

2009 TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP

OSU INFORMATION/APPLICATION

OSU Deadline – October 24, 2008

This year the OSU Truman Scholarship Committee will again select up to four junior students* to compete for the Harry S. Truman Scholarship, which has a value of up to \$30,000. This prestigious scholarship was created by Congress for those who intend to pursue careers in public service, defined by the Truman Scholarship Foundation as:

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 non-profit organizations such as those whose primary purposes are to help needy or disadvantaged persons or to protect the environment.

Applicants should have at least 3.500 GPA and be United States citizens, U. S. nationals, or expect citizenship before August, 2009.

In addition to their excellent academic background and public service aspirations, students must demonstrate strong leadership skills and express themselves effectively in writing and by speaking on topics of personal and public interest. The committee will interview several of the most promising candidates, following a screening of their written materials, in November. Up to four OSU students can then be selected to participate in national competition after the new year.

See website for more information: <http://www.truman.osu.edu>

See back of page for OSU application instructions.

* Junior here means a student who plans to continue full-time undergraduate study and who expects to receive a baccalaureate degree between December, 2009 and August, 2010.

Please submit the following for the

2009 TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP OSU APPLICATION

- 1) Personal details: Name, address, phone, email, legal state of residence, expected graduation date and undergraduate degree;
- 2) Attach a resume' (no more than two pages) in which you give information on your educational background, honors, awards, activities, jobs, etc. Please make separate divisions for high school and college;
- 3) Describe in one paragraph a specific example of your leadership abilities;
- 4) Describe in one paragraph your most satisfying public service activity (different from #3);
- 5) What are the three most satisfying/helpful courses you have taken in preparation for your career? (explain briefly—two sentences each);
- 6) Describe the graduate education program you intend to pursue if you should receive a Truman Scholarship;
- 7) What do you hope to do, and what position do you hope to have, immediately upon completing your graduate studies? After 10 years?
- 8) Essay: In approximately 700-800 words, analyze a significant public policy issue or problem that is in your intended area of public service. Present your analysis in the form of a memo to the government official who you feel has the most direct authority to resolve the issue (e.g. President, Cabinet Office, Governor, Chair of a legislative committee). Your memo should define the issue, lay out your proposed solution, identify major obstacles to the implementation of your solution, and recommend a specific course of action. Provide statistical data, if necessary, to put the issue in context and support your recommendations.

Include the following with your application:

- Two letters of recommendation from a faculty person, department head, or academic advisor;
- A copy of your fall schedule (to help arrange interviews);
- An official college transcript.

Deliver all application information by **Friday, October 24, 2008** to:
Scholar Development & Recognition, 260 Student Union.

OSU finalists will be notified regarding the interview portion of the competition shortly after the deadline. Twenty-five minute interviews will be scheduled for early November.

ARE YOU A POTENTIAL TRUMAN SCHOLAR?

If you can put a check beside each of the following statements, you should be a strong candidate for a Truman Scholarship. If several 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 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)
- I am a U. S. Citizen (or a U. S. national from a Pacific Island)

CAREER AND GRADUATE STUDY INTERESTS

- I hope to be a “change agent,” in time improving the ways that government agencies, nonprofit organization, or education institutions that 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 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 interest.
- I have demonstrated some of my leadership potential
- I have high grades and sufficiently strong curriculum to gain admittance to a first-rate graduate institution
- I read regularly a good national newspaper (e.g., *New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Wall Street Journal*).
- 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 other Truman Scholar “change agents.”
- I am capable of analyzing a public issue in my intended career area and presenting my findings in an 800-1200 word memo to a government official who could take action.
- I am willing to prepare an outstanding application and policy proposal under the supervision of 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.

Truman website: <http://www.truman.gov>