Truman Scholarship

Website: Truman Scholarship

Campus Contact: Barbara Gorka, barbara.gorka@temple.edu, 215 204 0708

Campus Deadline: November 15 annually

Award Description:

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation - the federal memorial to our thirty-third President - awards merit-based scholarships to college students who plan to pursue careers in government or elsewhere in public service.

The Foundation provides:

- Up to $30,000 toward a public service-related graduate degree.
- Truman Scholars Leadership Week.
- Summer Institute. Immediately after college graduation, Scholars have the opportunity to participate in an eight-week Summer Institute in Washington, DC.
- Truman-Albright and Other Fellows Program. After Summer Institute, Scholars may elect to stay in Washington, DC, for a full year in the Truman-Albright Fellows Program.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria:

Each nominee for the Truman Scholarship must be: a full-time junior-level student; nominated by the Truman Scholarship Faculty Representative at his or her institution; in the upper quarter of his or her class; and a United States citizen or a United States national from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Resident aliens (green card holders) are not eligible.

A good candidate for the Truman Scholarship meets the above eligibility requirements and also: has an extensive record of public and community service; has outstanding leadership potential and communication skills; and is committed to a career in government or elsewhere in public service, as defined by the Foundation. The Foundation defines public service as employment in government at any level, uniformed services, public-interest organizations, nongovernmental research and/or educational organizations, public and private schools, and public service-oriented nonprofit organizations.

Internal Application Instructions and Checklist:

The Truman scholarship requires institutional nomination. Applications made directly to the awarding body will not be considered. Interested candidates are encouraged to meet with Barbara Gorka, Director of Fellowships Advising, well before the November 15 internal deadline.
Submit the following application components by November 15.

1. _____ Campus Waiver and Agreement. Complete the online agreement.

2. _____ Truman Scholarship Application. To access the application, you must first meet with the Director of Fellowships Advising, Barbara Gorka (barbara.gorka@temple.edu). Complete the online application and submit your draft by the campus deadline. We recommend that you prepare your short essay responses and your policy memo in Word, and then cut and paste when you are ready to submit. You can find a sample application here. Before you begin to write, review the Truman Notes to Candidates and Personal Statement Tips. Note that although you are answering a series of short essays (Items 7-9 and 11-14), these should read together as one narrative. This means that you need a consistent story line that threads together your interests, experiences, and goals. The application also includes a Policy Proposal. Draft a policy that addresses the significant societal issue you presented in question 9 of the application. Present your proposal in the form of a memo to the government official who you feel has the most direct authority to resolve the issue. Include three sections: Problem Statement, Proposed Solution, Major Obstacles or Implementation Challenges. Provide statistical data to put the issue in context and to support your recommendations. Cite major sources (these references or footnotes do not count against the word limit). Maximum 500 words. (Here are good Policy Proposal Tips.)

3. _____ Transcripts. Submit to Barbara.gorka@temple.edu an unofficial copy of your Temple transcript or academic record. If you earned transfer credit for work at a previous institution, summer school, or study abroad (on a non-Temple program), please provide an unofficial transcript as well.

4. _____ Three Letters of Recommendation. Your references should provide letters of support to Barbara Gorka in Fellowships Advising (barbara.gorka@temple.edu) as PDFs by the campus deadline. Each of the letters should address one of the Truman selection criteria, but it is acceptable for a letter to discuss more than one criteria. Let your letter writers know which of the criteria they should focus on, and encourage them to review these guidelines from the Truman Foundation. Three criteria: (1) Leadership Abilities and Potential: This letter should confirm the experience described in Question 7 of the online application (specific example of your leadership). The letter writer need not have witnessed the example first hand, but he or she should be able to discuss the example and how it fits within the context of the student's leadership. (2) Commitment to a Career in Public Service: This letter should confirm the experience described in Question 8 (recent, satisfying public service activity). The letter writer need not have witnessed the activity first hand, but he or she should be able to discuss the example and how it fits within the context the student's commitment to a career in public service. (3) Intellect and Prospects for Continuing Academic Success: This letter should discuss the student's overall academic background in context of the student's future plans for career and graduate school (Questions 11 to 13 of application). It is recommended, though not required, that the writer have taught the student at some point.