

## CARDINAL CAREERS: HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP



***"In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."***

Harry S. Truman

# History and Purpose

Dedicated to education and public service, President Truman often spoke about the importance of promoting young leaders, and envisioned a program for students that would encourage educated citizenship and political responsibility.

The Truman Foundation was created in 1975 soon after President Harry S. Truman passed away. Instead of wanting a brick and mortar monument on the mall, President Truman wanted to support the next generation of public service leaders.



Harry S.  
Truman (1884-  
1972)

# Truman Scholarship?



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# Harry S. Truman Scholarship



Scholars: Alfred Delena, '16; Leya Elias, '21; Meredith Wheeler, '14; Nik Marda, '21

The Truman Scholarship seeks juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education, or elsewhere in the public service.

The scholarship supports graduate or professional study, leadership training, and fellowship with other scholars who are committed to making a difference through public service.

Why should I apply?



# Benefits of being a Truman Scholar



- Community and cohort of Scholars
- Support in the graduate school application process
- Prestige and connections
- Up to \$30 K for grad school in U.S. or abroad
- Flexibility
- Ongoing professional development

# Grad School Matching Grants

- Duke University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- Indiana University
- University of Chicago
- University of Michigan
- University of Texas
- NYU
- Brown University
- The National University of Singapore
- Princeton University
- Syracuse University
- University of Virginia
- University of Washington
- Pepperdine University
- Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey



Am I eligible?

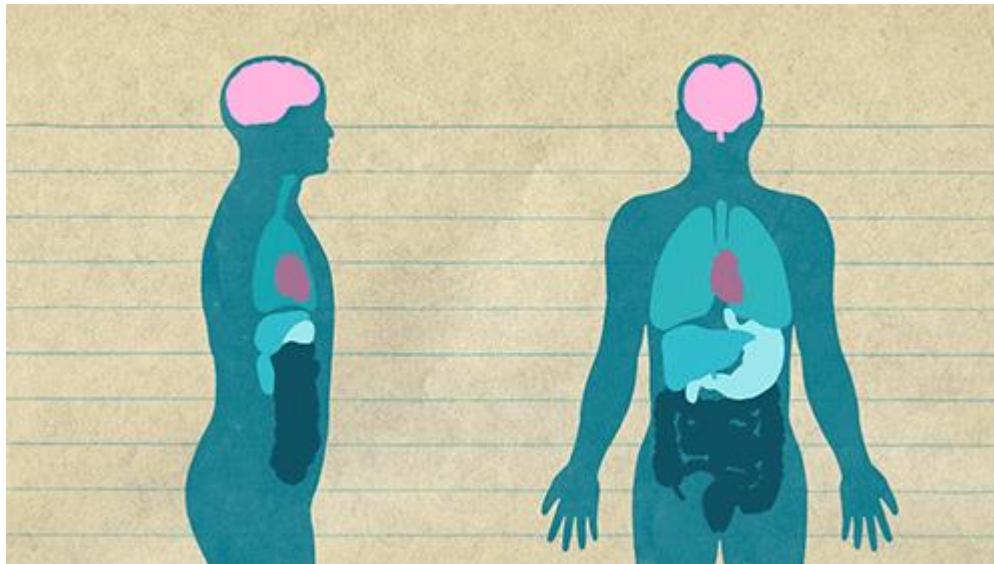


# Eligibility

- Nomination by Stanford through the Haas Center for Public Service
- U.S. citizen or a U.S. national from American Samoa or the Northern Mariana Islands
- Full-time Junior expecting to receive bachelor's degree between December 2021 and August 2022.
  - conferring/graduating regardless of enrollment status
- Commitment to a career in public service
  - 3/7 years working in PS
- Strong record of leadership, public and community service
- Able to attend the Truman Scholars Leadership Week + Summer Institute
- Must be available for a Stanford interview, if shortlisted. Interview date(s): Week of November 30, 2020 (exact dates TBD).
- Complete online application

