Eugene Muscat

The Muscat Scholars program honors the memory of Eugene Muscat ’66, MA ’67, MBA ’70, and Professor in the School of Business and Management. As an alumnus, Eugene maintained a strong connection with USF, returning to his alma mater as a full-time faculty member after obtaining his doctorate degree from USC. He enjoyed a distinguished association with USF that spanned more than 40 years, serving in positions such as the Director of Undergraduate Admissions and the Senior Associate Dean for External Affairs for the School of Business and Management.

Eugene, a native of San Francisco, was a first-generation student who throughout his career had a deep compassion and strong commitment to helping students achieve their full potential. His outlook on life and high energy began in his undergraduate days when he served as Head Cheerleader and Student Senate President at USF.

Even in his 60s, Eugene maintained a level of enthusiasm that was unmatched by those around him. To him, learning was a lifelong activity. He believed that learning did not end with school but rather it continued on every day, with “the world serving as the classroom”.

Eugene had a strong commitment to helping others, and a unique approach towards celebrating life. His imaginative and innovative mind is the reason behind the development of a success plan that is at the heart of the Muscat Scholars program. This plan not only guides students to achieve, it also sets up the conditions necessary for their self discovery and personal growth.

Moving through these challenges can both be exciting and nerve-wracking for you (and your parents/family too!). We would like to offer you the opportunity to prepare for your journey as a part of a program called the Muscat Scholars Program (MSP). MSP is a supportive community of Scholars and mentors who work together to develop the relationships, skills, and abilities to be successful in the first year and beyond. Put simply, MSP is the best beginning to your USF college career that you could ever ask for: friends, mentors, connections, and a lot of support along the way.

In the next few pages, you’ll learn all that there is to learn about what MSP is and hear from many of our students about the MSP experience. We hope that you will consider applying to our program and take advantage of the many resources that USF has to offer.

MSP is not just the two weeks in August - it’s a year long program that is comprised of shared classes, retreats, events on and off campus, and reunions. You will have a peer mentor, staff mentor, and many others on campus here to support you!

We look forward to you joining your new MSP family in August. If you have any questions, please feel free to email, tweet or call me! Congratulations on your graduation from high school and for being accepted to USF. We look forward to seeing you in August!

Charlene P. Lobo Soriano, Ed.D., NCC
Program Director, Muscat Scholars Program; Associate Dean, Student Academic Services for Branch Campuses

Phone: 415-422-6841
Email: lobo@usfca.edu
Twitter: @itweetusf
IG: @itweetusf

Contact Information

You’re Invited

The Muscat Scholars Program is a program developed for the academic and personal success of first-generation college students at the University of San Francisco.

Congratulations on your acceptance to the University of San Francisco! We are proud of your accomplishments leading to this next journey. As you know, this next journey of yours will present its own excitement and challenges: a new city, a new way of being a student, making new friends while maintaining existing relationships, and discovering your academic and personal passions on the way toward finding a career.

Moving through these challenges can both be exciting and nerve-wracking for you (and your parents/family too!). We would like to offer you the opportunity to prepare for your journey as a part of a program called the Muscat Scholars Program (MSP). MSP is a supportive community of Scholars and mentors who work together to develop the relationships, skills, and abilities to be successful in the first year and beyond. Put simply, MSP is the best beginning to your USF college career that you could ever ask for: friends, mentors, connections, and a lot of support along the way.

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We look forward to you joining your new
Mission Statement

Think of your college career as a book that you are about to begin. Before you start the first chapter, you read the introduction, or foreword. The Muscat Scholars Program is your introduction to the University of San Francisco, the book that you will soon open and begin exploring.

The Muscat Scholars program helps 1st generation college students achieve their goals by introducing them to academic expectations at USF and helping them design their own unique path to success. The program also aims to prepare students to thrive in the University of San Francisco’s multicultural environment and to become leaders in the USF community.

Program Goals

1. To develop and enhance the essential academic skills needed to successfully meet the demands of the University’s rigorous academic curriculum.

2. To build a bridge between the participants’ home communities and the USF learning community through exploration of the participants’ cultural values and perspectives, and by gaining an understanding of one’s own unique process of growth and development.

3. To explore the values, skills and knowledge needed to function effectively as part of a multicultural university and world.

4. To provide a collaborative and mutually supportive learning environment that recognizes and promotes the value of a college education.

