

Harry S. Truman Foundation
Scholarship, 2018-2019



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
Institute for Public Policy Studies

University of Denver Application Process

Important Dates:

October 18: Unofficial transcript & preliminary paper due to debbie.gaylinn@du.edu.

October 30: Selected applicants will be announced via email and nominated on the Truman.gov website

December 17: Completed application materials and recommendation letters must be uploaded to the Truman.gov website for DU internal review

February 5: Any requested changes to the application must be made and final submission completed online

February 22: Finalists posted on the Truman Foundation's website

March : Finalist Interviews

April 17: Truman Scholars are announced on Foundation's home page

Candidates are strongly encouraged to read through all candidate materials on the Truman website: www.truman.gov.

Eligibility

- Full-time student with junior-level academic standing at a four-year institution with plans to graduate between November 2019 and August 2020 (or a third-year student with senior-level standing, planning to graduate in three years)
- In the upper quarter of his/her class
- A US citizen or US national
- Nominees must not have been nominated prior to this year

Types of Candidates Sought

- The Foundation seeks future “change agents” who aspire to leadership positions in federal, state, or local governments or in the not-for-profit and education sectors where they can influence public policies and change public programs
- Those with extensive records of public and community service
- A commitment to careers in government or elsewhere in the public sector
- The desire to influence public policies or education programs
- Those with outstanding leadership potential and communication skills
- Candidates are judged based on three main criteria:
 - Public service
 - Leadership
 - Academic success

Preliminary Paper (due October 18, 2018)

In order to evaluate and aid in the on-campus selection process, students will need to submit a three application items via email (debbie.gaylinn@du.edu):

- Current resume, highlighting service involvement and listing major(s)/minor(s)
- Current transcript (unofficial; can be printed/saved from PioneerWeb)
- Personal statement, with the following headings (approximately three pages, 1.5 spacing):
 1. What makes you a good candidate, with particular attention to the three main scholarship criteria
 2. The policy issue about which you feel the most passionate, and why
 3. The most meaningful service experience you have had in the past five years (this may not be the longest running, etc.)
 4. Your future graduate school plans and career goals
 5. What does public service mean to you, and why would you like to enter into public service?

Is the Truman Scholarship Right for Me?

If you can put a check beside each of the following statements, you could be a strong candidate for the Scholarship. If more than two do not apply, the Truman Scholarship is probably not right for you.

Legal Requirements (*required*)

- At the time I apply, I will be a full-time student pursuing a bachelor's degree with junior-level academic standing, planning to graduate between November 2019 and August 2020.
- I am a U.S. citizen (or a U.S. national) or I expect to receive my citizenship by the date the Scholarship will be awarded.

Career and Graduate Study Interests

- I hope to be a "change agent," in time, improving the ways that government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or educational institutions serve the public.
- There are conditions in our society or the environment that trouble me.
- I want to work in government, education, the nonprofit sector, or the public interest/advocacy sector to improve these conditions.
- I am comfortable committing to work in public service for three of the first seven years after I complete a Foundation-funded graduate degree.
- I would like to get a master's degree, a doctorate, or a professional degree such as a law degree or a Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Health, Master of Social Work, Master of Education, Master of Public Policy, Master of International Affairs, or another relevant degree

Career Service and Academic Record

I have participated extensively in two or more of the following sets of activities:

- Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities
- Community service-related activities that were not organized by my school or by my fraternity/sorority
- Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC

- Partisan political activities and campaigns
- I have been involved with organizations or activities related to my career interests
- I have demonstrated some of my leadership potential
- I have high grades and a sufficiently strong curriculum to gain admittance to a first-rate graduate institution
- I regularly read a good national newspaper and a thoughtful periodical
- I have had one or more courses relating to my career interests

General

- I would appreciate external affirmation of my values and goals
- I would like to become associated with Truman Scholar "change agents"
- I am capable of analyzing a public issue in my intended career area and presenting my findings in a one-page memo to a government official who could take action
- I am willing to prepare an outstanding application and policy proposal under the supervision of my Truman Faculty Representative
- I believe I could hold my own in a challenging interview conducted by a panel of prominent public servants, educators, and former Truman Scholars
- I could use \$30,000 to continue my education

FAQ's

How many students participate each year?

- Between 600 and 700 nominations are received by the Truman Foundation for the 60-65 available scholarships. About one third of these nominees are selected as finalists and progress to the interview stage. The number of students who participate in campus competitions is much higher.

How Many Truman Scholars are elected in 2019?

- Approximately 60-65 Truman Scholars will be elected in 2019
- University of Denver may nominate up to four students for the competition

How much time and effort is spent on the process?

- Truman Finalists report spending as much or more time on completing the Truman materials and preparing for the interview as they would spend on a two credit course

How are the scholarships distributed among the states and other jurisdictions?

- The Foundations tries to select at least one Truman Scholar each year from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the island territories. Finalists compete against other students from their home state (not necessarily Colorado). When an interview panel judges that no finalist from a given state satisfactorily meets the selection criteria, no scholarship is awarded. Up to 15 at-large Scholars may also be selected.
- Competition is often tighter in states with large populations, and easier in states with smaller populations

How important is the Public Service Record?

- It is one of the most – if not the most - important criteria for selection.

Priority Given to Degree Candidates

- Priority is given to candidates seeking one or more of the follow degrees or equivalents: MPA/MPP, JD, MEd, MIA, MPH, and master's or doctorate degrees in fields in which most graduates go into public service

May Truman Scholars work before graduate school?

- Scholars may defer attending graduate school for up to four years following the receipt of a Truman Scholarship

Career Goals Sought by the Foundation

- Managers, administrators, and analysts in federal, state and local agencies
- Legislators, aids and staff for legislative committees
- Teachers in public and private schools
- Foreign service officers and staff in international development and assistance organizations

- Professional staff in nonprofit and advocacy organizations to serve disadvantaged groups or to protect the environment
- Analysts and researchers for think tanks
- Attorneys for government agencies and legislative bodies

Service Requirement

- Public Service is defined 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 such as those whose primary purposes are to help needy or disadvantaged persons or to protect the environment
- All Truman Scholars are required to work in public service for three of the seven years following the completion of a Foundation funded graduate degree program as a condition of receiving Truman funds. Scholars are required to file timely reports with the Foundation on their current employment activities

What are some reasons why Truman nominees do not advance in the competition?

- Lack of a substantial and sustained record of service
- Insufficient effort in completing the application and/or policy proposal
- Proposing an inappropriate degree for Foundation support
- Careless preparation
- An application that lacks overall direction
- No aspiration to a position that in time will enable the candidate to affect policies or to change programs
- No evidence of leadership
- Poor writing

Contacts

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