



SACRAMENTO STATE

Guardian Scholars

ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-2018

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Executive Summary

The Guardian Scholars Program at Sacramento State is designed to help support former foster youth continue to thrive and increase the number of college graduates. We offer support, encouragement and give the students a sense of belonging. When students become a part of the Guardian Scholars Program, they will have access to academic advising, career advising, professional mentoring, priority registration, emergency funding, internship opportunities and community building. By being a part of the guardian scholars means more than just resources, they are part of a family, through college and beyond.

During the spring semester, 80 students participated in the Guardian Scholars Program. A majority of them were females (73%) and African American/Black (38%) followed by Hispanic/Latino (20%).

The mentorship program plays an important role in the success of a guardian scholar. Twenty-nine GSP students were paired with a GSP mentor.

Fourteen of the twenty-nine students paired with a mentor were confirmed to at least maintain regular and/or consistent meetings and positive relations with their mentor.

Eighty-nine percent of GSP students were enrolled full time during the fall 2017 semester. Seventy-nine percent of GSP students were enrolled full time during the spring 2018 semester. Six students graduated in fall 2017, and twelve in spring 2018, totaling 18 GSP students graduated during the AY 2017-2018.

Eighty-nine percent of GSP students persisted from fall 2017 to spring 2018.

There were twenty-eight GSP events during the AY 2017-2018, and a total of 99 GSP students attended these events.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) is to improve the life and success rate of former foster youth by administering helpful services such as professional mentoring, academic advising, career counseling, financial assistance, scholarships, and community building events that are all essential for learning, growth, and success on a college campus. We are committed to doing outreach in the community and creating meaningful opportunities for current students at Sac State in order to improve the livelihood of foster youth students.

Program Goals

- To provide Guardian Scholars with financial advising and support that will allow them to attend to their studies and complete their degrees in a reasonable time with no or minimum debt.
- To provide Guardian Scholars with academic assistance that will enable them to develop academic competency and skills that lead to successful careers.
- To provide Guardian Scholars with social support, engaging them in the campus culture and building a community that supports their personal and professional growth.

Mentorship

Mentors have a positive impact on the life and success of Guardian Scholars. They provide unconditional support and encouragement for students as they attempt to navigate the complexities of higher education. They are expected to check-in frequently with their students to ensure that their basic needs are being met (housing, food, access to health care, money for books, etc.), and report back to the Lead Mentor and/or Case Manager if a student is experiencing difficulty.

Mentors use discretion to gently steer their students in the right direction when making academic, personal or professional decisions. They do receive special training from our program, but most of their advice is based on life experience and a personal knowledge of the University or college life. Above all, our mentors act as role models and confidants for students who might otherwise feel alone throughout their educational journey at Sacramento State.

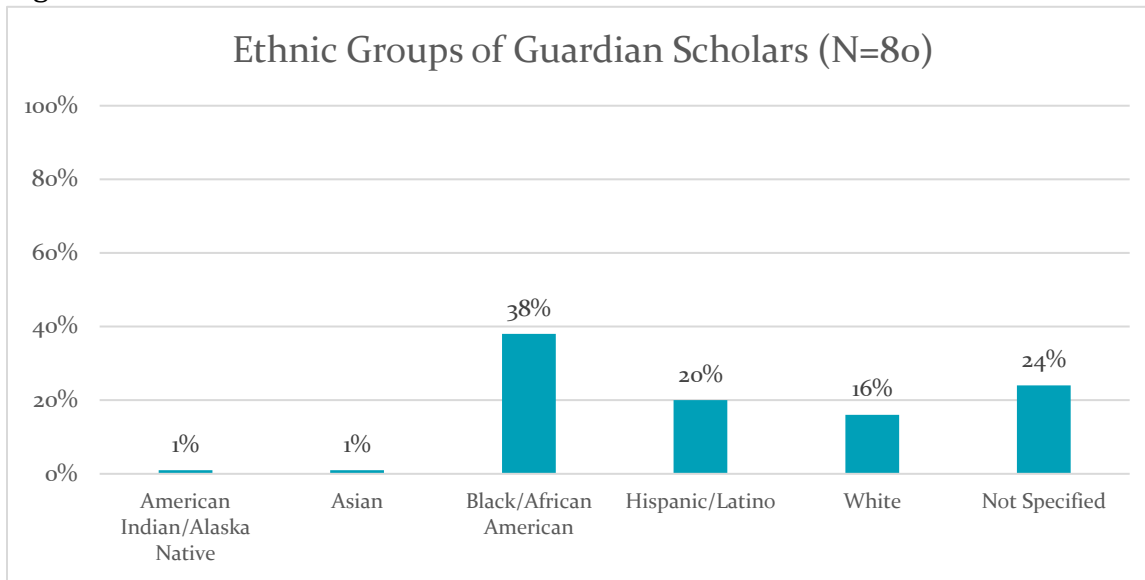
Staffing

Alexandria Hill – Student Advocate and Case Manager
Susan Kischmischian – Program Coordinator