5. To help participants take advantage of campus resources and opportunities in order to succeed as scholars and as student leaders.
“I didn’t mind giving up my last 2 weeks and after experiencing it, I wouldn’t have minded giving up a whole MONTH for the program. I met some really awesome and interesting people I never would have thought to talk to and I have MSP and its members to thank for that.” - Keren P., MSP ‘14

“We are the writers of our own life story. The MSP program is the perfect opportunity to organize your table of contents. This program is truly a blessing, you have everything to gain and nothing to lose!” - Joe A., Peer Mentor ’08, ’09

“Through MSP, I built confidence, a support system, but most importantly a family that helped me transition to college as a first-generation student.” - Selene E., MSP’15

“Being in the Muscat Scholars Program was both a rewarding experience and a grateful opportunity. There couldn’t have been a better way to start off my next phase here at USF.” - Pete Hernandez MSP’13

“Without MSP I wouldn’t have so many friends and I would be lost around the campus. MSP took away all the incoming freshmen stress. After MSP I felt comfortable getting around the campus and whatnot. I recommend MSP to anyone offered the chance to participate.” - Anonymous, MSP ’12

“I am so glad that I did MSP, and MSP has truly changed my college experience. Going into the program I honestly didn’t like the idea of giving up my last two weeks of summer that I had with my friends back home. But as soon as I arrived and started the MSP program I was so glad that I came. Through MSP I truly found my second family and best friends. I LOVE MSP!” - Dahlia H., MSP ’12

“MSP helped me get through the hard part of transitioning from my life at home to my life at college. It was the best decision I ever made and I am so happy that I was apart of this experience.” - Nicole U., MSP ’13

“I think the academics prepared me the most for college level classes. I felt like the professors graded very hard, but fair. It definitely opened my eyes to realizing that this was no longer high school.” - Easton M., MSP ’12

“MSP allowed me to gain a head start in my college career by surrounding me with a community of peers, professors, and USF faculty that gave me the necessary skills and strength to succeed”. - Mercedes R., MSP ’05

“Amazing! I feel totally comfortable on campus here at USF. I have started a network of support in all the areas of my life and feel ready to take on college!” - Delia B., MSP ’14

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How does MSP work?

**Program Duration**

The Muscat Scholars Program (MSP) runs from Sunday, August 7th to Friday, August 19th. Scholars will move in on Sunday August 7th; students who will be living on campus in the Fall will remain in their assigned MSP rooms.

**Program Cost**

Upon acceptance into the program, Scholars are asked to pay a non-refundable program fee of $100.00. Students will need to provide their own funds for personal expenses and activities not sponsored by MSP. Fee waivers are available upon request.

**Accommodations**

All Muscat Scholar Program applicants MUST complete USF Rooms by May 1. Housing during MSP is in an on-campus residence hall with meals provided. Students will be assigned to single-sex double rooms, and participants will live together on the same floors. Each residence hall floor has a shared communal bathroom. Participants should plan to bring their own linens and personal items. All scholars are required to reside in the residence halls for the duration of the program, and are expected to abide by rules and regulations.

Because MSP students are housed together, we ask that applicants for MSP not choose a roommate at this time, they will be matched with a roommate from MSP. If you have chosen a roommate, and they would like to attend MSP as well, you are welcome to both submit an application. If you do not have a roommate, you will be matched with one from MSP.

**Classes & Credit**

This is an academic program. Students will attend classes each weekday; if courses are completed successfully, students will receive two credits toward graduation and grades contributing to their GPA. In this brochure are excerpts from the syllabi used in the MSP courses.

**Activities**

There will be off-campus trips and activities on the weekend and some evenings during the program. Students will have opportunities to get to know the neighborhood surrounding USF as well as the city of San Francisco.

**Resources**

Program participants will have access to all campus facilities, including the Koret Health and Recreation Center, the Gleeson Library, and USF’s computer labs. Additionally, students will work and interact with many USF faculty and staff members, as well as trained peer mentors and a live-in Muscat Scholar Program Coordinator.

**Commitment**

The MSP coordinators and mentors make a commitment to develop and lead a program designed to facilitate the success of the student participants. In return, they expect student participants to make the following commitments:

1. Be free of other obligations for the duration of the program (e.g., jobs, rehearsals, practices, non-MSP classes and activities). The program is intensive and does not allow for outside activities.
2. Reside in the USF residence hall for the duration of the program, including weekends and overnights, and to adhere to the regulations and rules regarding residency in the halls. If you live in the vicinity of San Francisco, and will not be living on campus during the school year, you are expected to live on campus during the program.
3. Attend and actively participate in classes, workshops, and other activities sponsored by the Muscat Scholars Program.