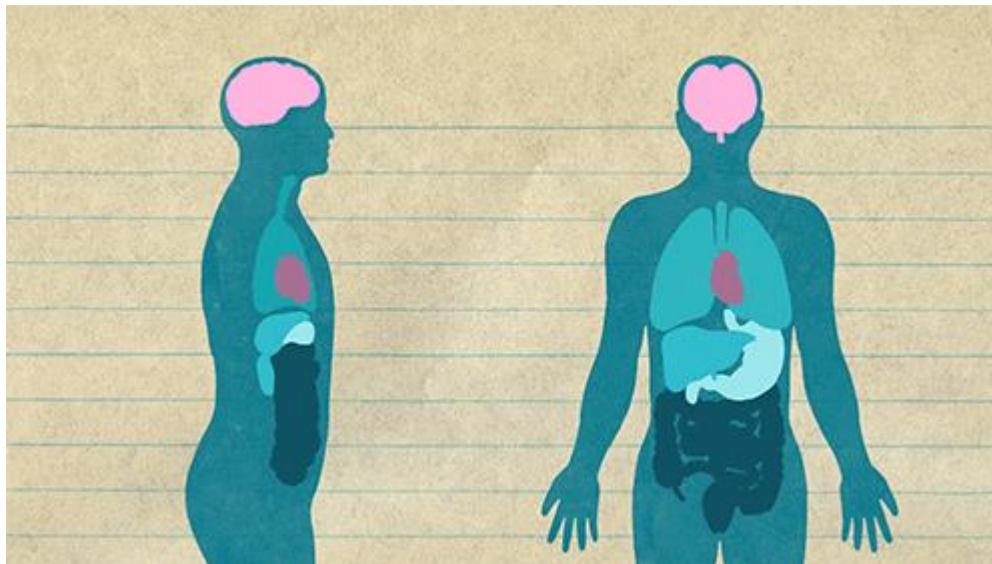
The secret sauce . . .

# Anatomy of the Application



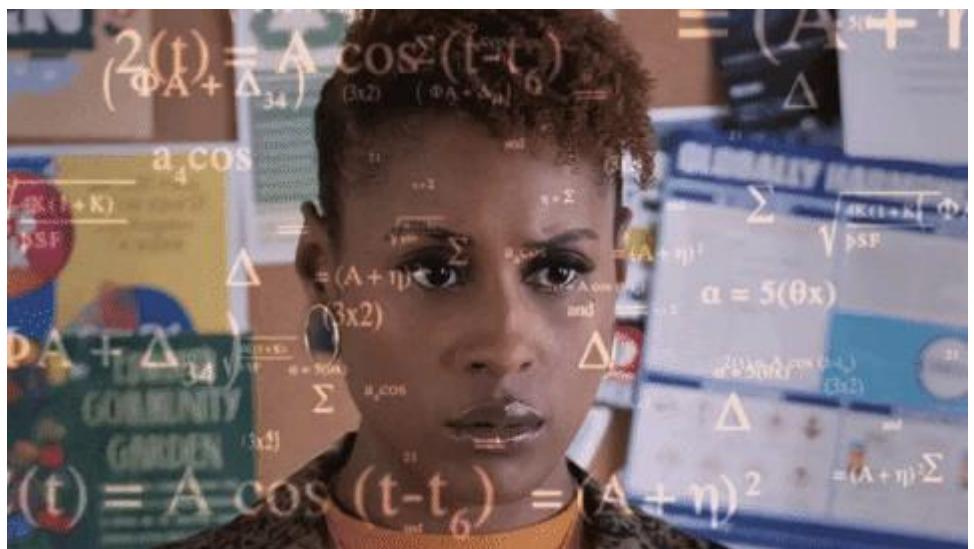
- Demographic Info – use your home state
- Extensive CV of HS and college activities & work/internship experiences
  - Be prepared to highlight all public/community service commitments, government activities, leadership roles, duration
  - Special recognitions (awards & scholarships) and publications

## Anatomy of an Application cont'd



- Policy proposal
- Unofficial transcript(s)
- Letters of recommendation that correspond to your leadership example, public service example, and your academic fitness/commitment to service

How should I be thinking  
about my essays?



