



**“None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody—a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony, or a few nuns—bent down and helped us pick up our boots.”**

**— Thurgood Marshall**  
*former U.S. Supreme Court Justice*

## The Guardian Scholars Program is committed to supporting former foster youth in their efforts to gain a college education.

Many of these young people have overcome significant challenges and now qualify for admission to UC San Diego. With the Program’s help, they can begin to achieve their dreams.

Without traditional family support, it can be difficult to make the transition to adulthood at age 18. Friendly and informal monthly meetings with the Guardian Scholarship mentor are focused on problem solving, life counseling, and encouragement.

### More Than a Scholarship

The Guardian Scholars program is a working partnership between the private sector and public agencies designed to support our students beyond the boundaries of a traditional scholarship. In addition to scholarship funds, the program provides:

- orientation to university life
- opportunity to live on campus year round
- student employment opportunities
- assistance with financial aid applications
- life skills counseling
- career planning
- a recognition event for scholars and program supporters

### UC San Diego – A Unique Environment

The system of six undergraduate colleges at UC San Diego creates a small-campus atmosphere backed by the advantages of a major research university. You choose your college based on its approach to core education requirements and overall philosophy, for an experience you can’t get at other universities.

### Encouragement and Opportunity

The program is designed to help ensure academic success, to offer support services and experiences that encourage active participation in life on campus, and to provide career-development skills for life after graduation. The Guardian Scholars Program is the opportunity to change individual lives and make dreams come true.



**7<sup>th</sup>** best public university in the nation  
— *U.S. News & World Report*

**4<sup>th</sup>** in the nation based on the positive impact the university has on the country  
— *Washington Monthly’s 2007 College Guide*

**Think outside the classroom** and get involved in research projects or internships.

**Find Your Niche** by making friends in your classes and your college. Join one or two of the 400+ student organizations on campus to study, provide service, explore cultural interests, and have fun.

**Find a Home** at the Cross-Cultural Center, LGBT Resource Center, or The Women’s Center—all offer space to relax or study, get involved in social justice, or simply hang out with friends. All students, staff, and faculty are welcome at the Centers.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

If you are a highly motivated student, UC San Diego wants you to apply for the Guardian Scholars Program. Does this sound like you?

- former foster youth between the ages of 17 and 23 (or legally emancipated, if still a minor)
- a full-time student
- qualified for admission to UC San Diego as a freshman or transfer student
- earned at least a 2.5 GPA in coursework
- considered “independent” under Federal financial aid guidelines
- completed the FAFSA to apply for financial aid by the priority filing date
- California resident, and U.S. citizen or permanent resident

To remain eligible for the Guardian Scholars Program once the scholarship has been awarded, you will need to:

- fully participate in all aspects of the program—meetings, events, mentoring, career mapping, academic advising
- maintain an overall GPA of 2.5 or higher
- stay continuously enrolled at UC San Diego (unless a formal leave of absence is granted)
- maintain full-time enrollment status (at least 12 units per quarter)
- abide by all University of California standards for appropriate conduct and community behavior

## Guardian Scholars Program Mission Statement

The mission of the Guardian Scholars Program is to implement and sustain services and support to identified foster youth at UC San Diego. This is a collaborative effort among key campus departments and the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation (CAPF).

UC San Diego’s Guardian Scholars Program is committed to supporting former foster youth who have already overcome significant obstacles. The program’s ambitious goals match the determination of its students to achieve their dreams of a college education.

If you meet the qualifications... if you’ve got the dream... we’re right here with you. Contact us—let’s find out just what’s possible.

**“Education is the most powerful weapon  
which you can use to change the world.”**

**— Nelson Mandela**  
*political leader*

### Contacts

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# Guardian Scholars Program at UC San Diego



**Scholarships & Services for Foster Youth**