**Peer Mentors**

Muscat Scholars are assigned a Peer Mentor who is a continuing student, usually a junior or a senior. The Peer Mentor is a resource that the participant can rely on for assistance throughout the program and during the school year. Each mentor has undergone training and has had prior experience with the Muscat Scholars Program.

Scholars are also placed into groups called Tribes and are lead by a Peer Mentor. Tribes meet in the evenings, discuss activities, and provide support for Scholars. Peer Mentors live with the Scholars for the duration of the program.

**Program Coordinator**

The Peer Mentors are supported and supervised by the Program Coordinator who also resides with the Scholars and Mentors during the program. The Coordinator oversees the daily program operations and assists with planning during the summer.

**Staff Mentor**

Scholars are assigned a Staff Mentor who is a member of the Muscat Scholars Program Planning Committee. Participants and Staff Mentors meet during the program and during the school year to check in and provide support.
Every new incoming student at USF is assigned an Academic Success Coach (ASC) in the Center for Academic and Student Achievement (CASA). For MSP, the Academic Success Coach is Dr. Charlene Lobo Soriano. Scholars have access to their ASC during the program as well as for all four years at USF.

An ASC provides academic support to students through referrals to resources on campus as well as assistance with forms/ processes. ASCs meet with students to ensure that they are thriving and succeeding at USF.

Muscat Scholars: The First Year

After the intensive two-week summer program, Scholars report that the community feeling that MSP provides is a great foundation for their stay at the University. Scholars also report feeling like they are at home at USF - knowing what resources are available, who to go to, and where everything is!

In the first year, Scholars will meet monthly in cohorts and individually to build and review their Success Plan. This is an essential component of the program and ensures that students stay focused on their success during the school year.

During the school year, students can take The Psychology of Success, a 1-unit course in the Fall. This course will be taught in the residence hall and further builds the MSP experience throughout the school year. There are 2 retreats planned.

In the Spring, students can also take Career Exploration, a 1-unit course to look at the intersections of career and college and how to maximize the college experience.

We believe that our program’s structure, intensive support, and its staff, faculty and peer mentors create conditions where participants become self-sufficient and confident as learners and members of the USF community.

The Muscat Scholars Program’s academic component will provide you great advantages: the opportunity to earn academic credit and get a glimpse of the academic experience at the University of San Francisco.

There are four courses that Muscat Scholars participants take during the program: Intro to College Writing, Intro to College Math, Contemporary Issues, and Information Literacy. Each of these courses are taught by University faculty/lecturers or USF alumni.

Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive 2 credits toward graduation. These courses are graded and will be included in each student’s grade point average (GPA).

Students are also exposed to many resources that are valuable during the school year: the Center for Academic and Student Achievement (CASA), the Gleeson Library, the Learning & Writing Center, Multicultural Student Services, the Counseling Center, and The Priscilla A. Scotlan Career Services Center.

During the Program, students participate in study halls and can receive tutoring support for any of the courses they are taking.
Common Reading

This year, MSP will be reading *Tattoos on the Heart: the Power of Boundless Compassion* by Fr. Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries in East Los Angeles, California. Together we will explore the themes of compassion, inclusion, and service through the work he has done with gang members and identify how these themes flesh themselves out in our work inside and outside of the classroom.

Find Your Strengths

This summer we will be implementing the Strengthsfinder Assessment with all incoming MSP Scholars, staff, faculty, and advisory board members. Focused on discovering our talents and strengths, the Strengthsfinder Assessment will allow us to identify how we can capitalize on our strengths to be successful in and outside of the classroom.

Community Service

One of the major features that program alumni consistently rate as most impactful is the community service component. In Tribes, Scholars will be going to many venues in the City of San Francisco to partake in two community service activities over two days to learn more about the City and discover the importance of service learning as a student at the University of San Francisco.

The City is Our Classroom

As much as MSP is an orientation to USF, it is also an orientation to San Francisco. We know that many students come to USF having never visited San Francisco before, so there are daily field trips as well as larger group outings worked into the program that help students get familiar with their new home and city.

Start Thinking about Jobs and Careers

The Career Services Center collaborates with MSP to provide feedback on resumes and guidance on preparing for the world of work through intentional planning through the four years of college. We are pleased to be able to offer MSP students with a job fair of departments from the University who are looking for applicants to staff their offices.

Networking & Resources

MSP Scholars will meet many staff, faculty, and administrators that make USF the amazing place that it is and have access to the many services that help students achieve their goals: Learning & Writing Center, Koret Student Health Center, the Gleeson Library, and many others await Scholars!

