

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Application for the Vassar College Nomination

Campus Deadline: November 30, 2007

Please note: Sample application materials can be downloaded from the Truman web site at: www.truman.gov. You will need to contact Ms. Kooperman to gain access to the official application. Be sure to download forms for your letters of recommendation and your policy proposal (three different types of letters are required). There is a great deal of information on the Truman website. You must read it and take the advice offered!

The Vassar College Committee on Fellowships will select up to four juniors to nominate to the Truman Foundation. All applicants for the Vassar nominations will be notified of the results by mid December. We will submit the applications of the Vassar nominees by the end of January. **Please turn in as complete an application as possible for the campus competition although if you are selected as a Vassar nominee, you will have time to revise and refine your application over break.**

What if you are planning to be away during the Spring '08 semester? **You may still apply.** If you reach the finalist stage of the competition, you will be expected to return to the US for the interview or interview at a central location in Europe. The Truman Foundation may contribute towards your travel expenses. Many Truman Scholars ARE students who were studying away at least one semester of the junior year--Good organization is the key to success in this situation.

What is the Foundation really looking for? People who are truly committed to making a difference in some aspect of public service. Serious students who are vocal, active, agents for change, dedicated to a cause or concern, leaders and outstanding individuals. (see check list below...be honest with yourself...but don't sell yourself short!)

Want more information? Stop by the office and review a very helpful and comprehensive workbook on the Truman Scholarship AND... make an appointment to discuss your interests--X-5263. You must let me know once you have decided to make an application for the campus nominations.

WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING EXCELLENT CANDIDATES FOR THE TRUMAN--HELP AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE!

Please return all items to: Lisa Kooperman, Director Office for Fellowships
Box 122 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604

Office Number: (845) 437-5263 E-Mail: Likooperman@vassar.edu

Are You a Potential Truman Scholar? (from the Truman website)

If you can put a check beside each of the following statements, you should be a strong candidate for a Truman Scholarship. If more than two do not apply, the Truman Scholarship is probably not right for you.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (must be met)

- At the time I apply, I will be a full-time student pursuing a bachelor's degree with junior-level academic standing; I have senior-level standing in my third year of college enrollment; or I am a senior and a resident of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or a Pacific Island. Note: Students who have completed their bachelor's degree or are already attending graduate school are not eligible for the Truman Scholarship.
- I am a U.S. citizen (or a U.S. national from a Pacific Island) or I expect to receive my citizenship by the date the Scholarship will be awarded.

CAREER AND GRADUATE STUDY INTERESTS

- I hope to be a "change agent," in time, improving the ways that government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or educational institutions serve the public.
- There are conditions in our society or the environment which trouble me.
- I want to work in government, education, the nonprofit sector, or the public interest/advocacy sector to improve these conditions.
- I am comfortable committing to work in public service for three of the first seven years after I complete a Foundation-funded graduate degree.
- I would like to get a master's degree, a doctorate, or a professional degree such as a law degree or a Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Health, Master of Social Work, Master of Education, Master of Public Policy, or Master of International Affairs.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACADEMIC RECORD

- I have participated extensively in two or more of the following sets of activities:
 - Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities
 - Community service-related activities that were not organized by my school or by my fraternity/sorority
 - Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC
 - Partisan political activities and campaigns
- I have been involved with organizations or activities related to my career interests.
- I have demonstrated some of my leadership potential.
- I have high grades and a sufficiently strong curriculum to gain admittance to a first-rate graduate institution.
- I read regularly a good national newspaper and a thoughtful periodical.
- I have had one or more courses relating to my career interests.

GENERAL

- I would appreciate external affirmation of my values and goals.
- I would like to become associated with Truman Scholar "change agents."
- I am capable of analyzing a public issue in my intended career area and presenting my findings in a one-page memo to a government official who could take action.
- I am willing to prepare an outstanding application and policy proposal under the supervision of my Truman Faculty Representative.
- I believe I could hold my own in a challenging interview conducted by a panel of prominent public servants, educators, and former Truman Scholars.
- I could use \$30,000 to continue my education.

WHAT IS A CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE?

Public Service includes employment in government at any level, uniformed services, public-interest organizations, nongovernmental research and/or educational organizations, public and private schools, and public service-oriented nonprofit organizations such as those whose primary purposes are to help needy or disadvantaged persons or to protect the environment.

The Foundation has supported Truman Scholars in many fields of study, including agriculture, biology, engineering, environmental management, physical and social sciences, and technology policy, as well as traditional fields such as economics, education, government, history, international relations, law, political science, public administration, nonprofit management, public health, and public policy.

Former Truman Scholars serve as managers of government programs, legislators and aides for legislative bodies, foreign service officers, school teachers, staff members in policy analysis and research organizations, attorneys for government agencies, public defenders, professors, and professional staff in advocacy organizations and not-for-profit institutions.

SCHOLAR ACCOUNTABILITY

Scholars are required to work in public service for three of the seven years following completion of a Foundation funded graduate degree program as a condition of receiving funding. Students who are not employed in public service for three years, or who fail to provide timely proof to the Foundation of such employment, will be required to repay any funds received along with interest. The Foundation will have an appeals process for those Scholars in special circumstances.

You will be required to submit **three LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION** addressing the following areas:

1. Leadership Abilities and Potential
2. Commitment to a Career in Public Service
3. Intellect and Prospects for Continuing Academic Success