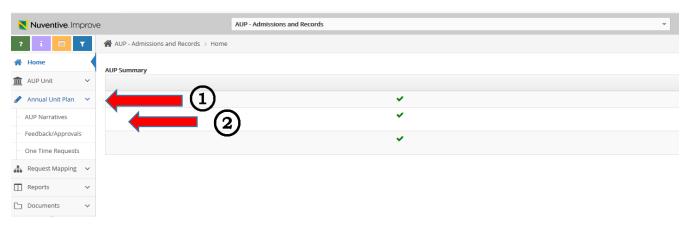
Quick Guide to Getting Started

Step 1: How to access your AUP

When you first log into *Improve* you will see your homepage, which is customized to show you only the documents related to your unit. Select the drop-down menu button on the far right to see all your documents (1). From the drop-down menu, select the AUP you want to work on. [Note: If you do not see any documents in the drop-down menu or if you see incorrect documents, please contact the OIR to modify your access.]



When you select the AUP for your unit, your screen will change to show the AUP Summary screen (as shown below). If you have any one time requests for resources, they will be listed by request title on this summary page. Next, select the Annual Unit Plan drop-down menu (1), and then select AUP Narratives (2) to being work on your AUP narrative.

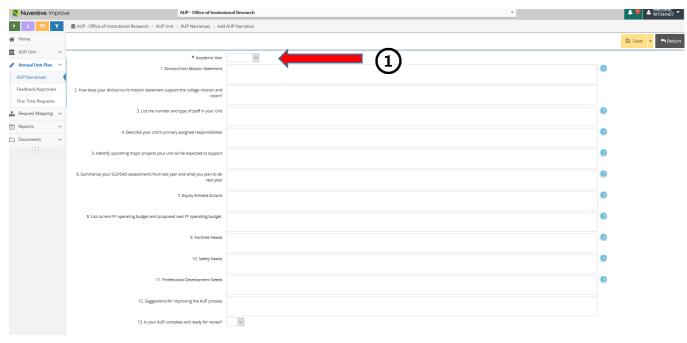


You will now see a list to the AUP narratives completed in previous years. You have two options for writing your current AUP: You can open a new/blank narrative form and start the writing process from scratch by selecting the green "+" button (1), or you can create a copy of the previous year's plan and edit that document with revised data for this current review period by selecting the copy button (2).



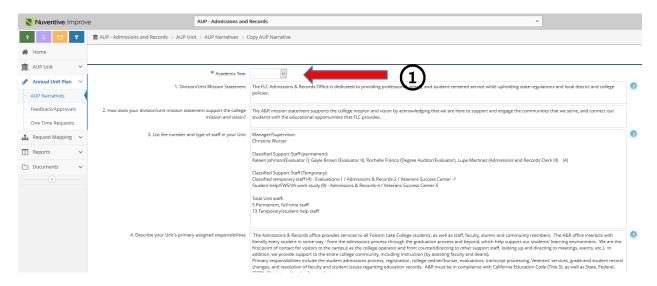
A. Using a New/Blank Narrative Form

If you select to use a new/blank narrative form, your screen will look like the image below. Start by identifying the Academic Year (1), which is the current review period (2020-2021). Continue through the form responding to the questions at your own pace. See Section 2 on saving your work. Please note changes in Fall 2020: Q7. is a new question; Q9-Q11 were previously a single question but they are now broken out as 3 distinct questions.

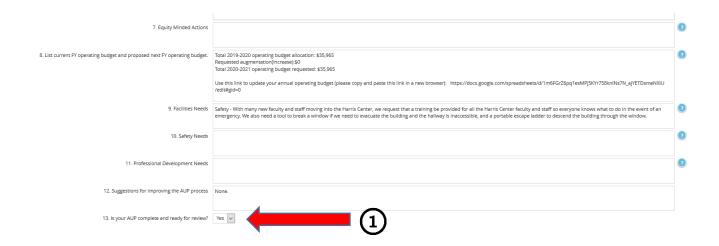


B. Copying & Editing Narrative Form

If you chose to copy over the narrative form from the previous year, after selecting the copy button you need to identify the Academic Year (1), which is the current review period (2020-2021). All the boxes within the document will reflect your responses from the previous year. Continue through the form editing the data at your own pace. See Section 2 on saving your work.

