

A Campus Support Program for Students from Foster Care

CAREER PATHWAY SERVICES & AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP

Guardian Scholars Program, San Francisco State University



SAN FRANCISCO

STATE UNIVERSITY

GSP STAFF



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GSP AMBASSADORS



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Outreach Coordinator*



*Naomi, MSW Student & Former
Ambassador*



“

ONCE GSP, ALWAYS GSP

SFSU Guardian Scholars Program

ALWAYS REMEMBER

”



ORGANIZATIONAL MISSION & HISTORY

- SF State's GSP was founded in 2005 to address the needs of former foster care youth on campus who were seeking undergraduate degrees
 - Mission: Create a system of support that will meet the academic, social, emotional, and financial needs of undergraduate students who are transitioning out of the foster care system
 - Grew out of a collaboration in Student Affairs - EOP and School of Social Work
 - GSP serves 100 students each year, all of whom are low income, first-generation college students, and who would be marginally housed or homeless during the school breaks
 - Have served 264 students to date
-



PROMOTE SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY
HONOR RESILIENCE
EMPOWER STUDENT VOICE
CELEBRATE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
ENCOURAGE AUTONOMY & SELF-SUFFICIENCY
SUPPORT STUDENT OPPORTUNITY & LEADERSHIP
BUILD A SAFE COMMUNITY
NOURISH FUN EXPERIENCES, LAUGHTER, & SELF-EXPRESSION
VALUE & SUSTAIN COMMUNITY & DONOR PARTNERSHIPS



GSP STUDENTS 2015-2019 (N=264)

- Females (68%), Males (32%)
 - Ethnicity
 - African American (40%)
 - Asian American (9%)
 - Caucasian (19%)
 - Latinx (32%)
 - Sexual Orientation
 - LGBTQIA (35%)
 - Straight (65%)
 - Mean number of years in foster care
 - 9.2 years (S.D. 5.65)
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70%

*of students graduate (after six years)
(higher than nationwide universities
and SFSU)*

