



**Los Angeles**  
Trade Technical College  
Guardian Scholars Program

## **Summary**

The Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) exists to provide support for youth who are or have been part of the California foster care system and who are enrolled for studies at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC). The college environment is a new and different experience for virtually every student. We recognize that this is particularly true for current or former foster youth, who can sometimes experience feelings of insecurity, or of being overawed or overwhelmed by the experience.

## **Why We Exist**

- We exist to offer support and assistance in a number of very useful and reassuring ways. We have our own designated place on campus where these youth can just hang out together and share common experiences. We offer mentoring and counseling, for both academics and careers.
- We help find affordable housing, employment, provide transportation assistance and many other services.
- We teach students to advocate for themselves, so that they can achieve their academic goals and get a proper start on new long term careers.
- We use our resources to help them to succeed in every way possible.

## **Students are eligible for GSP if:**

- They have applied for admission to LATTC or are already enrolled in the current semester.
- They are currently or were formerly a part of the state's foster care system.
- They are between the ages of 16 and 35.

## **Detailed Services Available**

We provide a useful array of supportive and reassuring services to our students. We can assist in the following ways:

- We can help secure the "Ward of the Court Verification Letter" that is needed for the Financial Aid Application.
- We can connect students with services available from other LATTC departments and sources, including: *Counseling, Admissions, Financial Aid, Gain/CalWORKS, EOP&S for school supplies, and Academic Counseling, Tutoring, Mentoring, as well Community Resources for food, housing, transportation and more.*
- We can provide extensive counseling regarding class selection, registration and the establishment of a long-term educational plan. This can include advice about obtaining stackable certificates, a trade, a degree and transferring to a four-year college or university.
- We can assist with career counseling, resume' building and job referrals.
- We can offer the support of a GSP counselor or Peer Mentor, as needed, for personal guidance. These individuals can be instrumental in assisting with a student's life plan development.
- We can provide assistance in finding affordable and appropriate housing. Eligible students receive referrals to a one-year housing agency program.
- We can provide assistance with transportation through discounted bus passes and help with the Tap Card application submission.

## **Long-Term Benefits**

As a result of participation in the Guardian Scholars program, we have found that our students are typically more successful in:

- Achieving their academic goals, whether that means completion of an associate degree, completion of a certificate program, or transfer to a four-year college or university.
- Developing a short- to medium-term housing plan to support their education and career goals, if they are at risk of homelessness when they enter the program.
- Developing self-advocacy skills.
- Understanding the range and availability of support resources on campus and in the community at large, as well how to successfully access them.

## **Assessment Process**

Since the inception of our GSP program, we have gathered experiential, persistence and access data on our students, with the aim of tracking both the success of the program as a whole and the success of its individual parts, so we can continuously improve the quantity and quality of our offerings.

## **Data Collection**

- End-of-academic-year surveys and student data, including placement test scores, financial aid receipt, and persistence.
- Certificate completion, transfer-degree completion, and transfer rates.
- Confidential reporting without student IDs from various college services, including health services, DSPS and EOPS reports.

We correlate these data to help us identify where we can improve our services and the outcomes for our students. As staffing and funding have permitted, we have used an external agency to provide additional assessments, including individual interviews.

At the end of each year, we review and analyze these data in discussions with leaders throughout the college community, as well with our partners from the business community who have offered their invaluable support to our program. Service outcomes are refined each year to ensure that we gather the best data possible.

Detailed documentation of these assessment efforts is maintained in the GSP program offices. Summaries and highlights are described in annual reports to those who fund us, CCSF program reviews (as part of Financial Aid), and on our website.