



**UNM Preliminary Deadline: October 1, 2025**

**I. Eligibility**

- Be a junior (graduating between December 2026 and August 2027) or a graduating senior if you are graduating within 3 years
- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Have a highly competitive GPA
- Plan to pursue a master's degree in Law, Public Administration, Public Health, Social Work, Education, Public Policy, International Affairs, etc.
- Plan to work in public service for three of the first seven years after I complete a Foundation-funded graduate degree.
- **Obtain institutional nomination** - Submit [UNM online Application Form](#)  
NISF.unm.edu → Prestigious Awards → Truman Scholarship → Application Form

**II. Awards and Benefits**

- \$30,000 for graduate degrees in public service fields
- Invitation to Truman Leadership Week
- Assistance with career counseling, internship placement, graduate school admissions, and professional development

**III. Criteria**

- Appropriateness for proposed graduate study
- A "Change Agent" in your field
- Selection criteria for Finalists include
  - extent and quality of community service and/or government involvement
  - leadership record
  - academic performance, writing and analytical skills and
  - suitability of the nominee's proposed program of study for a career in public service.
- At the interview, Truman scholars are selected largely based on
  - leadership potential and communication skills
  - intellectual strength and analytical ability and
  - likelihood of 'making a difference' in public service.

**IV. Truman Application/Supporting Documents (The CAELD office upload the supporting documents.)**

- Online application form
- College/university transcript(s)
- Three letters of recommendation
  - 1. Leadership Potential and Abilities**
    - a. Confirm and elaborate on the leadership example the candidate described in Question 7 on the Application
    - b. Address the candidate's personal characteristics (confidence, persuasiveness, diligence, conviction, vitality, poise, and so forth) which contribute to the candidate's leadership abilities.

## 2. Commitment to a Career in Public Service

- Confirm and elaborate on the service experience the candidate described in Question 8 on the Application.
- Describe a significant contribution made by the candidate through one or more public service, community or government-related activities
- Address the candidate's values, interests, goals, and/or ambitions which represent commitment to a career in government or elsewhere in the public service.

## 3. Intellect and Prospects for Continuing Academic Success

- Discuss the student's overall academic background in context of the student's future plans for career and graduate school

## V. Selection Process

October 1, 2025 (11:59 pm) – UNM Preliminary Application Due

October 20, 2025 – UNM Finalists Announced

Late October – Early November 2024 – UNM Finalists Interview

Early November 2025 – UNM Nominees Announced

December 2025 – First Draft Due, Recommenders Confirmation

**Early February 2026 – Truman Application Due**

February 2026 – Truman Finalists Announced

March or April– Finalist Interview

April 2026– Truman Scholars Announced

## VI. Resources

- <https://nisf.unm.edu/prestigious-scholarships/truman-scholarship/index.html>
- <http://www.truman.gov/are-you-potential-truman-scholar>: “Are you a potential Truman Scholar?”
- <https://www.truman.gov/2025Scholars>: Meet Truman Scholars
- <http://www.truman.gov/sample-application-forms/>: Truman Sample Application Materials
- <http://www.truman.gov/candidates/advice-guidance>: Advice & Guidance for Candidates

## 2024 Truman Scholars Fact

54 Truman Scholars from 743 candidates nominated by 288 colleges/universities

- 23 (43%) Scholars attend public universities
- 24 (44%) Scholars attend private research universities
- 5 (9%) Scholar attends service academies

## Notable Truman Scholars

**George Stephanopoulos** (1981) Chief Anchor for ABC News

**Susan Rice** (1984) National Security Advisor, US Ambassador to the UN

**Ted Deutch** (1986) US Representative from Florida

**Neil Gorsuch** (1987) Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States

**Stacey Abrams** (1994) Georgia House Minority Leader

**Jake Sullivan** (1997) US National security Advisor

**David Haskell** (2000) Editor-in-Chief of New York Magazine

**Andy Kim** (2003) US representative from New Jersey

### UNM achievement

2025 – (1 Finalist)

2024 – (1 Finalist)

2023 – Truman Scholar

2022 – Truman Scholar

2021 – Truman Scholar

2020 – (1 Finalist)

2019 – (1 Finalist)

2017 – (1 Finalist)

2015 – (1 Finalist)

2014 – Truman Scholar (4 finalists)

2011 – Truman Scholar (2 finalists)