Partners in Action

working to Complete a Targeted goal (PACT) Program

PACT was created for aspiring young men of color at USF. PACT collaborates with MSP to provide a holistic support system for its members focused on intergenerational mentorship, helping men develop and utilize their strengths while teaching them the importance of holding one another accountable.

Meet the Muscateers

Muscateers are MSP alumni that provide mentorship to the incoming students. Muscateers will guide the scholars after the MSP summer program has ended. Part of their role is to help the Scholars adjust to the college life and get acclimated to USF both socially and academically throughout their college years.
MSP Brochure 2016

There are 3 components to the application:

1. The Online Student Application
2. The online Parent/Family member application
3. Upon acceptance, you will be asked to pay a non-refundable $100 program fee

To fill out the application:

1. Go online to http://www.usfca.edu/muscat to submit applications. At the bottom of the page, you will find two links, one for you, the applicant, and another for a family member or a parent.

2. If you are applying for a Fee Waiver, you must submit your request in writing to lobo@usfca.edu, by May 31st. Please be as thorough as possible in your request in explaining your financial situation. There are limited fee waivers available. Please complete your application. Your fee request will not be considered without the Student and Parent/Family application.

3. Submitting an application means that you understand and commit to the rules and regulations set forth by the Muscat Scholars Program.

4. Failure to submit any one of the three items (your application, your family/parent application, and the program fee) in a timely manner will mean your application is incomplete and will be considered on a space available basis.

5. We accept applications on a rolling basis. Application is considered competitive and we can only offer a limited number of seats to our incoming students.

Application Deadline is May 1, 2016

How to Apply

Muscat Scholars Program
Center of Academic and Student Achievement
University of San Francisco
2130 Fulton Street, UC 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94117-1080

For more information:
Charlene P. Lobo Soriano, Ed.D., NCC
lobo@usfca.edu
415-422-6841 @itweetusf

San Francisco, CA 94117-1080
2130 Fulton Street, UC 3rd Floor
University of San Francisco
Center of Academic and Student Achievement
Muscat Scholars Program 2016

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS, MEDICAL CONSENT, RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

I, ______________________________ (“Participant”), hereby acknowledge that I have voluntarily elected to participate in the Muscat Scholars Program (“Activity”), to be held in and around San Francisco, CA, from August 7, 2016 – August 19, 2016. In consideration for being permitted to participate in the Activity, I hereby acknowledge and agree to the following:

ELECTIVE PARTICIPATION: I acknowledge that my participation is elective and that the Activity is unsupervised.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS: I agree to conduct myself in accordance with University of San Francisco (“USF”) policies and procedures, including the “Standards of Non Academic Conduct”, which appear in the most current Fogcutter Student Handbook. I further agree to abide by all the rules and requirements of the Activity. I grant USF the right to terminate my participation in the Activity if it is determined that my conduct is detrimental to the best interests of the group or violates any rule of the Activity.

INFORMED CONSENT: I have been informed of and I understand the various aspects of the Activity. I understand that as a Participant in the Activity I could sustain serious personal injuries, illness, property damage, or even death as a consequence of not only USF’s actions, inactions or negligence, but also the actions, inactions or negligence of others, conditions of equipment used, and that there may be other risks not known to me or not reasonably foreseeable at this time. I further understand and agree that any injury, illness, property damage, disability, or death that I may sustain by any means is my sole responsibility.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY: I, on behalf of myself, my personal representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, agents, and assigns, HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE the University of San Francisco, its directors, officers, employees and agents (hereinafter referred to as "Releasees") for any and all liability, including any and all claims, demands, causes of action (known or unknown), suits, or judgments of any and every kind (including attorneys' fees), arising from any injury, property damage or death that I may suffer as a result of my participation in the Activity, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE INJURY, DAMAGE OR DEATH IS CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: I understand that there are potential dangers incidental to my participation in the Activity, some of which may be dangerous and which may expose me to the risk of personal injuries, property damage, or even death. I understand that these potential risks include, but are not limited to: travel; consumption of food; weather conditions; criminal activities; negligent or willful acts of other participants; negligent first aid operations or procedures of Releasees; and other risks that are unknown at this time. I KNOWINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES, and assume full responsibility for my participation in the Program.

