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

Be a full-time student 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

- government at any level,
- uniformed services,
- public and private schools, and
- public service-oriented nonprofit organizations
Examples of Career Goals Sought by the Foundation

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

$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
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

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.
UNM Preliminary Application

UNM preliminary application Due

11:59 pm

10/1/2023 (Sunday)

http://nisf.unm.edu → Prestigious Awards → Truman Scholarship → Application Form
UNM Preliminary Application

Academic/personal information

Three References (NO LETTERS)

Three Short Essays

Upload resume and unofficial transcript
Essay 1 – UNM Preliminary

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

Sample essays -
https://www.truman.gov/question-7/
Essay 2 – UNM Preliminary

“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/
Essay 3 – UNM Preliminary

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

Supplemental Documents

• Resume (2 pages max)

• Unofficial UNM Transcript
Resume

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

THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
UNM Preliminary Application

October 1, 2023: UNM Preliminary Application Due
October 21: UNM Finalists Announced
Late October/Early November: UNM Finalists Interview
Truman UNM Nominees

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
Truman UNM Nominees

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

THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
How Competitive?

UNM Record


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
Future Opportunities

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-Hennessey Scholars Program (Deadline Sept)
Rangel Fellowship & Pickering Fellowship (Deadline Sept)
Gates Cambridge Scholarship (Deadline Oct)
Kiyoko Simmons
Honors College Room 1073
ksimmons@unm.edu
Appointment via Lobo Achieve