The Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) provides holistic support services for former and current foster youth, wards of the court, unaccompanied homeless youth, and youth under legal guardianship. GSP is designed for students under the age of 27. The program assists students in navigating the San José State University (SJSU) system through access to key campus, community, and financial resources, such as: book vouchers, locating year-round housing, and scholarships.

The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) serves as the main academic resource for Guardian Scholars at SJSU, offering ongoing services, which include: academic advising, workshops, tutoring, mentoring, and tools that prepare students beyond a college degree.

THE GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO:

• Connect with other Guardian Scholars
• Introduce you to the network of available campus resources
• Connect with community support and service allies
• Understand the positive and negative impact of decisions
• Build meaningful interpersonal relationships
• Enhance your financial independence

The Guardian Scholars Program team is here to help you on your path to success at San José State University. We work in collaboration with many of the student support programs on campus and with community services off campus. We have been successful in supporting Guardian Scholars Program students through ongoing coaching and mentoring, building a social community, and helping students chart a course toward graduation. We will help you to connect and build relationships with other students from similar backgrounds and life experiences.

See more at bit.ly/videogs

INFORMATION

DID YOU KNOW...

All 23 of the California State University (CSU) campuses have a program for foster youth support.
SERVICES

Academics

• Priority registration each semester
• Skill building, which includes time management, setting priorities, study skills, and stress management strategies

Financial

• Access to scholarship opportunities specifically for students in the Guardian Scholars Program
• Provide book vouchers for textbooks and academic supplies
• Access to emergency funding for unexpected needs

Housing

• Assistance in locating on campus, year-round housing
• Housing planning during academic breaks and transitional periods

Personal

• Develop a system of accountability around identifying and achieving goals
• Guidance in identifying resources and how to apply them
• Develop critical thinking and decision making skills to understand the impact of choices
• Provide opportunities to build relationships with other students in the Guardian Scholars Program

Did you know...

30 Guardian Scholars were enrolled for the 2016-2017 academic year

- 80% Female
- 20% Male
ELIGIBILITY

Qualification Criteria

- US citizen or permanent resident
- California Resident
- Incoming freshmen or transfer students who meet SJSU’s eligibility criteria for admission
- Admitted to the SJSU Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- FAFSA financial aid application completed by the EOP priority processing deadline of 1/31 for Fall admission and 9/31 for Spring admission
- Considered “Independent” under federal financial aid guidelines
- Highly motivated students who have recently emancipated from foster care, Wards of the Court, or certified homeless by the Financial Aid Office
- Under the age of 27
- Complete the SJSU EOP Guardian Scholars Supplemental Application by the deadline stated on the application

DID YOU KNOW...

All Guardian Scholars are also EOP students.

Ethnicity

- 17% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 27% Black/African American
- 23% Hispanic/Latino(a)
- 13% White
- 20% Other

Average GPA

2.8 (Spring 2017)

APPLICATION PROCESS

Checklist

- Apply to SJSU via Cal State Apply.
- Indicate “YES” when asked if you are interested in applying to EOP. Application and acceptance to EOP is required prior to the GSP application process.
- Students who do not indicate “Yes” can return to Cal State Apply to complete the EOP online application. Complete all parts of the EOP application and submit by the deadline of 1/15 for Fall admission or 9/15 for Spring admission.
- On the EOP application mark “YES” if you are or were a former foster youth.
- EOP will email you the SJSU Guardian Scholars Program Application in May for Fall admission and November for Spring admission.
- Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online by the published EOP deadline.