2018 Barry Goldwater Scholarship Info Session

Office of National & International Fellowships (ONIF)
Presented by Cassidy Alvarado, Director of ONIF
What is the Goldwater Scholarship?

- Founded 1986 to honor Senator Barry Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate.

- The purpose is to alleviate a critical current and future shortage of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.

- Created to encourage outstanding students to pursue research careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering and to foster excellence in those fields.
Scholarship Benefits

- Each scholarship covers eligible expenses for undergraduate tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of $7,500 annually.
  - Junior-level scholarship recipients are eligible for a maximum of two years of scholarship support.
  - Senior-level scholarship recipients are eligible for a maximum of one year of scholarship support.
- It is possible to accept the award, but not the money.
Eligibility

- Current Sophomore or Junior standing
- Intentions of pursuing a career in research (PhD)
- 3.0 Cumulative GPA or above (Recommended 3.75+)
- Be a United States citizen or a permanent resident
- Students who plan to pursue a PhD/MD are eligible for a Goldwater Scholarship *only* if they plan a research career rather than a career as a practicing physician with emphasis on the clinical practice of medicine and patient care
- Recommended- undergraduate research experience
### Examples of Fields of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate Major</th>
<th>Career Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astrophysics</td>
<td>Astronomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Science</td>
<td>Medical research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Agricultural/environmental science, Genetic engineering, Immunology, Molecular biology, Biomedical technology</td>
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<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>Research in chemical kinetics</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Research in environmental chemistry, Nutritional chemistry, Biotechnology/biochemistry</td>
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<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Artificial intelligence research</td>
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<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>Solid states research</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Applied math in operations research, Math analysis or topology, Statistical population research, Robotics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Development of micro and nano technologies</td>
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<td>Physics</td>
<td>Physical oceanography, Alternate energy source, Nuclear physics, Theoretical physics, Environmental physics</td>
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NEW Last Year: Psychology

- In aligning Goldwater’s Fields of Study with those of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, PSYCHOLOGY is now included in the list of eligible fields.
  - Research must be classified as a natural science.
  - Sub-fields: Cognitive Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience, Computational Psychology, Psycholinguistics, Developmental, Experimental or Comparative Neuropsychology, Perception and Psychophysics, Physiological, Quantitative.
  - Research considered to be in a social science area WILL NOT not be supported.
Additional Scholarship Information

- 300 scholarships are available
  - Approximately 1200 applications received annually
  - Average applicant GPA is a 3.85
  - Scholars are chosen by region/state
    - Last year CA Institutions had 23 scholars & 25 Honorable mentions

- LMU may nominate up to four students for the national competition

- Login difficulties
  - Please email goldwater@ScholarshipAmerica.org with any questions
Application Components

- **Pre Application - Due** November 3, 2017
  - Create an online account
  - Complete pre-application, including:
    - Basic biographical info
    - Names & emails of prospective recommenders (3)

- If you meet the eligibility requirements, ONIF will accept your pre application, triggering access to the remaining application components
Application Components

3 Letters of Recommendation

- The strongest letters of recommendation come from those who know and who have served as a research mentor for the student.

- Letters from non-research mentors should come from individuals who know the student well and can provide specific examples of attributes that will contribute to the applicant's ability to have a successful research career.

- A letter of recommendation from an individual outside the sciences, engineering, or mathematics is not as likely to convince a Goldwater reviewer that the student is headed toward a STEM research career.

- Discuss via in-person meeting using ONIF's LOR Request Form.

- Letters must be emailed to ONIF by December 8.
Research Essay - Email to ONIF by December 8

- The strongest Research Essays students submit are based on a prior research project
  - Include a description of the issue or problem, a discussion of the research methodology, and discussion of your findings
  - Clearly state what YOUR specific contributions to the project were and indicate what specific skills/expertise you developed
- If you have not been involved in a research project, you can develop your Research Essay on a “proposed” research project
  - Put forward a possible research problem, discuss an idea for a research project that could have a significant impact on the issue or problem, describe the methodology that you would use and discuss anticipated results
- Single or double spaced and use 12 point or larger Arial or Times New Roman font. Margins should be 1 inch on all sides. Page length should not exceed 3 pages. Include your name and institution at the top of each page. Save your Research Essay as a PDF file
Application Components

- Short Answer Questions
  - Career goals, Professional aspirations, Motivation, & Personal information
  - Have you regularly participated in research activities associated with your interests in STEM?
  - In the absence of formal research experience, describe briefly any other skills or accomplishments (i.e. posters, presentations, publications, etc.) significant and relevant to this application
Application Components

- **Unofficial Transcript**
  - Should you receive LMU’s nomination, ONIF will upload your transcript to the site.
  - If you are a transfer student, your transfer courses must appear on your LMU transcript or you will need to provide ONIF a PDF copy of your transcript(s) from previous institution(s).
“Research experience was described as limited with no products at this time…”

“The reviewers did not find the letters of reference helpful…none of the letters really describe [the student’s] potential for becoming a research scientist and they do not offer any real evidence of this potential.”

“The essay should be written either as a manuscript for publication or as a research proposal.”

“I don’t feel [the student] did a very good job of justifying the need for the MD degree to do what [the student] wants to do.”
Campus Representative Duties

- Approve students who can fill in an application by accepting or rejecting a pre-application
- Upload 3 letters of recommendation
- Monitor student applications as they are being created
- Un-submit a student application
- Email students from within the application to recommend changes or clarification
- Upload additional documents:
  - Research essay
  - Transcript(s)
Important Dates

- **November 3:** Pre Application is Due
- **November 17:** Applicant Workshop Webinar
- **December 8:** LMU Campus Deadline - ALL app components due
- **January 8-12:** Goldwater Scholarship Committee convenes
- **January 12:** Applicants will learn if they received LMU’s nomination for the national competition
- **January 26:** Goldwater Scholarship National Deadline
- **Late February:** Nomination packets reviewed
- **Late March:** Scholars/Honorable Mentions announced
Additional Resources

- The Goldwater website
- Faculty!
- Research mentors
- ONIF
- Penn State's Goldwater Essay Samples
Questions?

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