



CHANGE THE WORLD FROM HERE

Center for Academic and  
Student Achievement (CASA)

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March 1, 2014

Dear New USF Student:

Congratulations on your admission to the University of San Francisco! This is an exciting time for you. It is with great pleasure that I inform you that you have been selected for the Muscat Scholars Program (MSP). You were chosen based on the honor of being the first in your family to go to college. This exciting program for first-generation college students begins two weeks prior to school starting, and is designed to provide a challenging and rewarding experience to a select group of incoming first year students by helping you learn what it takes to succeed at USF. We want to assist you in setting high academic expectations for yourself, to help you build learning skills, and to enhance your understanding of how best to maximize your strengths. We realize that you may have unique challenges and needs as a first-generation college student, and the Program is here to help you during the first year.

During MSP, you'll be taking courses in writing, math, contemporary issues in multiculturalism, and information literacy taught by some of USF's most engaging faculty and staff members. You'll also participate in workshops about learning styles, USF resources, and time management to name a few. When you're not in class, you'll be engaged in group meetings, discussion groups, hands-on learning exercises and a variety of on- and off-campus activities. You will receive 2 units of elective course credit for successful completion of this summer program.

The Program continues during the school year with you taking two required courses: Psychology of Success in the Fall and Career Exploration in the Spring. These two classes, along retreats in October and February will give you the opportunity to develop a plan and a program for the transition from college to career. Throughout the year, we will have socials and gatherings to help continue to build community and foster connections.

Current USF students will be your Peer Mentors and will work closely with you. Peer Mentors are a wonderful resource -- they've been in your shoes and can really help you develop the skills and confidence needed to ensure future success. You will also be assigned a staff mentor. As a Muscat Scholar, I will be serving as your University Advisor during your four years at USF.

The Muscat Scholars Program begins on Sunday, August 3, 2014 and ends after graduation Friday, August 15, 2014. You must completely commit to the Muscat Scholars Program during this time -- the program is, in effect, your "full time" job for these two weeks. The



daily schedule begins in the morning and, on most days, continues through the evening hours. Required activities are also scheduled over the weekend (August 9-10). We have reserved space on-campus for you to live in a University residence hall for the duration of the program. If you'll be living on campus in the Fall, you will remain in your assigned MSP rooms. Food is also included during your residence in the program.

If you are interested in applying to Muscat Scholars Program, go online and submit your application via our website: [www.usfca.edu/Muscat](http://www.usfca.edu/Muscat). You must submit it online to us by May 8, 2014. We accept applications as we receive them, so get your application in early! Applications received after the date will be considered on a space available basis. Space is limited, so please be sure to turn in your applications on time to be considered for the Program. Upon confirmation, you will be asked to pay a \$100 program fee for your participation in the program.

Please note – if you are interested in Muscat Scholars Program, please complete the USF Rooms application. Once completed, you will see Roommate Selection. **Please do not participate in Roommate Selection process. You will be paired with a fellow Muscat Scholars Program participant by the MSP staff.** This individual will be your roommate for the remainder of the school year.

If you have questions or would like to talk with someone about the Muscat Scholars Program, please contact me at (415) 422-6841 or via email: [lobo@usfca.edu](mailto:lobo@usfca.edu). We are very much looking forward to greeting you on campus when you join us in August!

Sincerely,

Charlene P. Lobo Soriano, Ed.D., NCC  
Director, Muscat Scholars Program  
University Advisor, Director of Academic Development and Technological Innovation in Advising