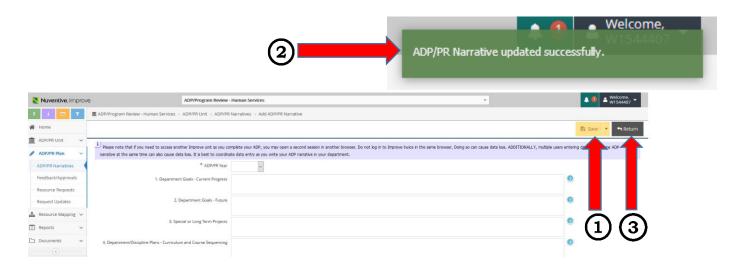


Before you exit this document, please make sure you **go to Q.13 and change your response from "yes" to "no".** Q.13 functions as the "submit" button, letting the 1st and 2nd level reviewers know that your plan is complete and ready for review. Question 13 should not be marked as "yes" until your revisions are complete, and you are ready for your supervisor to review to plan.



Step 2: Saving your Work

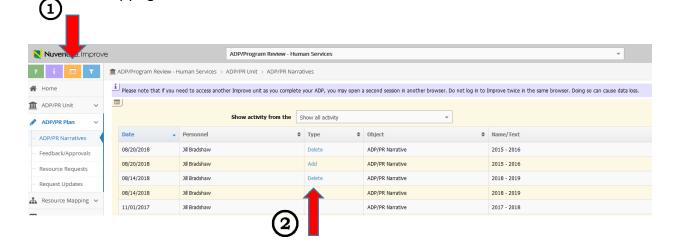
Improve does not automatically save your work – **you must click the "Save" button** (1). When you save your work, you will get a green pop-up message confirming that your work was saved (2). It is advised to save your work regularly while working on your plan. When you are finished working on your plan and you have saved your work, select the "return" button (3).



A few things to remember related to saving your work...

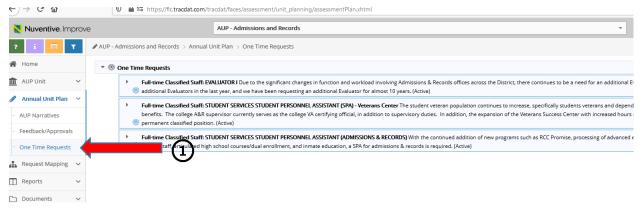
- 1. Multiple Users: It is possible for more than one person to access the same Improve document at the same time. If you plan on having multiple people editing the same document within Improve you will need to coordinate that work to ensure that you are accessing the document at different times so that you are not saving over each other's work. If you want greater flexibility, you might consider working on the narrative questions within a shared document in Google and then copying over your final responses into Improve.
- 2. Multiple Browsers / Multiple Instances: It is possible for the same person to log into and open multiple instances of *Improve*. If you want to have more than one document or page open within *Improve*, please use two different browsers (i.e. Chrome & Firefox). Using two tabs or windows of the same Browser type (i.e. two Firefox windows) can cause issues within the application, like parts of one page showing on the other page (a minor issue likely fixed by refresh), but it may also cause major issues like data being moved or overwritten between two different units. If you need to compare different areas, please use two completely separate browsers, and do not have more than one active session in the same browser type.
- 3. **Required Questions:** Any question marked with an asterisk requires a response. When saving a document, if required questions are not answered, the document will not save. If you are not ready to respond to a certain question, but want to save your work,

- simply put any text in the narrative box, hit the save button again, and then return to that question in later revisions. Required questions are primarily related to the One Time Request form.
- 4. Viewing Changes within Improve / Recovering Deleted Data: Changes made within Improve are logged and can be viewed by selecting "Context View" button (1). The activity report shows the date of change, person making the change, type of change, object (type of document), and title of the document. To view the revised text, select the blue "type" link (2). Any data deleted in error can be recovered by opening this link and copying "old value" column.



