



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Guardian Scholars Program



Prospective Student Application

Mission:

The SDSU Guardian Scholars (GS) Program is a holistic support program committed to serving students who identify as current or former foster youth, wards of the court, under legal guardianship or unaccompanied homeless youth by supporting their transition to, through and beyond SDSU.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a highly motivated student who identifies as current or former: Foster Youth, Ward of the Court, Under Legal Guardianship, Unaccompanied Youth
- Qualify for undergraduate admission to SDSU as a freshman or transfer student
- Apply to the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). To access the EOP application, go to: calstate.edu/apply
- Be a California Resident
- Qualify for "Independent Student" status under federal financial aid guidelines
- Apply for financial Aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- If eligible, apply for the Chafee Grant by March 2nd at www.csac.ca.gov. Apply for Cal Grant by completing the Cal Grant GPA Verification Form, also at www.csac.ca.gov
- If you meet one of the two criteria below, you DO NOT qualify for the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program. If at the age of 18, your legal status was or is:
 - Legally Adopted
 - Reunited with your biological parent(s)

Program Requirements:

- Complete EOP First Contact Orientation: June 2021
- Participate in the EOP [Transfer Bridge Program](#), for transfer students: July 26th - July 30th, 2021. For more information about Transfer Bridge, please visit eop.sdsu.edu
- Sign and commit to the GS Partnership Agreement (on page 4), stay in good GS Standing, complete the GS Semester Success Guide, and engage in the Guardian Scholars Community

Program Benefits:

- Financial Aid & Support in Securing Grants/Scholarships
- Priority Registration (every semester)
- Guardian Scholars Housing Award
- Year-Round On-Campus Housing (including holidays and breaks)
 - Available to students living on or off campus – room & board fully covered On Campus; up to \$652/month rental assistance Off Campus)
- Guardian Scholars Resource Area inside EOP Office
- Wellness Coaching
- Guardian Scholars Student Advisory Board (GSSAB)
- Dedicated EOP Staff & Program Services

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Applicant Information

Date (MM/DD/YYYY) _____

Full Name _____
Last *First* *Middle Initial*

Address _____
Street Address *Apartment/Unit #*

_____ *City* *State* *Zip Code*

Cell Ph: _____ Email: _____

Red ID: _____ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Race: _____ Ethnicity: _____

Demographic Information

Please choose one answer from the drop-down lists.

Legal Status: _____

Current Residence: _____

Where do you plan to live your first year while attending SDSU?
 (Note: First-time freshman are required to live on campus first two years) _____

How did you learn about the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program? _____

Current barriers to Academic Success: Your goals are important to us; help us by letting us know if there is anything that may hinder your success at SDSU. Checking any of these options will in no way reduce your chances of being selected for the Guardian Scholars Program.

<input type="checkbox"/> Child care	<input type="checkbox"/> Coping with a violent relationship/family member
<input type="checkbox"/> Unstable living environment/ Housing insecurity	<input type="checkbox"/> No close family members/feeling isolated
<input type="checkbox"/> No transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Pregnant/parenting youth
<input type="checkbox"/> Food insecurity	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Support for disability	<input type="checkbox"/> None

Are you participating in Extended Foster Care (AB12)? _____

Personal Statement

DIRECTIONS: Please include a typed personal statement answering the following prompts. The personal statement is an opportunity for us to learn more about you and your experience. Your personal statement must answer each of the three prompts listed below, using a minimum of 500 words for each prompt.

Prompt One: Give us a brief description of yourself including, but not limited to: hobbies, interests, leadership experience, work experience, accomplishments and social identity.

Prompt Two: The SDSU Guardian Scholars Program is a student support program. Describe a time you sought support academically, personally, or emotionally. Take us through how you initiated this process, what happened, and the overall outcome.

Prompt Three: We believe that our students in the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program possess the qualities Heroic, Resilient, and Inspirational. Please share your story that makes you a Guardian Scholar. How have you exhibited these qualities in your journey? How have these qualities helped you get where you are now, applying for college?

Documentation

DIRECTIONS: In addition to this completed application, please submit a copy of your supporting documents and keep the original(s) for your records. Please review the following list of accepted supporting documents and check which document(s) you will be submitting as proof of your current or former legal status. Documents should verify your most recent legal status, meaning the status you were or are at the time you turned 18 years old. **If you are not sure whether or not your document qualifies, please email gsadmis@sdsu.edu**

For students who identify as current or former: Foster Youth, Ward of the Court, or under Legal Guardianship, please select one or more of the following documents to submit that verifies your current or former legal status:

- Dependency/Wardship Card
- Dependency/Wardship Letter
- Guardianship paperwork documenting that you were appointed a legal guardian through a juvenile court proceeding

