



THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION



CENTER FOR  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE &  
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

# Truman Scholarship

The Truman Scholarship Foundation was established by Congress in 1975 as the federal memorial to our thirty-third President. The Foundation awards scholarships for college students to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or elsewhere in public service. The activities of the Foundation are supported by a special trust fund in the US Treasury.

# Eligibility



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Be a full-time students who will graduate between December 2024 and August 2025 (exception if you are graduating within 3 years – May 2024)

Be a US citizen

Plan to pursue a graduate degree (MPA, MPP, JD, MEd, MIA, MSW, MPH, and master's or doctorate degrees in fields in which most graduates go into public service)

Truman scholars are required to work in public service for 3 of the first 7 years following completion of a Foundation funded graduate degree.

# Employment in Public Service

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- government at any level,
- uniformed services,
- public and private schools, and
- public service-oriented nonprofit organizations

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# Examples of Career Goals Sought by the Foundation

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managers, administrators, and analysts in federal, state, and local agencies;  
legislators, aides to legislators, 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 and policy research and development organizations; and  
attorneys for government agencies and legislative bodies.

# Awards



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\$30,000 for master's & professional degrees

Scholars also receive

Leadership training (Leadership Week in May)

Summer Internship during summer after graduation

Career and graduate school counseling, and

Special internship opportunities within the federal government

# Criteria



extensive records of leadership and community service

commitment to careers in public service  
(activities related to your career goal)

desire to influence public policies or education programs

# Frequent Problems in Applications

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little evidence of leadership;

lack of sustained community service involvement;

seeking careers that do not fit the Foundation's definition of public service; and

graduate study proposals lacking specifics on what they plan to study, which institution they hope to attend, and some discussion of the major courses.



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# UNM Preliminary Application

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UNM preliminary application Due

11:59 pm

10/1/2023 (Sunday)

<http://nisf.unm.edu> → Prestigious Awards →

Truman Scholarship → Application Form

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# UNM Preliminary Application

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Academic/personal information

Three References (NO LETTERS)

Three Short Essays

Upload resume and unofficial transcript



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# Essay 1 – UNM Preliminary

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“Describe one specific example of your leadership” (2000 characters)

Sample essays -

<https://www.truman.gov/question-7/>

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# Essay 2 – UNM Preliminary

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“Describe the problem or needs of society you want to address when you enter public service. If possible, use statistical data to define the magnitude of the problem”  
(1500 characters)

Sample Essays - <https://www.truman.gov/question-9/>

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# Essay 3 – UNM Preliminary

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“Describe your academic and career goal you plan to pursue” (2000 characters)

## Supplemental Documents

- Resume (2 pages max)
- Unofficial UNM Transcript

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# Resume

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- Education
- College Activities
- Community Involvement
- Work/Professional experience
- Awards/Recognitions
- Organizations/Affiliations



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# UNM Preliminary Application

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October 1, 2023: UNM Preliminary Application Due

October 21: UNM Finalists Announced

Late October/Early November : UNM Finalists  
Interview

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# Truman UNM Nominees

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December 1, 2023 - First Draft Due, Recommenders Confirmation

February 6, 2024 - Truman Application Due

February 18, 2024 - Truman Finalist Notified

March-April 2024 - Finalist Interview @ASU (AZ, NV, NM, UT)

April 19, 2024 - Scholars (up to 65) Announced

May 21-26, 2024 - Scholars Leadership Week

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# Truman UNM Nominees

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Complete the online Truman application

Official transcript(s) from universities & colleges you attended before UNM

Three letters of recommendation

1. Leadership Abilities and Potential
2. Commitment to a Career in Public Service
3. Intellect and Prospects for Continuing Academic Success



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# How Competitive?

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## UNM Record

Truman Scholars – 2023, 2022, 2021, 2014, 2011, & 2010

Truman Finalists – 2020 (1), 2019 (1), 2017 (1), 2015 (1), 2014 (3), & 2011 (2)

## 2023 Truman Scholars Fact

- 62 Truman Scholars from 705 candidates nominated by 275 colleges (8%)
- 33 scholars from public universities
- 19 scholars from private research universities
- 8 scholars from private liberal arts colleges
- 2 scholar from service academies

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# Future Opportunities

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NISF.UNM.EDU

Rhodes Scholarship (UNM Deadline March 10)

Marshall Scholarship (UNM Deadline March 10)

Mitchell Scholarship (UNM Deadline March 10)

Fulbright US Students Program (UNM Deadline 9/6)

Schwarzman Scholars Program (Deadline Sept)

Knight-Hennessy Scholars Program (Deadline Sept)

Rangel Fellowship & Pickering Fellowship (Deadline Sept)

Gates Cambridge Scholarship (Deadline Oct)

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Kiyoko Simmons

Honors College Room 1073

[ksimmons@unm.edu](mailto:ksimmons@unm.edu)

Appointment via Lobo Achieve