Demographic Information of Guardian Scholars

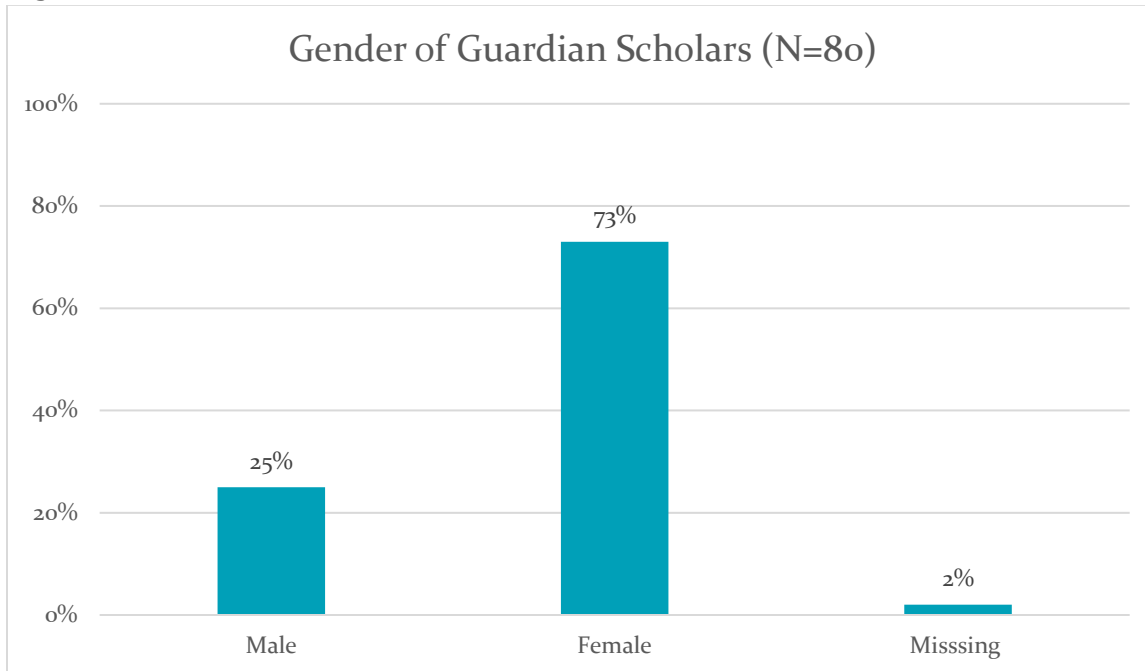
During spring 2018 semester, there were 80 active Guardian Scholars. One identified them self as Asian; 30 identified themselves as Black/African American; 16 identified themselves as Hispanic; 13 identified themselves as white; one identified as American Indian/Alaska Native; and 19 were not specified.

Figure 1



Source: GSP Spring Term Summary - Cognos extracted on 10/10/18.

Figure 2



Source: GSP Fall Term Summary - Cognos extracted on 10/10/18. Note: 2 students had no gender data.

Program Outcomes

This academic year, the Vice President of the Division of Student Affairs decided to align department goals with the university's goals, Student Affairs Divisional Goals, and Baccalaureate Learning Outcomes. The structure of this section will include the goals, the strategies to achieve those goals, and the outcomes.

Program Goal 1: GSP students will strengthen professional mentorship opportunities that will support time to degree and overall student success.

University Strategic Goal: Enhance student learning and success

Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase students sense of belonging

