



BARRY M. GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP

Selection of Scholars

Information Meeting

Goldwater Scholarship Objective

“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

	<u>Nominees</u>	<u>Scholars</u>
Total	1123	282
Female	43.1%	38.3%
Male	56.9%	61.7%
Sophomores	28.7%	20.6%
Juniors	71.3%	79.4%
Cumulative GPA (4.0 scale)		3.96



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.

Research Career Fields

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
Silas Hunt Hall 232
575-3771
smccray@uark.edu

Jeremy Burns
Silas Hunt Hall 232
575-7940
jjburns@uark.edu