APPLICATION ADVICE

FROM THE TRUMAN FOUNDATION

♦ The Truman Scholarship Website (http://www.truman.gov/candidates and http://www.truman.gov/faculty-reps) contains a wealth of information and advice including samples of strong and not so strong responses to the various essay questions and policy memo.

♦ The Advice & Guidance section of the Truman website provides examples of satisfactory and unsatisfactory responses to Items 7, 8, 9, 11 & 14.

FROM PAST SCHOLARS

♦ Be yourself; let your work speak for itself

♦ Be committed to your vision for/definition of “public service”. Don’t worry if what you do or how you think is unconventional—just make the case for why it should be viewed as public service.

♦ Don’t apply to win; apply to learn more about yourself and figure out your story and where you want to take that story (your vision and career trajectory). It is not about the $$, it is about the journey, the self-reflection and feedback from advisors, etc. This reflection and feedback is invaluable.

♦ Make sure the application responses hang together and are true to who you are. But at the same time, don’t fret too much if there are deviations—people are complex, non-linear beings. It’s OK if your life story is “messy”, that’s life. The important lesson is how to make some sense of our individual journeys. Take some time finding how to pull the strands together.

♦ It is OK to let the readers know your career plans are not set in stone, that you grapple with questions about that future (do this at the interview)

FINALIST PROFILE

Successful candidates

♦ Show sustained service to the campus community [Item 2], to the community at large [Item 3], and possibly some government involvement [Item 4]. One or more service activities should relate to the candidate’s intended career.

♦ Demonstrate leadership to achieve some goal or objective [Item 7]. *The Letter of Recommendation on Leadership must confirm this experience.*

♦ Make a clear connection among responses to Items 9 - 14 and the Policy Proposal.
♦ Identify specific graduate/professional school programs and show some understanding of the proposed graduate/professional program in Item 12.
♦ Describe in Items 13 & 14 a credible career trajectory (with relevance to public service) consistent with Items 9 & 12.
♦ Provide an interesting or intriguing response to Item 15 (Personal Information) that also explains motivations for career interests not covered previously.
♦ Aspire to a position that, over time, will enable the candidate to affect policies or change programs. For example, the Truman Scholarship Finalists Selection Committee is more interested in advancing students whose long-term aspirations are to be high-level school administrators rather than just teachers OR to be public health service managers rather than solo practitioners.

**CAMPUS APPLICATION DEADLINE:** 12 DECEMBER 2016; **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION DUE:** 12 DECEMBER 2016

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Dean Goldberg (610.330.5521, 105 Scott Hall, or email: externalscholarships@lafayette.edu or goldbeja@lafayette.edu)