



## 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 students who will graduate between December 2018 and August 2019
- ▶ 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.



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# Employment in Public Service

- government at any level,
- uniformed services,
- public-interest organizations,
- non-governmental research or educational organizations,
- public and private schools, and
- public service-oriented nonprofit organizations

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# 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.



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# Awards

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

Scholars also receive

- ▶ Leadership training (Leadership Week in May),
- ▶ Summer Institute during summer after graduation
- ▶ career and graduate school counseling, and
- ▶ special internship opportunities within the federal government

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# Criteria

- ▶ extensive records of leadership and community service,
- ▶ commitment to careers in government or elsewhere in the public sector,
- ▶ desire to influence public policies or education programs, and
- ▶ outstanding leadership potential and communication skills

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# CRITERIA

Extensive involvement in **two or more** of the following sets of activities:

- Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities;
- Community service-related activities that were not organized by my school or by my fraternity/sorority;
- Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC ;
- Partisan political activities and campaigns.



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# 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.

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# UNM Preliminary Application Form

UNM preliminary application Due

11:59 pm

10/1/2017 (Sunday)

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

Truman Scholarship → Application Form



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# Essay 1 - UNM Preliminary

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

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## 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)

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## ESSAY 3 - UNM PRELIMINARY

“Describe your career goal and the graduate program you plan to pursue”  
(3000 characters)

## Supplemental Documents

- Resume (2 pages max)
- Unofficial UNM Transcript



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# UNM Preliminary Application

- ▶ October 1, 2017: UNM Preliminary Application Due
- ▶ October 21: UNM Finalists Announced
- ▶ Late Oct or Early Nov: UNM Finalists Interview
- ▶ Early November: UNM Nominees Announced



Harry S. Truman

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# Truman UNM Nominees

- ▶ December 1, 2017 - First Draft Due, Recommenders Confirmation
- ▶ February 6, 2018 - Truman Application Due
- ▶ February 23, 2018 - Truman Finalist Announced
- ▶ March-April, 2018 - Finalist Interview @ASU (AZ, NV, NM, UT)
- ▶ April 18, 2018 - Scholars Announced



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# 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



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# How Competitive?

## UNM Record

Truman Scholars – 2014, 2011, & 2010

Truman Finalists – 2017 (1), 2015 (1), 2014 (4), & 2011 (2)

## 2017 Truman Scholars Fact

- ▶ 62 Truman Scholars from 768 candidates nominated by 315 colleges (8%)
- ▶ 24 scholars from public universities
- ▶ 26 scholars from private research universities
- ▶ 11 scholars from private liberal arts colleges
- ▶ 1 scholar from military academies



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# UNM Resources

National Security Studies Program –  
(<http://nssp.unm.edu/>)

Diplomat in Residence – Ken Chavez  
([DIRsouthwest@state.gov](mailto:DIRsouthwest@state.gov))

Fred Harris Congressional Internship  
(<http://polisci.unm.edu/undergraduate/internships.html>)

Continuing Education Test Prep Program for  
GRE, GMAT, & LSAT (<http://ce.unm.edu/>)



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# Future Opportunities

NISF.UNM.EDU

- ▶ Rhodes Scholarship
- ▶ Marshall Scholarship
- ▶ Mitchell Scholarship
- ▶ Gates Cambridge Scholarship
- ▶ Fulbright US Students Program
- ▶ Schwartzman Scholars Program
- ▶ Yenching Academy of Peking University
- ▶ Knight–Hennessey Scholars Program



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# UNM Preliminary Application Form

[NISF Website – https://nisf.unm.edu](https://nisf.unm.edu)



Prestigious Awards



Truman Scholarship



Application Form (log-in with your UNM ID)

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