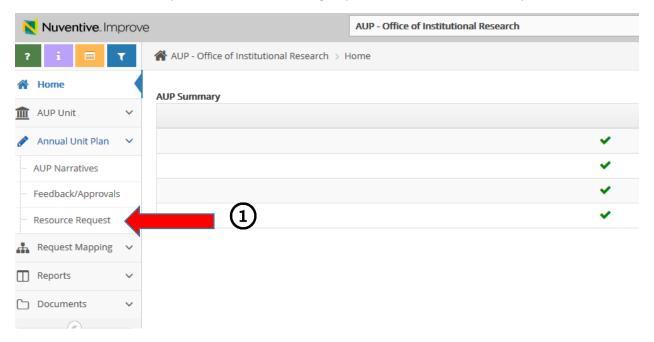
Step 3: How to Create or Edit a Resource Request

Change in Fall 2020: The One Time Request form (1) has been replaced with the Resource Request form, which mirrors the Resource Request form used in ADPs/Program Reviews. This change will allow AUP units to make more types of resource requests, including FT Faculty Requests. Directions for the new Resource Request form start on page 7. Please note that all One Time Requests made prior to Fall 2020 are still list in Improve under the new Resource Request tab (see image on page 7).



Within the AUP screen, you will see the Planning Summary screen (as shown below). If you have any active resource requests, they will be listed here.

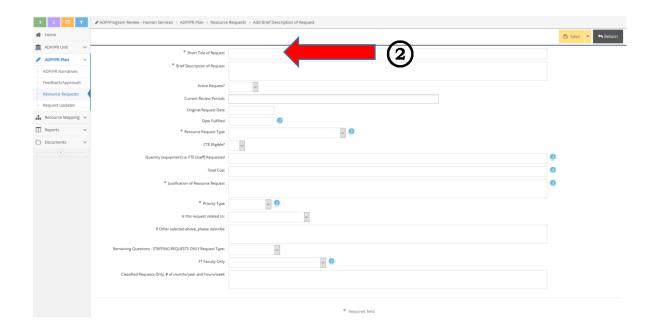
To add a new resource request or to edit an existing request, select the Resource Request tab (1).



A. Creating a New Resource Request

To open and create and new resource request, select the select green + button (1). Start by identifying the **Short Title of Request** (2), ideally three words or less (e.g. Power Outlets). Use the **Brief Description of Request** box to add more information about the request, ideally 10 words or less (e.g. Installation of three floor power outlets in tutoring center). If you need to provide more detail about the request, please use the **Justification of Resource Request** box. Continue through the form responding to the questions at your own pace. Please note that 6 questions in this form are required fields (*) and you must enter data in that field to save work (see section 2 about required questions).





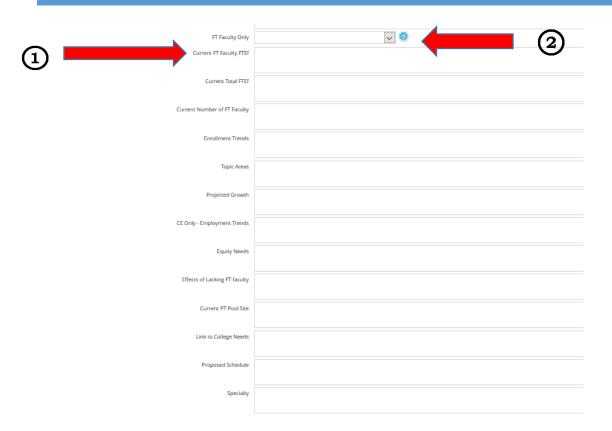
B. Staffing Requests / FT Faculty Requests

If you are requesting "staffing" (FT faculty, classified, admin, or temp classified), you will need to complete the questions at the bottom of the **Resource Request Form** within *Improve*. If you are not requesting staffing, you will skip those questions.



FT Faculty Position Requests: The **Academic Discipline Profile** questions, that were previously in a google form format, have now been incorporated into the Resource Request Form within *Improve*. To request a FT faculty position, answer the 13 questions at the bottom of the **Resource Request Form** within *Improve* (1 - see page 9). When you have finalized all edits to the request, please mark the request as Completed (2). Only active FT Faculty resource requests with the Academic Discipline Profile questions answered will be moved forward to the Faculty Hiring Prioritization Committee.

