

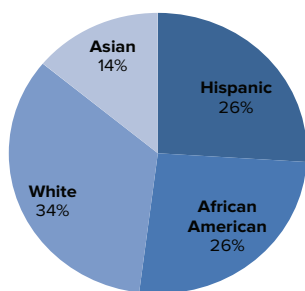
The Guardian Professions Program



The Guardian Professions Program has helped over 50 former foster youth gain admission to advanced degree programs. Assistance includes advice and coaching on programs and career direction, preparation-travel and tests, assistance with admission and fellowship applications, negotiating offers, and continued mentoring throughout their graduate program.

Program Accomplishments

The UC Davis Guardian Professions Program scholars demonstrate a rich diversity that is more representative of California and higher than the current population of UC graduate students.



Over the last two applications cycles, our students have collectively received \$1.5 million in funding including fellowships, tuition, and teaching assistantships. We're proud to announce that 25 students are planning on submitting their graduate school applications this academic year.

Our services are available to the undergraduate support programs at all UC campuses (1,500+ students) and CSU campuses (2,500+ students). The Guardian Professions Program also works with former foster youth who have been out of school and in the work-force.

The Guardian Professions Program works directly with a large cohort of foster youth annually and the number of students who submit applications has been growing at a rapid rate. 85% of Guardian Professions Program scholars who apply to graduate school are accepted into a graduate program.

Promotional Efforts

- The creation of a pedagogical website: Getting Prepared for Graduate School
- Development of comprehensive curriculum and teaching cases
- Deepening of relationships with a network of undergraduate support programs throughout California
- Regular distribution of a program newsletter to various constituency groups

Program History

The Guardian Professions Program was conceived in 2009 as the Guardian Teachers Program in UC Davis School of Education to recruit former foster youth to master's and credentialing degree programs.

The program was expanded through planning grant from the Stuart Foundation in 2013, transforming the program into Guardian Professions Program and assist former foster youth with all professional and advanced degrees.

An additional Stuart Foundation implementation grant of \$450,000 transformed Guardian Professions into statewide program, creating substantial cohorts across California and ensuring that students who applied to graduate programs gained admission to a program of their choosing. The support has allowed the Guardian Professions Program to help over 50 former foster youth in California gain admission to a variety of graduate and professional program.

Looking Forward

The future of the Guardian Professions Program

We wish to continue the work of helping improve the life chances of former foster youth by assisting their pursuit of graduate degrees. To do this we want to continue our current activities of virtual coaching through the application process and also want to expand the program in two ways: 1) Create communities on campuses where students have been admitted to programs. 2) Employ methods to increase the number of students we serve. This will be done in the following ways:

- Educate undergraduate support program directors about graduate programs and how to help prepare their students to apply. Our website, Getting Prepared for Graduate School, has extensive materials and curriculum that can help program directors mentor and guide students towards advanced degree programs.
- Ensure that diversity officers on every UC and CSU campus are knowledgeable about the educational hardships faced by former foster youth so they can assist students when administrative issues arise. These administrators are concerned with student retention issues yet often don't know 'best practices' for assisting former foster youth. We will also encourage diversity officers to create community building meetings so that students can begin to create caring relationships for each other.
- Replicate GPP efforts by conducting more outreach to campuses to hold classes for students and educate them about graduate school opportunities. As the numbers of interested students increase, it may be valuable to conduct in-situ class meetings.
- While we welcome in-person assistance, the nationwide reach of the Guardian Professions Program necessitates the development of promotional resources in a variety of easily-disseminated formats. Our goal is to promote the program to foster youth throughout the state of California. We accomplish much of this work through phone, text, email and skype.

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Historical and Potential Future Giving Partners

- UC Davis
- University of California, Office of the President
- The Walter S. Johnson Foundation
- The California Wellness Foundation
- May and Stanley Smith
- The Stuart Foundation