Truman Scholarship

Updated May 8, 2017

Website: Truman Scholarship

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

Internal 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. Truman Scholars receive up to $30,000 for graduate or professional school, participate in leadership development activities, and have special opportunities for internships and employment with the federal government.

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. If the instructions ask you to submit to Fellowships Advising, you should send the documents as a PDF to feladv@temple.edu or barbara.gorka@temple.edu.

______ Campus Waiver and Agreement. Complete the online agreement.

______ 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). It is recommended, though not required, that the writer have taught the student at some point.

______ Transcripts. Submit (to Fellowships Advising) an unofficial copy of your Temple transcript or academic record as a PDF. 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 a PDF.

______ 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.