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

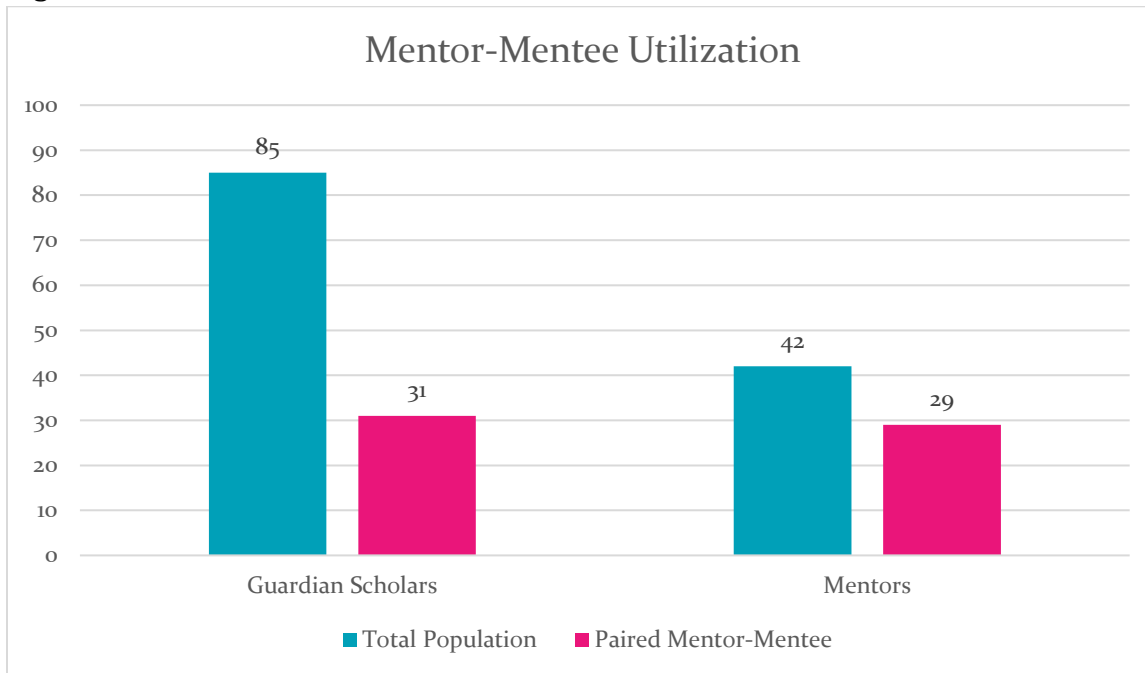
Standard of achievement: GSP will match students with mentors and will report utilization rates.

Mentors play a vital role in the life and success of the Guardian Scholars Program. Mentors provide support and encouragement to students as they navigate the complexities of higher education. The mentor-mentee relationship is a way for students to check in to see if their basic needs are being met.

In the 2017-2018 academic year, 42 professional mentors were acquired for the program. Out of eighty-five total enrolled students, thirty-one were paired with twenty-nine mentors. Two mentors had two mentees each. Fifty percent of the mentors were paired with a mentee, and approximately fifty percent of the eighty-five enrolled students were active in the program. 95% of the forty active students in the program were being served by the mentor program, and 93% of the 42 active mentors were being utilized for their volunteer time.

Some reasons why not all scholars have mentors include: some students chose to opt out of having a mentor while in the GSP program, the program staff was unable to find a compatible and holistic match between a mentor and mentee, and the low number of male mentors to accommodate the increasing number male students.

Figure 3



Source: Assessments.GSP.F2017.S2018 document provided by GSP

Program Goal 2: GSP students will evaluate their mentor-mentee relationship.

University Strategic Goal: Enhance student learning and success

Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase students sense of belonging

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

Standard of achievement: *Collect baseline data on mentor-mentee relationship rubric*

Out of the 29 students who were paired with mentors during the 2017-2018 academic year, fourteen (48%) were confirmed to have at least maintained regular and/or consistent meetings and positive relations with their mentor.

Program Goal 3: GSP students will carry an average 12 units per semester.

University Strategic Goal: Enhance student learning and success

Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase students sense of belonging

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

Standard of achievement: *Maintain or increase number/percentage of students taking 12 units or more per semester compared to prior year*

Full-time status is determined as carrying 12 or more units in one academic term. In fall 2016, 88% of students (n=66) were enrolled full-time; in spring 2017, 88% of students (n=66) were also enrolled full-time. In fall 2017, 89% (n=75) of students were enrolled in 12 units or more. In spring 2018, 79% (n=67) students were enrolled in 12 units or more.

Table 1

| Term | % Full time | Number of students |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Fall 2016 | 88% | 66 |
| Spring 2017 | 88% | 66 |
| Fall 2017 | 89% | 75 |
| Spring 2018 | 79% | 67 |

Sources: 1) GSP Fall 16 Term Summary - Cognos extracted on 05/26/2017, 2) GSP Spring 16 Term Summary - Cognos extracted on 06/21/2017, and 3) Assessments.GSP.F2017.S2018 from GSP staff.

Program Goal 4: GSP students will persist and enroll for the next semester.

