San Francisco State University Guardian Scholars Program

Launched in 2005, the San Francisco State University's Guardian Scholars Program is tailored to fit the needs of undergraduate students who were formerly in foster care. The Guardian Scholars Program is a comprehensive program under the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) that works in collaboration with the School of Social Work.

Our Mission

The mission of the Guardian Scholars Program is to create a circle of support that meets the academic, social, emotional, and financial needs of foster students. The program is committed to helping foster youth scholars graduate and achieve their career goals and empowering them to become leaders in their communities.

**Services Provided**

* Priority counseling and psychological services
* Bi-monthly meetings with case manager
* Mental health services and referrals
* Mentorship program
* Job and internship opportunities
* Social, cultural support and fun activities
* Friendly and accessible program staff
* Year-round, guaranteed, on-campus housing
* One-on-one financial aid packaging assistance
* Renewable scholarship opportunities
* Priority registration every semester
* EOP Summer Bridge priority for first time freshman
* Connections to campus departments

**Data Highlights**

Persistence Rates: SFSU Guardian Scholars Compared to Other College Students

A persistence rate includes continuing students that return to school the following school-year and students who successfully graduate. In the last school year, 100% of foster youth scholars participating in our Guardian Scholars Program persisted. Since 2005, the vast majority of our students (80%) have persisted, outperforming foster youth nationwide and even the national general student population.

**Why this Matters**

For California’s 56,000 foster youth, a pathway to higher education is absolutely critical. Removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect, foster youth are often bounced around, moving from placement to placement and changing schools constantly. Frequently disconnected from their families, communities, and schools, foster youth are much more likely than their peers to fall behind academically. As a result, foster youth are less likely to enroll in college and complete their post-secondary education and are more likely to experience poverty, suffer from mental health issues, become homeless or incarcerated, and rely on public assistance.

Like all young people, foster youth deserve the opportunity to pursue their dreams of attending college and have a successful career. By supporting foster youth scholars, the Guardian Scholars Program offers an alternative to the negative outcomes that far too many foster youth experience in life.

**Support Guardian Scholars!**

Your support can directly impact the lives of former foster youth in college, helping them achieve their dreams of attaining a degree. To send a donation to the SF State Guardian Scholars Program, visit [www.sfsu.edu/~develop/makeagift.htm](http://www.sfsu.edu/~develop/makeagift.htm). Checks are also accepted and can be made payable to University Corporation, SF State / Guardian Scholars Program.

**Contact Us**

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