

Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) Assessment Report 2023-2024

Who We Are

The Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) is a safe and welcoming community that serves current and former students who have experience in the foster care system, students who have experienced being unsheltered (McKinney Vento), ward of the court, and unaccompanied minors who are incoming first-year students, transfer, and graduate students. We provide a unique program that offers a variety of services such as: priority housing, academic/general advising, financial support, priority registration, workshops, scholarships, socials, employment and job opportunities, campus and community referrals to other programs and services, as well as helping to build a sense of community with other GSP students. Being part of the GSP program means you are a part of a family and you have a home.

Guardian Scholars Program Team

- ❖ Director, Linda Howe-Ram
- ❖ Assistant Director, Susan Kischmischian;
- ❖ Gina Bryan, Program Coordinator
- ❖ Sienna Horita, Program Coordinator
- ❖ Adriana Diaz, Outreach Advisor

Points of Pride

- ❖ Total students served unduplicated for 2023-2024 AY: **151** Scholars
- ❖ We have increased our GSP Team hiring three additional full-time staff which has allowed us to offer the support needed for our students to become successful and graduate Sacramento State.
- ❖ Enrollment has risen to highest number of students served in the GSP program to date:
 - Fall 2023 Scholars Enrolled: **123**; New Scholars: 42; Continuing Scholars:76; Returning Scholars 5
 - Spring 2024 Scholars Enrolled: **127**; New Scholars: 25; Continuing Scholars: 99; Returning Scholars 3
 - Graduation Count: 2023-2024: **35** Scholars;
 - Total Graduates – Fall: **15** (**1** Masters); Spring: **20** (**3** Masters)
 - Increase of **8** over 2022-23 graduation count of **27** Scholars
- ❖ Retention rate for 2023-24: **98%**
 - Increased **11.36%** above 2022-23 retention rate of **88%**

Our goal is to increase graduation rates and our scholars' overall success with wraparound services and guidance throughout their educational journey. Our objective is to assist our scholars as they continue to expand their educational and interpersonal skills on their path to becoming future independent leaders, role models, and productive citizens in their chosen careers and the community.

Program Participant Survey

In Spring 2024, GSP administered a survey to 101 eligible program participants. 19 participants completed the survey, for a response rate of approximately 19%. Their responses are detailed below.

1. The Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) has helped me feel like I belong in college.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	100%

2. The GSP has helped me build social connections within the GSP community.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	68%
Somewhat Agree	26%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	5%

3. The GSP has helped me navigate my academic planning process.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	68%
Somewhat Agree	26%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	5%

4. The GSP has helped me learn about job and internship opportunities.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	58%
Somewhat Agree	16%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	26%

5. The GSP has helped me feel more comfortable reaching out to my professors.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	63%

Somewhat Agree	26%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	5%
Somewhat Disagree	5%

6. The GSP has helped me learn more about mental health and self-care.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	68%
Somewhat Agree	26%
Neither Agree Nor Disagree	5%

7. The GSP has helped me feel more confident as a college student.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	95%
Somewhat Agree	5%

8. The GSP has increased my awareness of resources, programs, and services on campus.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	89%
Somewhat Agree	11%

9. I have a positive relationship with GSP staff.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	95%
Somewhat Agree	5%

10. The GSP center is a comfortable space for me to spend time on campus.

Response	Percent
Strongly Agree	89%
Somewhat Agree	11%

11. I am satisfied with the amount of support I receive from the GSP.

Response	Percent
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Strongly Agree	95%
Somewhat Agree	5%

Next Steps

Based on these findings, the GSP has the following plans. First, the program will repeat the survey in the Spring 2025, working to promote it throughout Spring 2025 semester in order to increase the response rate. Promotion will include announcing the survey at student orientation, posting signs around the office, posting to the GSP Instagram account, sending emails, and having staff remind students during one-on-ones and when they visit the GSP space.

The program has shown to be successful in fostering a sense of belonging and confidence in participants, increasing awareness of campus resources, building positive relationships between participants and staff, creating a comfortable space for participants to spend time, and providing sufficient support. Additionally, the program achieved a significant improvement to their retention rate this academic year. This speaks to the success of program staff in providing one-on-one support and other services to GSP scholars. These activities will continue as long as adequate staffing can be maintained.

One area that didn't receive as much agreement from respondents was related to the GSP helping them to learn more about internship and job opportunities. This is an area that the GSP plans to address in 2024-25. GSP will implement a new program in partnership with the Employment Development Department (EDD), Youth Employment Opportunities Program (YEOP) to offer resume writing & cover letter assistance, job search assistance, workshops, mock interviews, and one-on-one case management services. GSP also plans to collaborate with other workforce development partners in the community to provide information on internships and employment opportunities for aimed at college students. Additionally, GSP will partner with College Corps and AmeriCorps to provide service opportunities at the GSP Center for Guardian Scholars students be Student Assistants.