For students who identify as Unaccompanied Youth, you are required to submit the following document(s) (*must include selection form Part 1 and Part 2*):

Part 1: A brief statement from you that describes your situation as an unaccompanied youth

- Your statement should include your current living arrangements and your current relationship and communication with your biological parent(s) (if any)

Part 2: Documentation from one of the official agencies that are listed below confirming your status as unaccompanied youth (check all that apply):

- A McKinney-Vento Act from a school district liaison
- A letter/statement from a director of an emergency shelter program
- A letter/statement from a director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center
- A letter/statement from a director of a transitional living program

Application Certification

Thank you for applying to the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program. To certify your application and confirm your acknowledgment of the requirements of the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program, please read the text and check each box below. Type your name and date as an electronic signature, and submit your application by **January 15, 2021 at 11:59pm to gsadmis@sdsu.edu**.

- I certify that my answers are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I understand my admission to the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program is contingent upon the following:

- ❖ Be admitted by SDSU and EOP
- ❖ Submit the SDSU Guardian Scholars Partnership Agreement
- ❖ Attend EOP First Contact (Orientation) (June 2021)
- ❖ Attend the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program Orientation (dates TBD)
- ❖ Complete an EOP transition program:
 - First-Time Freshman (Summer Bridge Program): 5 weeks, July 8th - August 13th, 2021
 - Transfer Students (Transfer Bridge Program): 1 week, July 25th - July 30th, 2021

If I am admitted into the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program, I understand that I must:

- Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no later than March 2nd of each academic year (Note: First-time freshman who live outside of the SDSU service area are required to live on campus first two years)
- Enroll in 12 or more units each fall and spring semester attending
- Maintain continuous good academic standing with a minimum overall 2.0 GPA
- Meet with your EOP Counselor at least twice per semester
- Complete the Guardian Scholars Semester Success Guide each semester, which includes these mandatory events:
 - Fall & Spring Kickoff – Day before each semester starts
 - Thanksgiving Celebration Dinner – Thursday before Thanksgiving holiday
 - GS Graduation Celebration Dinner – End of April

Signature: _____

Date: (mm/dd/yyyy) _____



Partnership Agreement
Transfer Fall 2021

Full Name _____
Last First Middle Initial

Email: _____ Cell Ph: _____

Red ID: _____

I accept the offer to participate in the San Diego State University (SDSU) Guardian Scholars Program. As indicated by my signature below, I agree to:

- Communication:**
 - Check my email regularly as it is the program’s main form of correspondence
 - Respond within 48 hours when I receive an e-mail, text or voicemail from Guardian Scholars staff
- Participation:**
 - Attend EOP First Contact and GS Orientation (June 2021)
 - Participate in the EOP Transfer Bridge Program (July 26th – July 30th)
 - Complete the Semester Success Guide each semester: Meet academic, social, and career development goals to earn GS Good Standing status.
- Standing status:**
 - Attend Guardian Scholars University Weekly Seminar for the first two semesters Gen S-100A Wed. 1 to 1:50 p.m.
 - Attend Monthly Meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from Noon to 1 p.m.
 - Actively participate in the EOP SOAR Mentor Program
 - Attend mandatory Guardian Scholars events each semester (i.e. Thanksgiving Dinner, Fall /Spring Kickoffs, Graduation)
- Academic:**
 - Beginning in fall 2021, enroll in 12 or more units each fall and spring semester
 - Maintain continuous good academic standing with a minimum overall Grade Point Average of 2.0
 - ▶ **If I am not making satisfactory progress at the end of each term I will meet with a Guardian Scholars staff to develop a support plan to improve my academic success**
- Additional:**
 - Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) no later than mid-November every academic year
 - Seek and apply to scholarships to help fund my educational journey

I understand and agree to the following:

- If I fail to meet any one of the agreements listed above I may lose the privilege and benefits of participating in the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program which include scholarships, housing and other support services available only to Guardian Scholars.
- ▶ **If at the end of any academic year it is found that I am not meeting the above requirements, a hold will be placed on my GS scholarship disbursement(s) for the subsequent semester until I develop a support plan with Guardian Scholars staff**
- Per federal and state financial aid requirements, I must immediately notify the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (OFAS) of any scholarship or grant I have been awarded (such as Chafee), and any such award I receive must be accounted for in the determination of my eligibility for financial aid.
- As needed, should I receive a new grant or scholarship, OFAS will adjust my award in the following order: student/parent loans, work-study, grants, excluding Federal Pell Grant, then need-based scholarships.

I understand that I will not be officially accepted into the SDSU Guardian Scholars Program unless I sign and return this agreement by January 15, 2021. Save-As and Email this agreement with my GS application to gsadmis@sdsu.edu.

Signature: _____ Date: (mm/dd/yyyy) _____