Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Program

Office of Merit Scholarships, Fellowships & Awards
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OMSFA Supports Undergrads & Alumni

- **Individual scholarship advising appointments**
  - Connection to scholarships & search tools
  - Planning, goal-setting, resource connections
  - Application brainstorming & feedback

- **Workshops & information sessions**
  - Application components
  - Specific scholarships

- **Nomination/Interview processes**
  - Campus applications & selection
  - Mentorship and individualized support

- **Resources & tools: expd.uw.edu/scholarships**
Goldwater Scholarships: mission & purpose

- By providing scholarships to college sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering, the Goldwater Foundation is helping ensure that the U.S. is producing the number of highly-qualified professionals the Nation needs in these critical fields.

- The characteristics the Foundation seeks in a Goldwater Scholar include:
  - strong commitment to a research career in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering,
  - effective display of intellectual intensity in the sciences, mathematics and engineering, and
  - potential for a significant future contribution to research in his/her chosen field.
Eligibility: the minimum

- Be a full-time matriculated sophomore or junior pursuing a degree at an accredited 2- or 4-year institution of higher education during the 2019-2020 academic year,
  - “sophomore” = an undergraduate who has two more years (4 semesters) of full-time undergraduate study beginning September 2020.
  - “junior” = an undergraduate who has one more year (2 semesters) of full-time undergraduate study beginning September 2020.

- Intend to pursue a research career in a natural science, mathematics or engineering,* (list of eligible fields)

- Have a college grade point average of at least a 3.00 on a 4.00 scale, and

- Be a U.S. citizen from the 50 states or the District of Columbia; a U.S. national for those students nominated by institutions in Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; or a permanent resident. A permanent resident nominated for the scholarship must include a letter stating his/her intent to become a U.S. citizen. A photocopy of the nominee’s Permanent Resident Card, also known as the Alien Registration Card or Green Card, must also be submitted.

- **Special note about medicine:** students interested in pursuing careers in medicine or veterinary medicine are eligible for a Goldwater Scholarship IF RESEARCH IS A CENTRAL PART OF THE STUDENT’S CAREER GOALS.
Eligibility: the reality

- Competition is fierce both for UW nomination and at the national level.
- Suggested minimums:
  - At least 4 quarters of research experience
  - GPA of at least a 3.5 or better
  - Demonstrations of acting and thinking like a scientist
  - 3 Recommenders who know you and your work well

NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED!

- **2019 Stats:** 1223 nominated by 443 academic institutions; 496 Scholars
  - Of students who reported, 241 of the Scholars are men, 252 are women.
  - Virtually all intend to obtain a Ph.D. as their highest degree objective.
  - 62 Scholars are mathematics and computer science majors
  - 360 are majoring in the natural sciences
  - 74 are majoring in engineering.
The Scholarship

- $7,500 a year are provided to help cover costs associated with tuition, mandatory fees, books, room and board
  - Sophomore recipients: 2 years
  - Junior recipients: 1 year
- Recognition is worth maybe more than the $$
- New last year: no honorable mention recognitions
Nomination Process

- Apply for UW nomination by Nov. 12!
  - [https://expd.uw.edu/expo/scholarships/goldwater](https://expd.uw.edu/expo/scholarships/goldwater)
- Campus application mostly mirrors national application:
  - One difference: resume or CV to capture research projects and other activities. Please include:
    - start and end dates of your involvement;
    - hours per week spent on the project;
    - the name(s) of your PI or supervisor;
    - the purpose of the research and brief description of your role;
    - any products of the work (publications, presentations, etc.)
- Research essay
- 3 recommendation letters
- Transcript
Nomination means more work to do

- 5 students will be nominated this year, including at least 1 transfer student
- Nomination decisions by the end of fall quarter
- Nominees have until Jan. 31 to complete, revise, polish national application
- Final award notifications by March 27
Application Questions

- Career Goals: 1 or 2 sentences describing career goals
- Professional Aspiration: how your current academic program and your overall educational plans will assist you in achieving this goal.
- Motivation: describe an activity or experience that has been important in clarifying or strengthening your motivation for a research career in STEM.
- Activities: participation in research and other activities associated with interest in STEM or other areas
The research essay must demonstrate knowledge base. Your essay must include:

1. description of the issue or problem, explaining the relevance of the issue or problem to you as a researcher, to the field and to science
2. discussion of the research methodology, and
3. discussion of the student’s findings
4. details of the student’s specific contributions to the project and indicate the specific skills/expertise the student developed as a result of participation in the project.

Write to the expertise of a reviewer in your general field.

- Detailed, technical language is expected but should be accessible by someone with extensive knowledge in your general field, but not in your specific work.
- Diagrams and figures can be helpful if essential

Background as context for the work; should not exceed 50% of essay.

Interpretation of obtained or expected results is very helpful.

- Future work your data suggests or work that still needs to be done to complete the current project

PI, GA, Lab supervisor involved in feedback.
Essay Format

- Include appropriate bibliographic information and references
- Single spaced and use 12 point or larger Arial font
- Margins should be 1 inch on all sides
- Page length, including bibliographic information and references, must not exceed 3 pages.
- Must include the applicant’s name and the name of the nominating institution in the header at the top of each page.
- Single or double column format may be used.
- As appropriate, utilize graphs, tables, and figures in the essay to explain results or to provide interpretation that lead to next steps.
- Figure and caption options may use 10 point Arial font.
- Upload as a PDF file.
Recommendation Letters

- Highest priority: faculty and mentors who understand the applicant’s desire and passion to pursue a research career.
  - Research project mentors, and individuals who
    1. know you well and who might be able to compare you with previous Goldwater Scholars or with other students who have gone on to successful research careers,
    2. might have observed you at times when you demonstrated particular intellectual daring, insight, creativity, originality, integrity, or perseverance, or
    3. have had you in a class where his/her performance stood out from peers, particularly in a class that may be important to an applicant’s career aspirations.
Selection Processes: UW & national

- **Academic Achievement:** course work, grades, level of courses, awards, scholarships, special programs
- **Progress Toward Research Goals & Demonstrations of Potential:** research activities with progressing levels of challenge & independence, career goals, opportunities to learn/share/collaborate
- **Research Essay:** technical content, bibliography, organization/grammar
- **Letters of Recommendation:** commitment to research, intellectual curiosity, potential for research contributions

Equal weight is given to each.
Common Characteristics among Scholars

- Course work consistent to meet graduate school goals.
- Research experience and well-developed research essay.
- Application where every response suggests a research career.
- In-depth essay concentrating on expected or obtained research results and relevant to research interest.
- Three strong letters of recommendation.
Read, Learn, Talk, Apply

- Goldwater Scholarship Foundation: https://goldwater.scholarsapply.org
- UW Goldwater information: http://expd.uw.edu/expo/scholarships/goldwater
- Use your networks and mentors!
- Questions: Robin Chang, robinc@uw.edu, 206-543-2603