



UNM Preliminary Deadline: November 6, 2025

I. Eligibility

- Be a full-time junior or sophomore - Graduating between December 2026 and August 2028
 - Be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
 - Have a highly competitive GPA
 - Major in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering
- Obtain **institutional nomination** – Submit [UNM Preliminary Application](#)
[NISF.unm.edu](#) → **Prestigious Awards** → **Goldwater Scholarship** → **Application Form**

II. Awards and Benefits

- Up to \$7,500 for tuition, fees, books, and room/board (400 scholarships)
- Junior level scholarship: 2 years, Senior level scholarship: 1 year

III. Criteria

- Research experience
- Strong commitment to a career in math, natural sciences, and engineering
- Potential for a significant future contribution in the chosen field
- Intend to pursue doctoral degrees (Ph.D.)
 - For Pre-med/ pre-veterinarian students, must plan to pursue MD/PhD or DVM/PhD.

IV. UNM Process

- Complete [Goldwater Pre-Application](#)
- Complete Goldwater Application (**After you meet with CAELD**)
- Online Application <https://apply.scholarsapply.org/barrygoldwater/>
- Research essay (<https://goldwaterscholarship.gov/developing-the-research-essay/>)

“Whether your essay is based on prior research or is a proposal, it is important that your essay clearly describes 1) your intellectual contribution or expected contribution to the work, 2) the skills you brought to the work from prior research or course experiences, and 3) the skills you have or expect to obtain from participation in the project.”

V. Supporting Documents

- College/university transcript(s)
- Three recommenders

- a. Two faculty members who can discuss your potential for a career in math, science, or engineering. At least one of them must be a faculty member in your field of study.
- b. Another individual or faculty member who can attest to your research potential.
- c. If you have been involved in research, one of your recommendations must come from the individual who supervised your work.
- d. Letters from former high school teachers, coaches, or family friends are generally of little value.

VI. Selection Process

November 6, 2025 – UNM Preliminary Application Due

Late November 2025 – UNM Nominees Announced

January 30, 2026 (4 pm MT) – Deadline of Online application

March 27, 2026 (10 am MT) – Announcement of recipients online

1,350 nominated applicants from 445 academic institutions in 2025

437 scholarships awarded

- 203 men/222 women
- 50 Math & CS /240 Natural Sciences Sciences/88 Medicine/63 Engineering
- All intend to obtain a Ph.D. as their degree objective

UNM – Recent recipients

2025: 3 scholars in Biochemistry & Computer Science

2024: 3 scholars in Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, & Chemistry

2023: 2 scholars in Physics & Chemistry

2022: 1 scholar in Chemical Engineering

2021: 4 scholars in Biochemistry, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, & Biology

2019: 1 scholar in Physics

2018: 2 scholars in Physics & Biochemistry

2017: 2 scholars in Biochemistry (honorable mention: chemical engineering)

2016: 1 scholar in Chemical Engineering (honorable mention: biochemistry)