The Truman Scholarship
www.truman.gov

NMSU Office of National Scholarships and International Education
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The Truman Scholarship

- Recognizes juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in the public service; and

- Provides them with financial support for graduate/professional school study, leadership training, and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service.

- See this web site.
Truman Scholars receive:

- Up to $30,000 for graduate/professional school study
- Priority admission and supplemental financial aid at some premier graduate institutions
- Leadership training
- Career and graduate school counseling
- Special internship opportunities within the federal government
Legal eligibility requirements, 1

- Must be a full-time student pursuing a bachelor's degree with junior-level academic standing
  - OR have senior-level standing in my third year of college enrollment
  - OR a senior and a resident of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or a Pacific Island.
- Note: Students who have completed their bachelor's degree or are already attending graduate school are not eligible for the Truman Scholarship.
Legal eligibility requirements, 2

- U.S. citizen (or a U.S. national from a Pacific Island) or expect to receive citizenship by the date the Scholarship will be awarded
Are you a potential Truman Scholar?

- Do you want to be a “change agent,” improving the ways that government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or educational institutions serve the public?
- Are there conditions in our society or the environment that trouble you?
- Do you want 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, or Master of International Affairs?
Are you a potential Truman Scholar (continued)?

- Do you participate extensively in two or more of the following sets of activities:
  - Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities;
  - Community service-related activities;
  - Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC;
  - Partisan political activities and campaigns
- Are you involved with organizations or activities related to your career interests?
Dates and deadlines

- Internal deadline: January 22, 2013
- Truman Application Deadline: February 5, 2013
- Finalist Posting: February 20, 2013
- Finalist Confirmation Form Due: February 21, 2013
- Regional Review Panels: March 1, 2013 through April 3, 2013
- Scholar Posting: April 11, 2013
- Truman Scholars Leadership Week: May 21, 2013 through May 26, 2013
The application

- Consists of:
  - Institutional Nomination form and letter
  - Three letters of recommendation
  - Recent transcript
  - Application form (14 questions)
  - Policy proposal

- Each institution can nominate up to 4 candidates
Application items 2-6

- College/HS Activities
- Public/Community/Civic Service Activities
- Government-related activities
- Part-time/Full-Time Jobs & Nongovernmental Internships
- Awards/Scholarships/Honors/Presentations etc.
Item 7: Leadership example

- Describe an example of your leadership
  - Choose an example from college
  - Reflect upon your leadership
- Leadership Abilities & Potential LOR must confirm the example used
Item 8: Public service example

- Describe a recent particularly satisfying public service activity
- Must be different from the Leadership Activity (Item 7)
- LOR will also discuss your public service activities but does not need to be directly tied to your example
Item 9 and the Policy Proposal

- Prepare a convincing Policy Proposal. You will have limited space to examine a significant policy issue or problem that is in your intended area of public service as described in Item 9.
- Your memo needs to define the problem, lay out your proposed solution, and identify major obstacles to the implementation of your solution. Provide statistical data to put the issue in context and to support your recommendations. Cite major sources.
The Policy Proposal

- Address to appropriate governmental official
- Use statistical data to define the problem.
- Choose sources carefully.
- Use persuasive, credible data to explain your position.
- Make your recommendations specific, clear, and understandable.
- Handle obstacles fairly. Capture briefly the legitimacy of the opposition.
Items 12 – 14: Career trajectory

- Graduate/Professional School Aspirations (Item 11)
  - Propose a detailed plan for study in Item 11. Name the graduate institutions of greatest interest that are likely to accept you.
- First professional job (Item 12)
- Mid-career job (Item 13)
Item 15

- Reveal your values, interests, and motivation for a career in public service
- This item is of extreme importance—it allows for personality and context to give the application more meaning as a whole. Write about significant dimensions of yourself or explanation of your commitment to careers in public service not covered elsewhere in the application.
Three (different, focused) letters of recommendation

- Leadership Potential & Abilities
  - Directly tied to response in Item 7 (Leadership)
- Commitment to a Career in Public Service
- Intellect & Prospects for Continuing Academic Success
APPLY!

- Request application ID (email onsie@nmsu.edu)
- Complete application online through www.truman.gov
- Letters of recommendation submitted as email attachments to onsie@nmsu.edu
- Request official transcripts from Registrar's Office. Have them sent to me.
- CAMPUS DEADLINE: 22 January 2013