University Strategic Goal: Enhance student learning and success

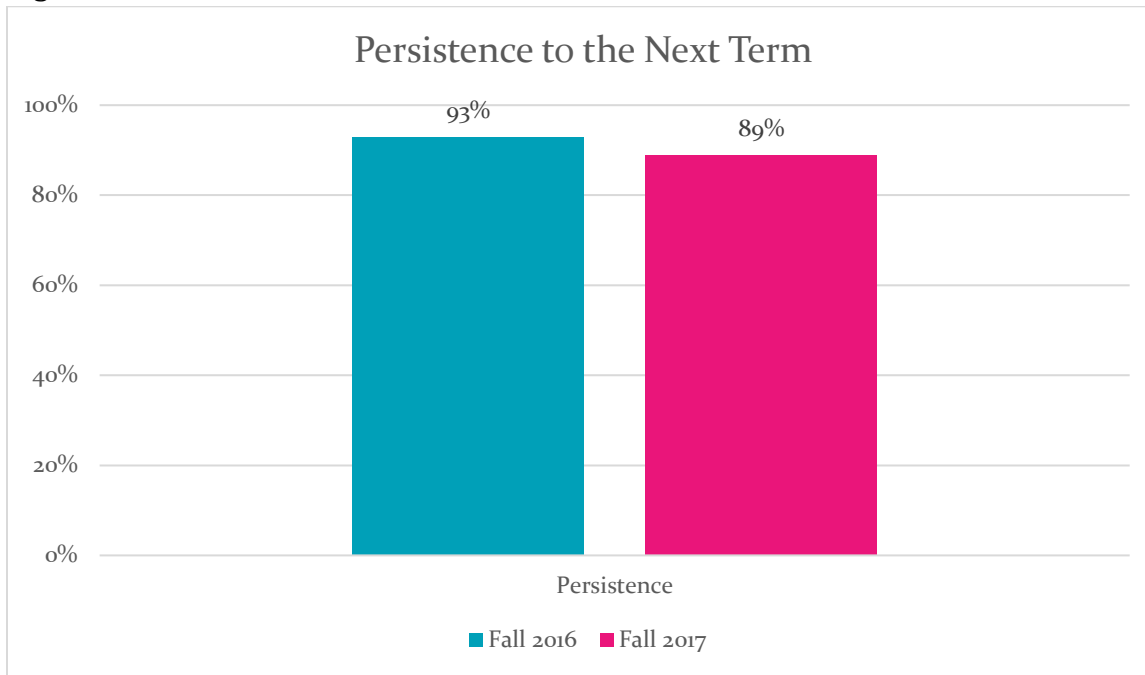
Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase graduation rates and decrease time to degree

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

Standard of achievement: Maintain or increase number/percentage of students who enrolled from fall 17 to spring 2018 compared to prior year

The persistence rate from fall 2016 to spring 2017, excluding students who have graduated, was 93% (57 out of 61 students). Of the eighty-four Guardian Scholars enrolled in fall 2017, 89% persisted to spring 2019. A total of eighteen students graduated during the 2017-2018 academic year, with six in the fall and 12 in the spring.

Figure 4



Program Goal 5: GSP students will participate in GSP sponsored events.

University Strategic Goal: Engage students in a comprehensive university experience

Student Affairs Divisional Goal: Increase student’s sense of belonging

Baccalaureate Learning Goal: N/A

Standard of achievement: *Collect baseline number of students participating in GSP sponsored events*

The Guardian Scholars Program held 28 events for the 2017-2018 academic year. A total of 99 Guardian Scholar Program students attended the 28 events throughout the academic year.

Fall Breakdown of Events: “Glo-Bowling”, GSP Mandatory Fall 2017 Orientation, monthly socials fall jewelry sale, fall semester Graduation Celebration, “Annie” play and Golden 1 Center events (sponsored by The Ticket To Dream Foundation).

Spring Breakdown of Events: GSP Mandatory Spring 2018 Orientation, monthly socials, spring jewelry sale, Donor and Mentor Celebration Reception, spring 2018 Graduation Celebration, Golden 1 Center events (sponsored by The Ticket To Dream Foundation), Comedy Club outing, Music Circus Broadway musical play and Spring GSP Overnight Retreat.

Appendix A

| Program Goals | What will be the standard of performance? | Program Outcomes |
|---|--|--|
| 1. GSP students will strengthen professional mentorship opportunities that will support time to degree and overall student success. | GSP will match students with mentors and will report utilization rates. | 42 total mentors 85 total 31 students were paired with 29 mentors during the AY 2017-2018. |
| 2. GSP students will evaluate their mentor-mentee relationship. | Collect baseline data on mentor-mentee relationship rubric | 14 (48%) students in GSP maintained at least regular and/or consistent meetings with their mentor. |
| 3. GSP students will carry an average of 12 units per semester. | Maintain or increase number/percentage of students taking 12 units or more per semester compared to prior year | 88% in both fall 2016 and spring 2017. In fall 2017, 89% of GSP students were enrolled full-time. In spring 2018, 79% of GSP students were enrolled full-time. |
| 4. GSP students will persist and enroll for the next semester. | Maintain or increase number/percentage of students who enrolled from fall 17 to spring 2018 compared to prior year | AY 16-17: 93% retention rate 89% of GSP students persisted from fall 2017 to spring 2018. Eighteen students graduated during the academic year. |
| 5. GSP students will participate in GSP sponsored events. | Collect baseline number of students participating in GSP sponsored events | There were 28 GSP events during AY 2017-2018. 99 GSP students attended these events. |