# Essays

## Leadership example

- Show impact
- What did you do specifically?
- Show initiative
- Be humble

## Satisfying PS experience

- Personal insight into your motivations
- Personal growth
- Balance between narrative and exposition

## What social problem would you like to address?

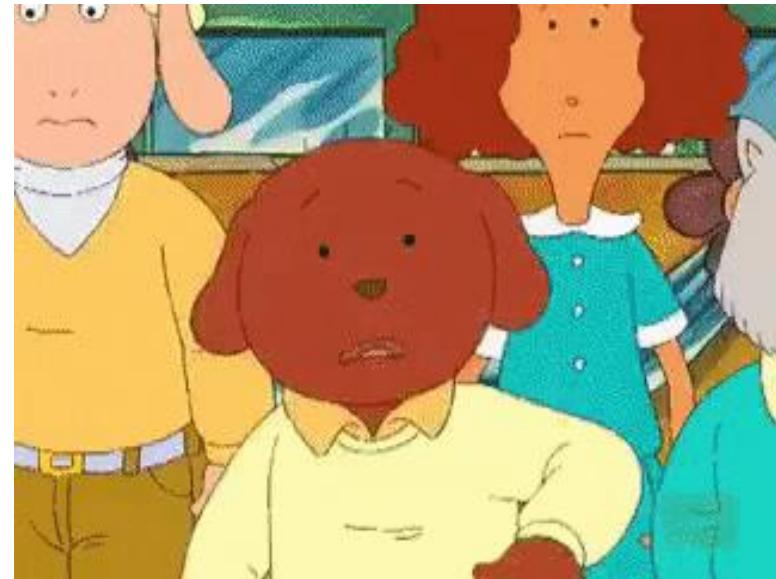
- Clear, specific (cited) data to back claims
- Convey knowledgeability and passion for problem

## Graduate education

- Cite program specifics
- Provide a good fit justification
- Be aspirational, but direct

# Truman Foundation's COVID-19 & 2020 Considerations

- Grading changes
- Previous activities have changed
  - Question 14
- Emphasize the past, embrace the present
- If everyone can say it
  - policy proposal
  - low level engagement activities
- The bar is now very high around timely issues
- Question 4 and the election



What else do I need to know?



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## Final Tips

- Begin writing now! This is not a “night before” application.
  - Your recommenders should have a draft or an outline of your essays in hand before they write their recommendations.
- Avoid being overly poetic. Be direct and specific.
  - Keep it cohesive: Questions 7, 8 and 9
- Choose a “right-sized” policy proposal – not too big or small
- This application is about you.
  - Focus on your impact – now is not the time to be modest
- Make sure to check out the “Advice & Guidance” page on the Truman website. Great examples of successful and unsuccessful responses

# Guest Speakers



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Truman Scholars:

Alfred Delena

&

Meredith Wheeler



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# Dates to Remember



## Campus Application Date:

Friday, October 23, 2020 by 3:00 PM PST

## Campus Interviews:

Week of November 30, 2020

- Truman Foundation Application  
Deadline: February 2, 2021
- Finalist Confirmation Due: February 18, 2021
- Finalist Posting: February 19, 2021
- Regional Review Panels: March 2021 through early April 2021
- Scholar Posting: April 14, 2021
- Truman Scholars Leadership Week:  
May 18-23, 2021

# Stanford Application Material

- A pdf of your online application;
- Unofficial Stanford transcript;
  - Request an electronic version of other official college transcript(s) to be sent to [mekonen@stanford.edu](mailto:mekonen@stanford.edu).
- A longer, annotated resume that provides rich details for the experiences/achievements that you list;
- Three letters of recommendation (no copies of these are required).
  - Please have your recommenders submit their letters to:  
<http://bit.ly/trumanletter2020>
    - As a backup, letters may be sent electronically from the writer to Eden Mekonen
- Signed [Fellowship Nomination Permission Form and Waiver](#).

# Next Steps

Approach recommenders early.

See [handout](#).

Have a plan.

- Make an appointment with us to review winning applications (we will not be sharing them electronically)
- Make an appointment with Hume to review your essays
- Register at [bit.ly/truman2020](https://bit.ly/truman2020)



Q&A



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