82%

*of all student class levels continue at
SFSU the following year*

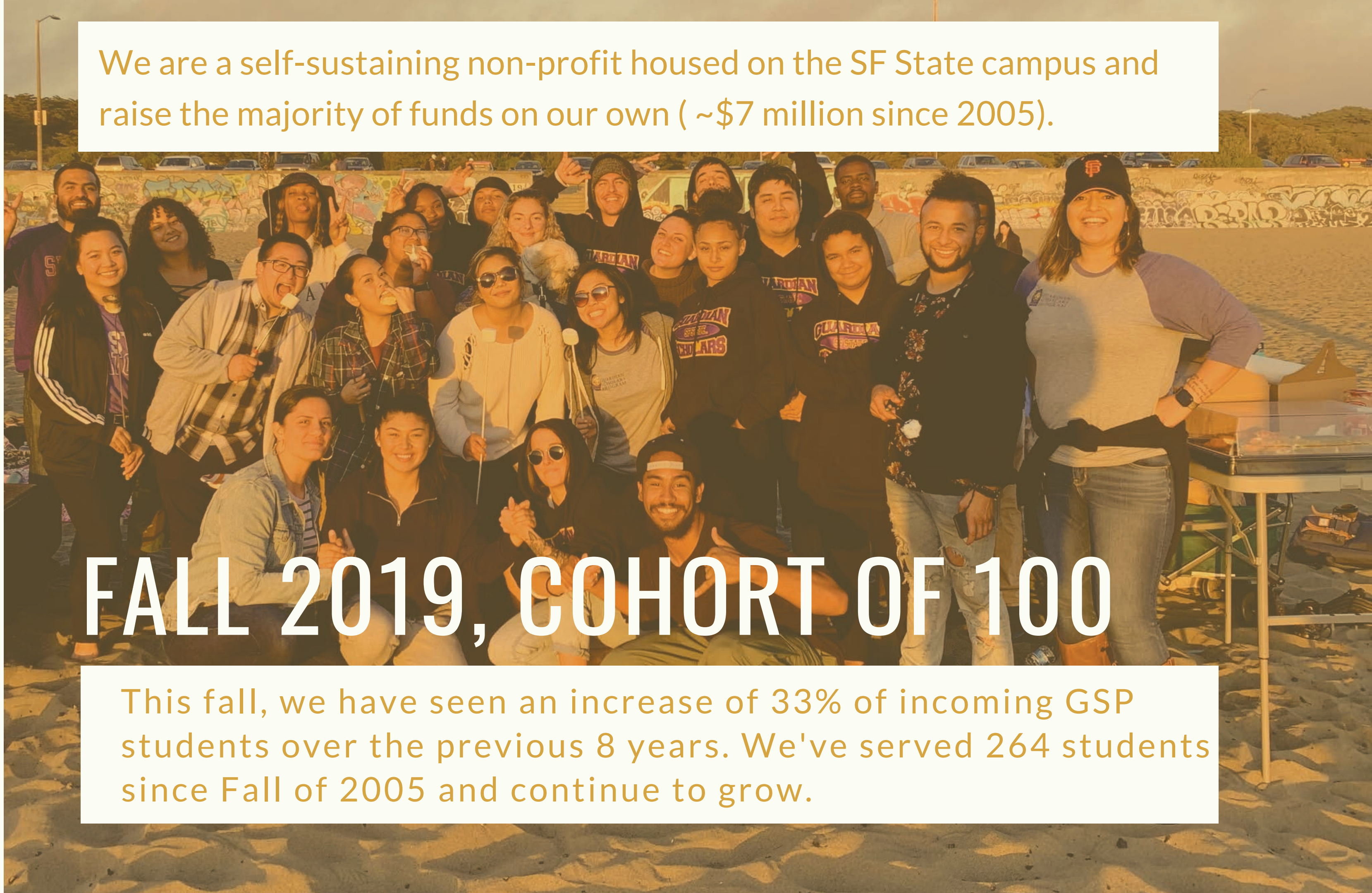
84%

*of first-time freshman continue at
SFSU the following year*

We are a self-sustaining non-profit housed on the SF State campus and raise the majority of funds on our own (~\$7 million since 2005).

FALL 2019, COHORT OF 100

This fall, we have seen an increase of 33% of incoming GSP students over the previous 8 years. We've served 264 students since Fall of 2005 and continue to grow.



GSP Services

Intensive Clinical Case Management

Weekly meetings
with Clinical Case
Managers

High touch model
of services

Year-Round Housing

Winter/summer
breaks (now paid
for by university
housing)

Emergency needs

Mental Health Support

Therapists
(independent
consultants)

Referrals to CBOs

Monthly Social Events

Holiday events,
Great America,
GSP Dance, Sports
Day, Graduation
Celebrations, etc.

GSP Ambassador Program

Student-centered
Student-led

On and Off
Campus Advocacy



NEW STUDENTS



CONTINUING STUDENTS

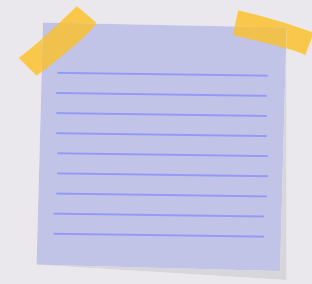
HOUSING

- Priority on-campus housing year-round each year
- Year-round housing (summer and winter breaks paid for by university)
- First-time freshmen may be assigned on the same floor as other GSP students
- Students may choose to live together in future years (creating permanent emotional connections to friends)

GSP SF STATE PARTNERSHIPS



EOPP: EOP, TRIO
Dream Resource Center
Associated Students
AS Early Childhood Education Center



Office of the Registrar
Financial Aid & Scholarships
Disability Programs & Resource
Center



Health Promotion & Wellness
Student Health Center
Counseling & Psychological Services



Career Services & Leadership
Development
Division of Graduate Studies

GSP Career Services

Internship Placement Program

- Began Fall 2014
- Students can earn up to \$2000 per academic semester
- Average of 21 students participating per academic year



Annual Job Shadowing Events

- Shadow a "day in the life" of professionals in fields of interest
- Establishes formal, program supported networking connections



Workshops & Partnerships

- On & off campus
- Resume/CV, cover letter, & application support
- Interview prep
- Strategic networking




ENCOURAGING STRENGTH BASED SELF-ADVOCACY

- Students apply to receive a stipend and identify specific growth opportunities with their supervisor
- Students meet with Career Specialist regularly to develop professional goals and process challenges & wins, stress & anxiety, & learning opportunities
- Students build confidence in their professional experience and growth
- Reclaiming the power of non-traditional access to higher-education or career fields

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO LONG-TERM EMPLOYMENT

- Basic needs as a foundational right
- Advocating on and off campus for student opportunities
- A students' work is valuable - paying for their positions can increase self-worth and provide future opportunities
- Intentional skill-building and growth



**SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
STUDENT AFFAIRS & ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT
1600 Holloway Avenue, SSB 201
San Francisco, CA 94132
Tel: 415/405-0546
Fax: 415/338-3067

Internship Learning Agreement

Learning Agreement will be completed by both Supervisor and student to ensure expectations are clear for internship placement.

