BARRY M. GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

Selection of Scholars

Information Meeting
The purpose of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program is to alleviate a critical current and future shortage of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers.”

The focus is research—not application. They do not want to support students who will be work-a-day doctors, engineers, or corporate support staff.
### 2012 Goldwater Scholars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Nominees</th>
<th>Scholars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1123</td>
<td>282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>43.1%</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>56.9%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophomores</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juniors</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
<td>79.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative GPA (4.0 scale)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation Criteria

- Academic Achievement
  - grades, level of courses, awards, scholarships

- Progress Toward Research Goals
  - research activities, career goals, course work

- Research Essay
  - technical content, bibliography, organization/grammar

- Letters of Recommendation
  - commitment to research, intellectual curiosity, potential for research contributions

*Equal weight is given to evaluation criteria.*
Review Steps

• Carry out a “30-second” review
  • GPA above 3.5
  • plan for PhD in an appropriate field
  • commitment to research career

• Carry out team review
  • evaluation of entire application
  • selection of scholars and at-large candidates

• Carry out further review of at-large pool
  • review by 2-3 additional independent reviewers
Scholar Characteristics

- GPA > 3.75.
- Course work consistent to meet graduate school goals.
- Research experience or well-developed research plan.
- Application where every response suggests a research career.
- In-depth essay concentrating on expected or obtained research results.
- Three strong letters of recommendation.
Application Improvement

- Schooling and Career Goal
- Research Activities
- Professional Aspirations
- Personal Characteristics and Information
- Research Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
Schooling and Career Goal

- Cumulative GPA consistent with attached transcripts
  - attach letter for non-traditional nominee
- Degree sought consistent with career goal
  - degree focuses on research
- Career goal reinforced by professional aspirations
- Course work consistent with graduate school preparation in research area.
Nominees with certain career fields must verify a research career commitment.

- Civil Engineering – build bridges vs research
- Computer Science – programmer vs research
- MD/PhD – clinical vs research
- Psychology – clinical or industrial vs science research
Research Activities

• Outline each research activity.
  • on- and off-campus
  • research component(s) of internships
• Identify research that leads to presentations, posters, papers, etc.
  • OK to identify ‘in preparation’ papers
• Conduct research consistent with major
• Seek letters of recommendation from research supervisor/mentor.
Professional Aspirations

• Detail current and future academic programs that lead to career goal
• Outline plans for graduate school at doctoral level.
  • possible graduate schools identified
• Include, if appropriate, postdoctoral research and grant activities
• Indicate sources of research experience
  • independent study and internships
  • honors thesis
  • graduate and postdoctoral research projects
Personal Information

- Personal information is optional.
  - encourage nominee to complete this section
  - use of personal information is a minor factor compared to major evaluation criteria
  - level of detail is left to nominee
    ✓ *personal information is never negative in the review*

- Helpful for nominees who have non-traditional background or an inconsistency in the application.
  - impact of economic or ethnic background
  - impact of employment as undergraduate
Research Essay

• The research essay must demonstrate knowledge base and reinforce research career.
  • curing cancer or AIDS is too broad
• Write to the expertise of the reviewer.
  • detailed, technical language is expected
  • bibliography that includes refereed journal references
  • diagrams and figures can be helpful
• Background should not exceed 50% of essay.
• Interpretation of obtained or expected results is very helpful.
✓ Faculty input and review are essential.
Letters of Reference

• Write a detailed 1-2 page letter.
  • *not* an application for grad school or a job
• Concentrate on motivation and potential for a research career
  • ‘A’ student is assumed
  • Avoid “turned in assignments on time,” etc.
  • Avoid “how difficult my course is,” etc.
  • OK for nominee to be a “nerd”

✓ Compare to other students who have gone on to PhD programs and research careers.
  • evaluation at comparable stage of nominee’s career
Reasons for Nomination Failure

- Weak or inconsistent letters of reference from research faculty
- Poor choice in selecting individuals to write letters of recommendation
- Poorly written research essay
- Inconsistent application in areas that speak to a research career
- Lower grades in comparison to scholar average GPA
Applicant Checklist

✓ Complete all sections of the application

✓ Make a consistent, strong case for a research career

✓ Include *all* research activities, presentations, posters and papers

✓ Consider the essay a miniature research proposal

✓ Select the three *best* individuals to write letters of recommendation

✓ Evaluate and proofread multiple times
Goldwater Deadlines

Campus Deadline: December 2, 2013

National Deadlines:
Student application January 28, 2014
Recommendations (3) January 30, 2014
Nominations January 31, 2014
Documents Receipt February 3, 2014
Materials to turn in for campus selection

- Complete online application. Hit submit. You will be sending it to our office (not to Goldwater, so don’t worry).
- Do not add your letter writers to the online application at this time.
- Have 3 recommenders send letters to smccray@uark.edu.
- Bring your transcript (from every college attended) and the two-page research essay to our office—Silas Hunt Hall 232 (attn: Jeremy Burns) by 5:00 pm on Monday, December 2.
Goldwater Information

• Goldwater web site through ACT
  http://www.act.org/goldwater

Suzanne McCray  Jeremy Burns
Silas Hunt Hall 232  Silas Hunt Hall 232
575-3771    575-7940
smccray@uark.edu  jjburns@uark.edu