Requests for FT faculty can be submitted any time during the academic year. The Academic Discipline Profile questions do not need to be marked as "completed" until the end of the spring term. A list of all active/completed FT Faculty Requests will be created after the last day of instruction each spring term and forwarded to the Academic Senate Hiring Prioritization Committee and Administration.



C. Changes to Operating Budget

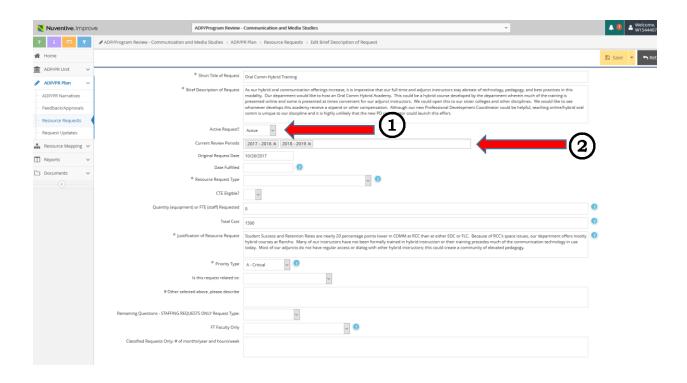
Proposed changes to your annual operating budget should be discussed in the AUP Narrative: Question 8 and documented in the budget sheet for your unit. Links to the budget worksheets can be found within Q7. of the AUP narrative, and here: Administrative Services Budget Sheets: 2020-2021; Student Services Budget Sheets: 2020-2021.

D. Updating / Editing a Resource Request

To update an existing Resource Request, select the edit button (1). Please note that the Resource Request form has different resource options than the previous One Time Request form. If you have existing One Time Requests within Improve, the Resource Request Type box will now be blank. You will need to select a resource request type from the list; this is a required question and you will not be able to save your edits until a new selection has been made.



If you want to request this resource again for the current review period (2020-21), you need to make sure the **Active Request** box (1) is marked as *Active*. If the resource request has been *completed* (request received) or the request is *on hold* (you don't want to make this request this review cycle, but you want to keep the request on file for future use), go the **Active Request** drop down menu (1) and change the status to Completed or On-Hold. Please note that <u>only active requests</u> that will be included in annual resource request reports.



If you want to completely delete/remove a resource request from *Improve*, select the delete button (1).

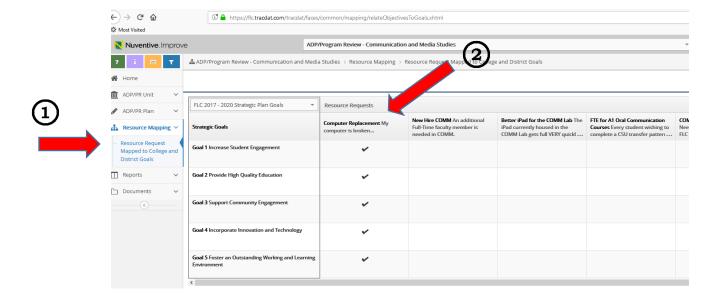


Note about Resource Requests: Please be aware that resource requests are shared out in a spreadsheet format, and only the information included in the RR form is moved forward to the prioritization committees. So please be sure to copy and paste related information from your AUP narrative about the need for the resource into the "justification for resource" box in the RR form. And conversely, all resource requests made should be referenced with the AUP narrative.

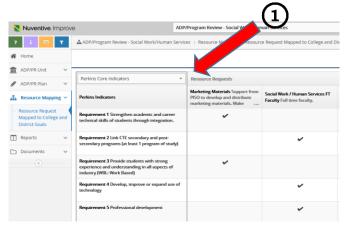
Step 4: Resource Mapping

It is an ACCJC requirement that institutions use their human, physical, technology, and financial resources to achieve the mission of the college and to improve academic quality and institutional effectiveness (see ACCJC Reference Handbook, Standard 3: Resources). The resource mapping feature within Improve is the college's primary mechanism for documenting the alignment of resources requests with FLC Strategic Plan Goals, whereby documenting our compliance with ACCJC standards. For this reason, it is a requirement that all resources requests are mapped to college goals.