Student name: _____ Supervisor name: _____

Placement site: _____ Supervisor Contact Information: _____

Paid or Unpaid? _____ If yes, indicate rate of payment (i.e. stipend, hourly rate, etc.): _____

Start date: _____ End date: _____

Hours Scheduled for Internship (i.e. 9am-2pm)	Days for Internship						
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

Mutual agreements and understanding for this placement are:
Describe expectations that both supervisor and supervisee agree to, such as promptness, supervision style, policies and procedures, and/or roles and responsibilities. Supervisor may attach internship description to this document.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are goals/skills that the student hopes to achieve during the internship experience? (i.e. office etiquette, leadership skills, professional development, career experience, , etc.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What are goals that the supervisor hopes to achieve during the time of internship? (i.e. assistance on a project, community engagement, etc.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

By signing this document both Supervisor and Student agree to Learning Agreement and must submit to this document to GSP for verification.

Student Signature

Supervisor Signature

Date

Date

CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED



How can we better maintain & utilize relationships with partners and contacts?

Despite grant funding for stipends, staff capacity and resources are limited.

How can we diversify job shadow placements to create access for all students & fields?

Many of our past volunteers work in social services, mental health, local government, etc., but we lack STEM contacts.

How can we better prepare students professionally & emotionally for a transition out of undergrad?

Most students express their anxiety around graduating and entering the work force. We are in the process of establishing structured groups or events that better address this need.

GSP STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND STUDENT VOICE



MISSION STATEMENT

EST FALL 2019

The GSP Ambassador Program at SFSU strives to lead, advocate, and foster success for current and former foster youth students through leadership, empowerment, and community building. We represent the power of a by-student, for-student organization.



ACT AS AN ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS AND FOR MYSELF
UPHOLD POSITIVE LEADERSHIP
FOSTER FORWARD THINKING
CREATE A FUN AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT
PROVIDE PEER SUPPORT AND MENTORSHIP
ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMATIC CHANGE THAT EXPANDS FOSTER YOUTH
RIGHTS, SERVICES, & OPPORTUNITY
ORGANIZE AND FACILITATE WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS THAT BUILD
COMMUNITY & ENCOURAGE POSITIVE LIFE SKILLS



GSP AMBASSADOR TIMELINE

First Ambassador Program Piloted with Four Students
Fall 2017 (brainstorm from Blueprint 2016)

Roles & Bi-Laws Defined by Ambassadors
Spring 2018

2nd Staff Member to support (previously one)
Fall 2018

First Ambassador Retreat
Spring 2019

All Ambassadors attend CYC Conference to Lobby at State Capitol
Spring 2019

First Election Open to all GSP Students
Fall 2019

**CURRENT ACADEMIC COHORT
2019-2020:
7 AMBASSADORS
2 STAFF SUPPORT
3 TOTAL CONFERENCES
\$500 STIPEND EACH SEMESTER**



Ambassador Programming

Community Building

- Each Ambassador is in charge of planning and executing their own event based on student input & need
- Peer connection



Leadership

- Peer leadership
- Representation on campus
- Application & election process
- Building personal leadership skills



Advocacy

- Campus, local, and state wide
- Conferences
- Donor relations
- Feedback and debriefs for staff events



AMBASSADOR ROLES



- President*
- Vice President*
- Secretary*
- Event Coordinator*
- Social Media Coordinator*
- Finance Coordinator*
- Outreach Coordinator*

CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED



How can we represent GSP as a whole and include more student voice and participation in community building events?

We are working to improve outreach and inclusivity to all GSP students by identifying the needs of specific students and student identities.

How can Ambassadors balance workload and utilize the experience professionally?

By working together as a cohesive team and supporting each other personally and professionally, we can provide for our peers and for ourselves.

How can we expand advocacy efforts on and off campus?

We hope to improve our partnerships with on campus and off campus organizations so that we can leave a legacy of change.



**THANK YOU!
ANY QUESTIONS?**

SF State Guardian Scholars Program Office 415-405-0546 or gsp@sfsu.edu