



THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION



<https://www.truman.gov>

TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP CAMPUS APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND ADVICE

IMPORTANT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

- **Submit the following materials electronically using our [Submit Materials](#) tab on the [External Scholarships](#) website.**
 - 1) **Truman Application Form** (either the official or sample form will do). To access the official application form, contact Dean Goldberg (externalscholarships@lafayette.edu or goldbeja@lafayette.edu). Alternatively, you may use the sample form found on the Truman website at <https://www.truman.gov/sample-application-forms/>.
 - 2) **Truman Policy Proposal**, including bibliography/references (either the official or sample form will do)
 - 3) **A detailed, fulsome CV/résumé** including leadership experiences, awards, honors, extra- and co-curricular activities, publications/presentations (including those pending). The résumé may be longer than 1 page.
 - 4) **The name, email address AND LETTER TYPE for each of your 3 recommenders** who have agreed to write you **strong, detailed** LORs. Select your recommenders carefully! There are [3 different recommendation forms/types](#). You should also review our [Letters of Recommendation Types & Tips](#) advice.
 - i) **Leadership Potential and Abilities** (this letter must also address the leadership example you provide in your application)
 - ii) **Commitment to a Career in Public Service**
 - iii) **Intellect and Prospects for Continued Success**
- **Submit** the signed/dated [Nomination Permission and Waiver Form](#) found on our Submit Materials tab of the External Scholarships website either as an electronic submission or as a hard copy to Dean Goldberg, 105 Scott Hall.
- **Letters of recommendation** must be submitted electronically to Dean Goldberg for the purposes of the Campus Selection Committee. These letters should be emailed to externalscholarships@lafayette.edu or goldbeja@lafayette.edu. NOTE: Truman does not permit direct uploading of letters by recommenders. The letters must come to Dean Goldberg as she is the only one who is authorized to upload the letters. **As such, it is IMPORTANT that your**

recommenders send their letters on letterhead and signed as WORD attachments via email!

➤ **APPLICATION ADVICE:** You will find very useful application information, advice and guidance throughout the Truman website under the [APPLY: Advice & Guidance](#) tab. This advice includes samples of strong and not-so-strong responses to the essay and policy prompts.

- Although there are many short essays, everything in the application should tell a unified “story” about who you are, your passions, and what you are committed to (your life’s goals/convictions).
- Regarding your response to Q7 on Leadership, consider the following advice from a veteran Truman member of the national selection committee:

The Truman model of writing about leadership is to describe the problem, describe what you did to solve the problem, and then tell me what the tangible, change-oriented outcome was as a result of your efforts.

The biggest problems I’ve seen are: 1) student not explaining what their specific role was, but rather saying what “we” did, and 2) describing organizing a conference or meeting or bringing a speaker to campus that “raised consciousness” about an issue; or “made people engage with an issue.”

At the end of reading the essay, I should not be thinking “So what happened? What did the student actually do?” I should now what changed because of the student’s leadership. Numbers help a lot with this – they can help define change.

- Q9, the problem/needs of society you want to address as a public servant, should set the foundation for your Policy Proposal.
- Qs 11-13 collectively demonstrate your planned trajectory – in order to address the issues identified in Q9, here’s how you will develop the expertise and credentials to do so. It is expected that you are ambitious in your graduate school aspirations as well as career development BUT you should also be realistic with respect to your professional career aspirations (Qs 12 & 13).
- Q14 allows for you to provide the “background” or other aspects about you that will help to explain you your passions for public service were ignited. Q 14 helps put the entire application into context.
- Remember, the Truman Scholarship is for students who have what it takes to be change agents (i.e., students who can make a major impact on their field and on society). Don’t be afraid to dream but be able to back up those dreams with “evidence”, hence your response to Qs 7 & 8 are important as are the corresponding letters of recommendation. Select your recommenders carefully.