

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Purpose The official federal memorial to President Truman, the Truman Foundation supports graduate study for students committing themselves to careers in public service.

Award

Tenable For graduate or professional school in the U.S. or abroad. Priority given to academic programs that clearly point toward a future career in public service.

Number & Amount About 65 awards annually (including one per state ideally). \$30,000 maximum.

Duration Two or three years. Duration depends upon the degree track. You can defer the Truman for up to five years automatically before entering graduate school.

Eligibility

Who US citizen or US national. Seek a career in public service. Upper quarter of class.

When Apply at campus level as a sophomore. Nominees then apply nationally as juniors. *Juniors* are defined as students in their penultimate year of undergraduate study.

Selection Criteria Very strong record of public service and leadership. Government internships and activism are valued. Good fit regarding career goals. Strong academic record. Aspire to be a *change agent* in the public sector.

Campus Deadline Typically March. We can nominate four candidates.

Deadline Very early February in recent years.

Application Application is completed online. Form includes resume information and short essays. Also a policy proposal of 500 words or less. Transcripts. Three letters of reference (with specific instructions). Campus endorsement. Finalists are invited to interview (in Kansas City for Kansas residents).

Contact Jim Hohenbary is the Truman Faculty Representative. He can be reached at 112 Eisenhower or (785) 532-6904.

Other Truman Scholars must attend a Leadership Week at William Jewell. Scholars can intern with government or nonprofit (Washington Summer Institute) in DC after graduation. Can also extend into year of employment (Truman Fellows Program).

Scholars required to spend three of first seven years in public service *after* earning graduate degree (or the award turns into a loan).

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 such as those whose primary purposes are to help needy or disadvantaged persons or to protect the environment.*

More information is available at www.truman.gov. Kansas State students have won 31 Truman scholarships between 1980-2009.