Truman Scholarship & PPIA Fellowship Info Session

Presented by Cassidy Alvarado
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Quick Poll

• Please respond to the Zoom poll on your screen.
Career Aspirations

• Respond to prompts at: https://padlet.com/cassidy_alvarado/bzuoxp1xex0iq1u
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 2021
  • 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 2021

• Current juniors or students graduating in Spring 2022
• 3rd year students graduating in Spring 2021 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 2021

- 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
LMU Stats

• 1 Scholar (1990)
  • Gary S. Brown ‘00
• 5 Finalists
• LMU’s Truman app history is low!
  • 2020 = 1 applicant
  • 2019 = 1 applicant
  • 2018 = NO applicants

Alana Slavin, 2015 Truman Finalist
Gain/Expand Co-Curricular Experience

• Gain
  • Volunteer or intern this summer (virtual opportunities are available!)
    • Idealist.org
  • Meet with CPD, CSA, and/or ONIF; find opportunities that compliment or support your career goals
  • Speak with faculty, e.g. 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 2021 application opened in July 2020
  • 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 11:59 p.m. PDT on December 21, 2020

• LMU’s campus interviews (tentative): Jan. 11-14, 2021
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
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
• Practice your interviewing skills
• Get a head start in preparing applications for graduate education and scholarship competitions during senior year
• **Earn LMU’s campus nomination!**
Important Dates

**Oct 16:** Truman & PPIA Info Session

**Nov 1:** Email [fellowships@lmu.edu](mailto:fellowships@lmu.edu) to request Truman app access

**Nov 24:** [Truman Applicant Workshop](#) from 6-7 pm PDT

**Dec 21:** **Truman campus deadline**, submit all materials online (Letters of rec should be emailed to cassidy.Alvarado@lmu.edu)

**Jan 12-15:** Truman campus interviews

**Jan 15:** Candidates notified if they received LMU’s nomination

**Feb 2:** **Truman national deadline**, ALL materials due online
Resources

- The Truman Website
- PPIA website
- ONIF’s website
  - Blackboard course— email to request access
  - Appointments
- Faculty
- Career Professional Development
- Center for Service & Action
- Writing Center
- Idealist.org
- Penn State's Truman Essay Tips and Samples
Other Public Service/Leadership Fellowships

- Summer Research Early Identification Program (SREIP)- Deadline varies by site, late fall
- Trials Program (pre-law)- Application opens in October for Summer 2021
- Critical Language Scholarship- Deadline: November 17
- Millennium Fellowship- Campus Deadline: January 15
- Newman Civic Fellowship- Campus Deadline: January 15
- Strauss Scholarship- Campus Deadline: February 5
- American Museum of Natural History Teaching Urban Residency Program- Deadline: February of senior year
- Rangel International Affairs Summer Enrichment Program – Deadline: February
- Davis Putter- Deadline: April
Questions

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