

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA
Guardian Scholars Program



www.sa.ucsb.edu/guardianscholars



WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE



LISA PRZEKOP

Founder and Advisor
Guardian Scholars Program

Dear Prospective Students:

In 2007 I met an amazing young woman who had grown up in the foster care system. That meeting changed my life and inspired me to create the Guardian Scholars Program at UCSB.

I am very proud of the program, as it has matured into the program we have today. We adopted the philosophy of "Nothing for us, without us" which means THIS IS YOUR PROGRAM! Each student who participates will have an impact on the program and all activities we plan, services we provide and the evolution of the program as we continue to grow.

The Guardian Scholars Program is here to serve your needs and to support you on your journey of academic success and career preparation. We will cheer you on every step of the way and lend our support when you need an extra hand to keep you on track for success. We will also have a lot of fun as we connect for hikes, barbecues, holiday events and simply hanging out!

It is my honor and privilege to work with you. You join the company of many amazing Guardian Scholars who attended UCSB and who forever remain part of our special Guardian Scholars family.

It is my hope that UC Santa Barbara will become home to you and that I can lend my support to your success.

Sincerely,



**ANTOINETTE
MORELAND-CARTER**

Coordinator
Guardian Scholars Program

Greetings from the UCSB Guardian Scholars Program!

Thank you for taking the time to check out our Resource Guide created just for you as a prospective UCSB Gaucho and Guardian Scholar.

The UCSB Guardian Scholars Program is more than a support program for students who come to UCSB with experience as foster youth. We are a family. Students of our program are in need of many different types of assistance, from academic advising, to crisis intervention, and so on. Thus, our program support is made up of a variety of campus and community champions with expertise in a myriad of areas. This is why we are uniquely able to best describe the UCSB Guardian Scholars Program as a collaborative establishment of advocacy for students who identify as current or former foster youth.

I myself am a former foster youth. In 2008, I came to UCSB as a freshman in need of a lot, but determined to succeed regardless. Due to a shared passion to serve and support foster youth, Lisa Przekop and I met and began the development of the Guardian Scholars Program as a UCSB student organization. In March of 2013, after struggling consistently with academic setbacks, family hardships, and mental difficulties, I was able to obtain my Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology.

As the Guardian Scholars Coordinator, my lived and learned experience is at the core of both why and how I support our students. My continuous mission is to connect with each and every one of them and make sure that they are thoroughly aware of the fact that if I've been able to do it, they are as well.

Sincerely,



2009 UCSB
Guardian Scholars
Program
established

40+ donors
have given to
Guardian
Scholars



40% of UCSB
former foster youth
participate in
Guardian Scholars

PROGRAM RESOURCES

PEER ADVISORS

Peer Advisors are students of the Guardian Scholars Program who have been hired to assist in programmatic activities and development. As the front line staff, the Peer Advisors are the face of the program. They facilitate meetings, plan and conduct student activities and lead the student organization.



the UCSB Office of Student Life, the student organization plans events, hosts fundraisers and allows students to find and build their community of peers within the program.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

EOP services all students while focusing on low-income and first-generation undergraduates. EOP provides mentorship, social and cultural programming, one-on-one counseling and advising, campus student support service referrals and academic programs. All students in the Guardian Scholars Program are EOP eligible.



STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The student organization component of the Guardian Scholars Program is a single component of the program, as well as the most fundamental. Through

the UCSB Office of Student Life, the student organization plans events, hosts fundraisers and allows students to find and build their community of peers within the program.

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ASSOCIATED STUDENTS FOOD BANK

The Food Bank provides a pantry for students on campus, including members of the Guardian Scholars Program, when personal supplies and necessities, including food, are scarce. The Guardian Scholars Program gives back to the Food Bank through food drives, collaborations and volunteering.

HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Students of the Guardian Scholars Program are given priority in housing placements and have the support of a dedicated liaison who is constantly assisting with special requests and unique needs.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee is made up of a group of UCSB staff members who serve as the respective departmental liaisons to the program and students.

Office of Admissions

(805) 893-2881

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)

(805) 893-4410

Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS)

(805) 893-4757

Student Health

(805) 893-2167

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

(805) 893-4411

Housing and Residential Services

(805) 893-7391

Office of Student Life

(805) 893-4364

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

(805) 893-3760

College of Letters and Science

(805) 893-2948

Career Services

(805) 893-4412



35% of Guardian Scholars are in Biology or Psychology-related majors

36 2016 seniors self-identify as former foster youth



150 current UCSB students self-identify as former foster youth



GUARDIAN SCHOLARS STUDENT PERSPECTIVES



ANDREW CHONG
Economics and Accounting,
Class of 2018

WHY UCSB? I chose UCSB because of the strong sense of unity. Also, UCSB offers many different research opportunities as well as a beautiful campus.

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS The Guardian Scholars community is very close, and we all enjoy creating a bond with one another. The community is very inclusive in every activity and allows each and every one of us to be active throughout the program. This community is life-changing!



LETICIA CEBALLOS
History, Class of 2017

WHY UCSB? Choosing UCSB was the easiest decision I have ever made. The beach was only part of the beauty of this campus. The atmosphere just fostered success, and I wanted to be a part of that.

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS When I went to my first meeting I heard people laughing, catching up, talking about school, etc. There was a shared experience that even if no one ever spoke about, we knew was there. I'm overwhelmed with the sense of community. I will forever be grateful for this program.



LAURA ADDISON
Feminist Studies / Black Studies,
Music Minor, Class of 2017

WHY UCSB? I chose UCSB because of the campus. I loved the fact that the beach was within walking distance, and then I soon discovered that UCSB has the best academic programs and

even student activism.

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS The best thing about Guardian Scholars is to see people with similar situations thrive in a competitive university environment. Students that come from difficult backgrounds such as not having a stable household can benefit from programs like Guardian Scholars.



DAVID JOHNSON
Political Science,
Class of 2016

WHY UCSB? UCSB was one of my top choices when deciding which school to transfer to after community college. The main reason I chose UCSB was because of the diverse opportunities that were

presented that I knew would enhance my academic career to a whole other level.

GUARDIAN SCHOLARS The Guardian Scholars Program is an amazing academic support system that has definitely helped me achieve my academic goals and has made my journey at UCSB very smooth.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS



There are many different supporters and champions that we have throughout the Santa Barbara community who like to assist our students in many different ways and areas. Generous donors include:

- The Hilton Foundation
- Santa Barbara Assistance League
- The John Burton Foundation
- The Makarechians
- A.S. Bike Shop
- Nisbet Family Foundation
- Transportation Alternatives Program
- Orfalea Foundation

CONNECT WITH GUARDIAN SCHOLARS



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