



9th Grade Foster Youth are invited to apply to First Star Sacramento State Academy!

The First Star Sacramento State Academy (FSSSA) partners with Sacramento County Department of Child, Family, and Adult Services (DCFAS) to offer a free 4-year college readiness program for students who are experiencing foster care. Selected scholars attend monthly Saturday Sessions year-round and receive academic support, life skills, homework assistance, college majors and career exploration, socio-emotional enrichment, and encouragement needed to assist them in graduating high school.

In June, scholars participate in our annual Summer Immersion Program (SIP) and reside on campus in a Residence Hall. Scholars meet peers and engage in a variety of fun and active academic learning opportunities along with social and cultural events, field trips, team-building exercises, guest speakers, service learning, recreational activities, and more!

FSSSA scholars also receive year-round individual support through mentorship, educational case management, advocacy, and tracking their necessary A-G requirements for college admittance from our Sacramento Valley College Corps Youth Mentors. Youth Mentors are current Sac State students from a variety of majors, backgrounds, and lived experiences.

Once a student applicant is selected, they are retained in our four-year program regardless of most placement or status changes. Through consistency, affirmation, and support, First Star Sacramento State Academy scholars will become competitive college applicants and successfully transition to higher education. Moreover, all FSSSA scholars who meet the minimum qualifications to attend a 4-year university will be guaranteed acceptance to California State University, Sacramento!

Student Applicant Must Meet the Following Eligibility Requirements:

- Currently in Sacramento County Foster Care with Sacramento County DCFAS;
- Able to attend monthly day-long Saturday Sessions throughout the academic year at Sacramento State or virtually (*depending on COVID restrictions*) and willing to participate in the two-week residential component on campus;
- Maintain at least a 2.5 GPA and good attendance in current and previous school year (unless there is a reasonable explanation for absences);
- Demonstrates maturity and potential to thrive in an all-day workshop setting with peers;
- Student is not participating in other extracurricular activities that preclude them from participating in Summer Immersion Program or monthly Saturday Sessions (*note-participation in sports is encouraged and may be able to make reasonable accommodations on a case-by-case basis*).

To Apply, Please Follow These Steps:

1. Student applicant - complete the background form and student questionnaire form.
2. Adult - complete the adult recommendation portion of the student application.
3. Submit the most recent transcript/report card (*optional, awards, certificates, artwork, etc.*)
4. Email the entire application packet to: first.star@csus.edu

What Happens After Submission? All completed applications will be reviewed by First Star Sacramento State Academy. Notification of Conditional Acceptance will be emailed within two weeks of application submission. Selected students will be contacted for interview via Zoom platform. After meeting, program paperwork must be completed by caregiver for official acceptance, and the student will start in the next session if program has already begun.

Questions? Contact Trinh Pham, Program Director at (916) 278-5273.

BACKGROUND FORM (*Submit*)

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Student Full Name:	Current Grade Level:
Student Email:	Student Cell/Phone #:
What Gender best describes you?	What Pronouns do you use?
CAREGIVER INFORMATION	
Name of Caregiver 1:	Phone/Cell #: Email:
Name of Caregiver 2:	Phone/Cell #: Email:
SOCIAL SUPPORT INFORMATION	
Name of Sacramento County DCFAS Social Worker:	Phone #: Email:
Name of Foster Youth Education Liaison:	Phone #: Email:
Additional (<i>Case Manager, Therapist, Probation Officer, CASA, etc.</i>): Name: Title:	Phone #: Email:
Placement Type (<i>If Group Home or Foster Family Agency, please write name and contact information</i>): _____	
If Adopted or in Guardianship through Sacramento County DCFAS, indicate date & age of youth when status changed: _____	
SCHOOL INFORMATION	
High School Name:	
School District:	
Most Recent GPA:	Cumulative School GPA:
Are you receiving Special Education Services? ___ No ___ Yes (<i>if yes, IEP or 504 plan</i>) _____	# of Suspensions/Expulsions in Last 3 School Years: (*Note: <i>does not disqualify you from the application process</i>)
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	
Name of Club or Organization	Number of Years of Participation? Required Summer Participation?
Please fill out the following questions about your interests	
What words best describe your personality? _____	
List your favorite subject areas in school. _____	
What careers you are interested in pursuing? _____	

Adult Recommendation Form *(Submit)*

This section should be completed in confidence by any adult officially involved in the student's life (e.g., caregiver, teacher, therapist, counselor, social worker, mentor, education liaison, attorney).

Student's Full Name	Date:
Full Name of Adult Recommender:	Title:
Adult Recommender Relationship to Student:	Email Address:
Organization:	Phone:

To the Recommender: Thank you for taking the time to provide your confidential insight and thoughts regarding this student who is applying for the First Star Sacramento State Academy. The Academy is a highly supportive and personalized college access program designed to provide youth in foster care with the academic support, encouragement, and enrichment needed to assist them in becoming competitive college applicants. Your insight will help us ensure the program is the right fit for your Youth Applicant.

	Recommend with Reservations	Enthusiastically Recommend
Academic potential		
Character and maturity		
Ability to work well with others		
Overall recommendation		

Please answer the following questions:

1. Why do you believe this student is a good candidate for the First Star Sacramento State Academy?

2. What behavior(s) has this student demonstrated that show they will benefit in this program?
