



FOREWORD

# *Summer Bridge*

PROGRAM



FOREWORD 2011



*Above: Foreword visiting the Mission District; Below: Mercedes Robinson sharing her vision board*

## CONTENTS

A Foreword Introduction .....	3
How Does the Foreword Summer Bridge Program Work? .....	4
Foreword Academics .....	6
How to Apply .....	7

I am very thankful for the Foreword program, my 3 best friends that I have now, all came from the Foreword program. The program also helped me feel comfortable with the campus before school started. It was a great transition from High School to college, it was definitely worth the 2 weeks. -Edward Norman, Foreword '09

# A Foreword Introduction



Foreword is the best thing I could have ever done as a Freshman in college. I made lifelong friends during the program and I was extremely fortunate to have gotten a head start in my college education. I would HIGHLY recommend that all incoming freshmen apply to this program. - Angelica Guiao, Foreword '10

**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 Foreword Summer Bridge Program is your introduction to the University of San Francisco, the book that you will soon open and begin exploring.

## **Mission Statement**

The Foreword program helps 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; and
5. To help participants take advantage of campus resources and opportunities in order to succeed as scholars and as student leaders.



*Berwick Gabriel, Foreword '06*

# How does the Foreword Summer Bridge Program work?

Students will need to provide their own funds for personal expenses and activities not sponsored by Foreword. Fee waivers are available upon request.

## Classes and Credit

Students will attend classes each weekday; if the courses are completed successfully, students will receive two units of credit toward graduation and grades contributing to their GPA. In this brochure are excerpts from the syllabi used in the Foreword Summer Bridge 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 and 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 six trained peer mentors and a live-in Foreword Program Coordinator.

## Commitment

The Foreword Summer Bridge Program 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-Foreword 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 Foreword program.

Participants become official University of San Francisco students once at 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 student participants 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

Foreword Summer Bridge Program participants 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 Foreword Summer Bridge Program.

Participants are also placed into groups called Tribes. Tribes consist of 8-9 participants and lead by the Peer Mentor. Tribes meet in the evenings, discuss activities and provide support for participants. Peer Mentors live with the students for the duration of the program.

## Program Duration

The Foreword Summer Bridge Program runs for 13 days, from Sunday, August 8th to Friday, August 19th. Participants will move in on Sunday August 7th; students who will be living on campus in the Fall can remain in their assigned Foreword rooms.

## Accommodations

All Foreword applicants *MUST* complete USFRooms by May 1. Housing during Foreword is in an on-campus residence hall, and meals will be provided for all participants. Students will be assigned to single-sex double rooms, and program participants will live together on the same floors. Each residence hall floor has a large bathroom to be shared by all floor residents. Participants should plan to bring their own linens and personal items. All Foreword students are required to reside in the residence halls for the duration of the program.

Participants are expected to abide by the rules and regulations of the residence halls as they would during the normal school year.

**Please do not participate in USFRooms Room/Roommate Selection. We assign all rooms and roommates for the program and school year.**

## Cost

Student participants are asked to pay a non-refundable application fee of \$100.00.

### Program Coordinator

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

### Staff Mentors

Foreword Summer Bridge Program participants are assigned a Staff Mentor who is a member of the Foreword Planning Committee. Participants and Staff Mentors meet during the program and during the school year to check in and provide support.

### The USF Reading Project

Each summer, all incoming first year students are given a book to read. This year the USF Reading Project committee has chosen *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas* by Rebecca Solnit. Solnit and her collaborators create maps to share the infinite stories and histories of San Francisco, your new home. Each author's sense of place is revealed, showing the diverse cities within San Francisco. As the newest members of our USF community, you will map your lives here and contribute to the many stories on our campus and beyond. During Foreword, "reading" circles are facilitated by Peer Mentors to discuss the painting. Foreword courses will also use the painting during discussion.

We invite families to read the book as well to continue the dialogue!

### After(Fore)word

After Foreword, our students report feeling more adjusted to college life, become leaders amongst their peers, and build strong bonds that last through their stay at USF. Recent research has indicated that Foreword participants are more likely than students who were invited to Foreword but did not attend to persist through the first year. Also, students who participated in Foreword are more likely graduate in four years than non-Foreword students.

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.



Foreword 2009: Visiting the Vaillancourt Fountain on the Saturday Field Trip

My Foreword experience is something I will never forget. Foreword was a great experience that allowed me to meet people, become familiar with the school and the campus, get acquainted with the city of San Francisco and the area around USF, and decide that I really did want to go to college because it really is not as scary as people make it seem.

-Ashleigh Vozikes, Foreword '07

# Foreword Academics

Foreword 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 Robinson '05

We are the writers of our own life story. The Foreword 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 Anderson, Peer Mentor '08, '09



Above: Peer Mentor Joeline Navarro, Foreword '05. Right: Foreword retreat 2005

**The Foreword Summer Bridge 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. Students are also exposed to many resources that are valuable during the school year: the Gleeson Library, the Learning & Writing Center, Multicultural Student Services, the Counseling Center, The Priscilla A. Scotlan Career Services Center and Academic Support Services.

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

There are four courses that Foreword 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 units of academic credit toward graduation. These courses are fully graded and will be a part of each student's grade point average (GPA).

During the school year, students can elect to take The Psychology of Success, a 1-unit course. This course will be taught in the residence hall and will be an opportunity to continue the Foreword experience throughout the school year.



# How to Apply

**There are 3 mandatory components to the application:**

1. The online Student application
2. The online Parent/Family member application
3. The non-refundable application fee of \$100.

**APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSES ON JUNE 15, 2011.**

**To fill out the applications,**

1. Go online to: <http://www.usfca.edu/foreword>. 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, by June 16th. 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 Foreword Summer Bridge Program.
4. Failure to submit any one of three items (your application, your family/parent application, and the application 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 55 seats to our incoming students.

Please make checks out to: The University of San Francisco, Foreword Summer Bridge Program. Postmarks by June 15th, but received after the 15th will be considered on a space-available basis.

Please submit all applications online by June 15th with the \$100 non-refundable application fee ONLINE:  
<http://www.usfca.edu/foreword>

Foreword Summer Bridge Program  
Academic Support Services  
University of San Francisco  
2130 Fulton Street, GL LL20  
San Francisco, CA 94117-1080

For more information:  
Charlene P. Lobo Soriano  
[lobo@usfca.edu](mailto:lobo@usfca.edu)  
415-422-6841

Foreword is the unspoken word for family. Through it I found my family away from home and the skills I would need to succeed at U.S.F  
-Gabi Tellez,  
Peer Mentor '08, '09,  
Foreword '06



*Peer Mentor, Steven Narine, '04  
and Sofia Martinez, '07*