

Resource Guide

Guardian Scholars Foster Youth



Welcoming Atmosphere



Lisa Przekop

Founder & Advisor
Guardian Scholars Program

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.



2009

UCSB Guardian
Scholars Program
established

175

current UCSB
students self-
identify as former
foster youth

44

different majors
are represented
within the Guardian
Scholars student
population

60+

donors have
supported the
Guardian Scholars
program

100+

scholarships have
been awarded
through the
Guardian Scholars
program



Unmatched 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.

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.



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.

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.

University Housing

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.

Departmental Liaisons

Contacts in multiple departments 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, Dining and Auxiliary Enterprises
(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



Guardian Scholars Student Perspectives



Spechell Colbert

Major: Sociology

Why UCSB? I didn't really know much about UCSB, but it wasn't too far from home and the academics were really good. I wanted to branch out, and UCSB allowed me to get away from home but still go to a really highly ranked university.

Guardian Scholars Community Guardian Scholars was the very first community that I felt welcomed in. Everyone that I have met has been so genuinely nice and welcoming. We're a little family here. You're not alone—there are other people who are going through the same things, and we can get through it together.



Patricia Farnum

Major: Environmental Studies

Why UCSB? Of the schools I got accepted to, it was the one that I felt the most belonging. I came here for the Spring Insight Open House and I really liked the campus. Also, it's a nice location and I really like the beach and the mountains.

Guardian Scholars Community I really liked the Guardian Scholars program because I have met a group of people with similar experiences and backgrounds. We get to do events, meet other people and have nice conversations about topics other people might not understand.



Monica Contreras

Major: Sociology

Why UCSB? I chose UCSB not only because it is a beautiful place but because I felt like I was going to be challenged. It was far away from home and also a highly ranked institution academically.

Guardian Scholars Community I wanted to get involved with the Guardian Scholars program because I think a lot of kids don't feel like they have a voice. I wanted students thinking of coming to college with similar backgrounds to know they can be successful in institutions like UCSB.



Liam Wall

Majors: Physics and Psychological and Brain Sciences

Why UCSB? There is a good balance between working hard and having an uplifting social life. The environment and weather are great, and the students here live a balanced lifestyle.

Guardian Scholars Community The program feels like I have people looking out for me. They provide a safe support system on campus that is very inclusive but not overwhelming. I get to meet a whole bunch of amazing people and have great experiences.

Community Supporters



There are many different supporters and champions of the Guardian Scholars Program throughout the Santa Barbara community who assist students in many different ways and areas. In addition to many individual donors, the Guardian Scholars Program would like to acknowledge the following foundations and groups:

The Makarechian Foundation • The Hilton Foundation • The Center for Living Peace • The Towbes Group • Santa Barbara Assistance League • Quest Family Foundation • The John Burton Foundation • Nisbet Family Foundation • UCSB Transportation Alternatives Program • Rotary Club • Echoes of Hope Foundation • Merrill Lynch Wealth Management • The Marin Community Foundation • Robert Nunez DDS/Orfalea Foundation • Teach a Man to Fish Foundation



Connect with Guardian Scholars

1234 Cheadle Hall, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2014

sa.ucsb.edu/guardianscholars | ucsbguardianscholars@gmail.com



@ucsbguardianscholars



@ucsantabarbara

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