



Loyola Marymount
University

Truman “Sneak Peak” Info Session

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What is the Truman Scholarship?

- The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation supports the graduate education and professional development of outstanding young people committed to public service leadership
- A merit-based scholarship for **college juniors** who plan to pursue careers in government or elsewhere in public service
- The foundation receives over 600 nominations each year and awards approximately 60 scholarships
- Since its creation in 1975, the Foundation has supported almost 3,000 Truman Scholars who are making a difference in all corners of the nation and around the globe

Scholarship Benefits

- Up to \$30,000 toward a public service-related graduate degree at any institution
 - Including, but not limited to: arts education, public administration, public policy, public health, law, international relations, government, economics, social services, education, urban planning, conservation and environmental protection, agriculture, biology, engineering, technology, medicine, and environmental management, nonprofit or non-governmental organization (NGO) work, etc....

Additional Benefits

- Truman Scholars Leadership Week in late May 2020
 - This event introduces new Scholars to the services provided by the Foundation and the many pathways to public service, and mentoring opportunities
- Summer Institute
 - After graduation, Scholars may participate in an eight-week Summer Institute in Washington, DC
- Truman-Albright and Other Fellows Program
 - Truman-Albright Fellows are placed in public service jobs while participating in workshops, seminars
- Students may defer scholarship funding
 - Up to four years after graduation

Eligibility for 2020

- Current juniors or students graduating in Spring 2021
- 3rd year students graduating in Spring 2020 are also eligible to apply
- 3.0 Cumulative GPA or above
 - (in the upper quarter of his or her class)
- Open to United States citizens or US Nationals

Eligibility Continued for 2020

- Committed to working in government, education, the nonprofit sector, or the public interest/advocacy sector
- Extensive participation in two *or more* of the following:
 - Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities
 - Community service-related activities that were not organized by your school or by your fraternity/sorority
 - Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC
 - Partisan political activities and campaigns
- Demonstrated leadership potential & outstanding communication skills

Why Begin This Early?

- LMU's Truman application history is low
 - 5 Finalists, 1 Scholar (1990)
- Commit the next 3-7 months to developing your application
 - Gain and/or expand your co-curricular experiences
 - Draft essay/short answer responses
 - Strengthen recommender relationships
 - Practice writing your policy memo
- The more you do during the summer, the less you'll need to do during the busy fall semester!
 - LMU's Campus Deadline = **Friday, December 20, 2019**

Gain/Expand Co-Curricular Experience

- Gain
 - Volunteer or intern this summer (It's not too late!)
 - [Idealist.org](https://www.idealists.org)
 - Meet with [CPD](#), [CSA](#), and/or [ONIF](#); find opportunities that compliment or support your career goals
 - Speak with [faculty](#), e.g. who is in need of research assistants?
- Expand
 - Take on leadership roles NOW in your service org, fraternity, club, internship, etc...
 - Expand a class service requirement into the summer
 - Ask to lead a project or event; or develop your own

LMU's Application Process

- The 2020 application will open in September
 - ONIF must grant you access to the online application
 - All materials will be submitted through Truman's online system
- LMU may nominate *up to* *four students for the national competition
 - *An additional 3 transfer students may be nominated
- Interested students must submit all application components by **December 20, 2019**
- LMU's campus interviews (tentative): Jan. 20-24, 2020

Application Components*

- Complete a policy proposal
 - Define the problem
 - Lay out your proposed solution
 - Identify major obstacles to the implementation of your solution
- Complete the 14 short answer application questions
 - Questions 7-14 are essentially a personal statement
- Unofficial transcript(s) from every postsecondary institution you have attended

**Based on 2019, these could change for 2020*

Application Components Continued*

- Three letters of recommendation
 - **Leadership Abilities & Potential-** This letter should confirm the experience described in Question 7 (specific example of your leadership). The letter writer need not have witnessed the example first hand, but s/he should be able to discuss the example and how it fits within the context of your leadership.
 - **Commitment to a Career in Public Service-** This letter should confirm the experience described in Question 8 (recent, satisfying public service activity). The letter writer need not have witnessed the activity first hand, but s/he should be able to discuss the example and how it fits within the context the your commitment to a career in public service.
 - **Intellect and Prospects for Continuing Academic Success-** This letter should discuss the student's overall academic background in context of the your future plans for career and graduate school (Questions 11 to 13). It is recommended that the writer have taught you at some point.

National Selection Process

- About 200 Finalists are selected to interview in Washington D.C., in March/early April
- Selection Criteria
 - extent and quality of community service and government involvement
 - leadership record
 - academic performance, writing and analytical skills
 - suitability of the nominee's proposed program of study for a career in public service
 - likelihood of 'making a difference' in public service

Why Apply?

- Learn how to effectively articulate your goals
 - Do you plan to go to grad school? If so, what degree? And where?
 - Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?
- Identify gaps in your experience and knowledge base
- Connect with faculty
- Make yourself more competitive for future opportunities
- Become more aware of your strengths, interests, and ways to prepare for your career
- Practice your interviewing skills
- Get a head start in preparing applications for graduate education and scholarship competitions during senior year

Tips for Summer

- Get involved now!
 - Truman prefers consistent, long term participation & engagement
- Keep an electronic record of all campus and community involvement:
 - Dates, e.g. month/year
 - Hours completed
 - Descriptions of roles, responsibilities, and skills gained; anecdotes
- Be mindful when describing volunteer work that is required for a course or your major!
 - While you can include this in the application, you must acknowledge that it was a course requirement

What's Next?

Apr- May:	Digest the scholarship info, decide to apply
May- Aug:	Gain/expand your experience; brainstorm essay responses
Aug 21:	<u>Truman Application Webinar at 6 p.m.</u>
Sept:	Truman online application opens
Sept- Nov:	ONIF grants you access to online application
Sept- Nov:	Additional workshops and info sessions, TBA
Oct 1:	Suggested deadline to request letters of rec
Dec 20:	LMU campus deadline- all application materials due online
Jan 20-24:	(Tentative) Campus Interviews
Early Feb:	Truman Scholarship national deadline
March-April:	Regional review panels and interviews
April:	Truman Scholars announced
Late May:	Truman Scholars Leadership Week in D.C.

Resources

- [The Truman Website!](#)
- ONIF's [website](#)
 - [Appointments](#)
 - [LMU LOR Advice: Truman Scholarship](#)
- [Faculty](#)
- [Career Professional Development](#)
- [Center for Service & Action](#)
- [Writing Center](#)
- [Idealist.org](#)
- [Penn State's Truman Essay Tips and Samples](#)

Questions

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