MUSCAT SCHOLARS PROGRAM 2017
at the University of San Francisco
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.

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.

In the next few pages, you’ll learn all that 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!

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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

"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

"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

"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

"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

"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 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

"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

"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
How does MSP work?

**Program Duration**

The Muscat Scholars Program (MSP) runs from Sunday, August 6th to Friday, August 18th. Scholars will move in on Sunday, August 6th; 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 USFRooms by May 1. Housing during MSP is in an on-campus residence hall with meals provided. Students will be assigned to single-sex triple rooms, and participants will live together on the same floor. 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.

**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.

**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 neighborhoods 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 required to live on campus during the program.
3. Attend and actively participate in classes, workshops, and other activities sponsored by the Muscat Scholars Program.

Participants become official University of San Francisco students once they begin the program. All policies, procedures, and disciplinary policies are expected to be adhered to. See Fogcutter student handbook at http://www.usfca.edu/fogcutter/ for more details.

If Scholars fail to commit to any of these points, we reserve the right to remove participants from the program and/or have participant conduct reviewed by administrative staff.

**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.
How does MSP work?

Continued

Academic Success Coach

Every new incoming student at USF is assigned an Academic Success Coach (ASC) who works 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.

MSP Academics

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 those themes flesh themselves out in our work inside and outside of the classroom.

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.

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.

The 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.

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.

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.

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.

Access to Technology
In collaboration with Information Technology Services, MSP Scholars who meet financial aid guidelines will be eligible to apply for a refurbished Mac or PC laptop. This program is strictly need-based with a limited supply of computers available for donation, at no cost to the student.

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 Gleson Library, and many others await Scholars!
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

Application Deadline is May 1, 2017

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.