The process of mapping resource requests is easy. Simply click on "Resource Mapping" (1), and then click on "Resource Requests Mapped to College and District Goals". Each resource request that you submitted will appear in columns across the top row (2). The college's Strategic goals will appear in rows down the middle-left. Simply check which college goal each resource requests supports (click in the box and a checkmark will appear.) When you are done, click save.

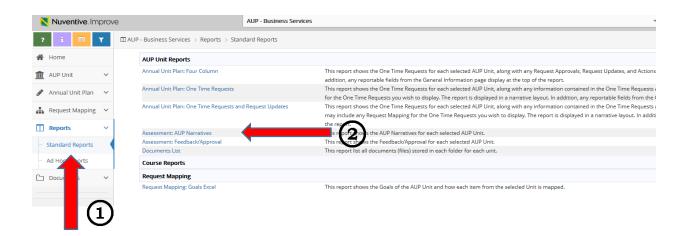


For programs receiving Career Education funding, there is an additional requirement to track resources requests to Perkins Core Indicators. Open the drop-down menu (1) to select Perkins Core Indicators and follow same steps outlined above.

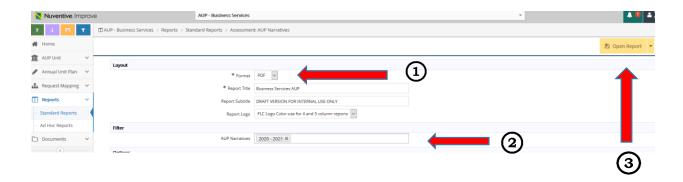


Step 5: Share Draft of Plan

If you are interested in sharing a draft of your plan with others on your team, there are a two easy ways to do that. You can contact OIR and request that all department members have access to *Improve*; you can request that members have edit access or view only access. Note that 1st and 2nd level reviewers (Managers, Deans, and VPs) already have view access. Or you can create a draft document of your AUP by selecting "Reports" (1), and then Standard Reports. Next, select "Assessment: AUP Narratives" (2).



Next, select your preferred layout, filter, and options. Format choices are PDF, HTML or Word (1). You can change the title, and add a subtitle and logo, if desired. The filter allows you select the plan narrative by year (2). And Options allows you include or exclude fields with no data. Once you have made your selections, hit the Open Report button to generate your report. You will see a pop-up message that the report in generating (it may take a minute or two), and then the report will open in a new window.



Step 6: Submit for Review

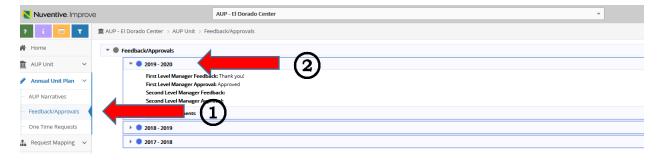
When you are done with the above steps and you are ready for your Manager, Dean and/or VP to review your plan, go back to the current year AUP Narrative and select "Yes" to Q10: "Is your AUP complete and ready for review?". First and second level reviewers will receive bi-weekly reports from November 15th to December 5th notifying them when completed AUPs are ready for their review.



Step 7: View Feedback/Approvals & Final Revisions

Within the AUP Planning Summary screen, select Feedback/Approvals (1). If your Manager/Dean or Vice President have added feedback, you will see a document for the AUP review year and the feedback/approval status (2). If you do not see a document for the current review period, that means the reviewers have not yet added their feedback.

The deadline for any final revisions to AUP narratives and one time requests is January 2nd; any changes made after that deadline will not be included in committee reports or resource requests lists (with the exception of FT Faculty Staffing Requests, which can be submitted anytime through the end of the spring term).



Other:

- ❖ Need training on *Improve*? Have problems accessing *Improve*?
 - Contact Jill Bradshaw, Faculty Researcher, at: bradshj@flc.losrios.edu
- See the <u>Office of Institutional Research (OIR) page on Inside</u> to find:
 - Links to Data Dashboards, Research Briefs & Key Performance Indicators
 - Links to FLC Student Satisfaction with Support Services Survey Reports