INDEMNITY: I, on behalf of myself, my personal representatives, heirs, executors, administrators, agents, and assigns, agree to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the Releasees from any and all liability, including any and all claims, demands, causes of action (known or unknown), suits, or judgments of any and every kind (including attorneys’ fees), arising from any injury, property damage or death that I may suffer as a result of my participation in the Activity, REGARDLESS OF

RELW.07-08.DOC
WHETHER THE INJURY, DAMAGE OR DEATH IS CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE.

CHOICE OF LAW/SEVERABILITY: I hereby agree that this Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the law of the State of California and that this Agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by such law. I further agree that if any portion hereof is held invalid, the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full force and effect.

HEALTH/SAFETY: I am aware of all applicable personal medical needs, and I am unaware of any health-related reasons or problems which preclude or restrict my participation in the Activity. I have arranged, through insurance or otherwise, to meet any and all needs for payment of medical costs while I participate in the Activity. I understand and agree that USF is not responsible for the costs or quality of such treatment or care. I agree that USF may, but is not obligated to, take any actions it considers necessary under the circumstances regarding my health and safety. I further agree to pay all expenses relating thereto and release USF from any liability for any actions it may take.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS AGREEMENT INCLUDES A RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AN ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND AN AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY THE RELEASEES. I UNDERSTAND I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

____________________________________ _____________________________
Signature of Participant Date

Signature of Parent/Guardian for Participants under eighteen (18) years of age:

I certify that I have custody of Participant or am the legal guardian of Participant by court order. I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS AGREEMENT INCLUDES A RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, AN ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND AN AGREEMENT TO INDEMNIFY THE RELEASEES. I join with Participant in granting a release to Releasees as set forth in detail above.

____________________________________ _____________________________
Signature of Parent or Guardian Date

Muscat Scholars Program 2016
Student and Family Commitment

This document outlines expectations for all students committing to the 2016 Muscat Scholars Program. Please read it very carefully. Before the student (“you”) and the student’s (“your”) family sign at the bottom, and commit to the program, please be certain that you understand the program expectations and feel confident that you can comply with them. We ask that your family member/parent also endorse this form so that they understand our expectations as well.

Please be assured that the regulations below were created to maximize your safety and enrichment and to facilitate community building during the program. Your compliance with these basic regulations will ensure a positive and fun experience for all participants. Once you have arrived for the Program, you are considered a University of San Francisco student, and are expected to abide by all University policies and procedures.

If you have any questions or concerns before signing, please contact Charlene P. Lobo Soriano, Program Director, Muscat Scholars Program at (415) 422-6841. Please fax this form to 415-422-2133 after all signatures have been obtained.

As a participant in the 2016 Muscat Scholars Program, I understand that:

1. The Muscat Scholars Program is a residential program. I will be required to spend every night during the program on campus, including weekends, even if my permanent residence is in the USF vicinity.

2. I will not be able to maintain employment or other outside commitments while engaged in the Muscat Scholars Program, as these would conflict with attendance and regulations.

3. My attendance at all classes is mandatory. If I become ill, or for any other reason cannot attend class, I must inform my Peer Mentor prior to the beginning of class or workshop. In any case, coursework must be made up and submitted on time.

4. My attendance at all Tribe Meetings and Tribal Council Meetings, and other events as scheduled, is mandatory, as well as at any other meetings called by the program. As a result, I will not be able to attend personal functions on evenings or weekends throughout the duration of the program, unless they take place after a scheduled MSP-related event.
1. I will be required to sign out/in with my Peer Mentor whenever leaving/returning to campus.

2. For my protection and safety, the use of alcohol and other drugs is strictly prohibited, both on and off campus. If I am found using these substances I will be referred to the administrative staff for disciplinary action. This may result in my dismissal from the program, and may jeopardize my status at the University of San Francisco.

3. The $100 program fee covers all program expenses, including housing, meals and mandatory activities. I am responsible, however, for covering any personal expenses (e.g., souvenirs, free time activities, snacks, etc.).

4. No overnight visitors will be permitted.

5. I will be expected to comply with the rules and regulations as outlined by the Fogcutter Student Handbook, and all information contained in the Muscat Scholars Program Welcome Guide. My full cooperation is necessary to ensure the enjoyment and enrichment of everyone in the program. Disruptive conduct will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the program and/or review with administrative staff.

6. Violation of any Muscat Scholars Program/University of San Francisco rules during the program may require immediate removal from campus; I understand that I am responsible for finding my own accommodations in this instance.

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For more information regarding the Fogcutter and the policies regarding Residence Life, please see http://www.usfca.edu/fogcutter/

My signature indicates my commitment to the 2016 Muscat Scholars Program and to complying with the above expectations.