

Harry S. Truman Scholarship

2023 Campus Application for Kansas State University

Dear Student:

Thank you for your interest in the **Truman Scholarship**. More than 36 Kansas State students have competed successfully for the Truman since the first Wildcat won in 1980. We are looking for candidates to continue this winning tradition.

Each year the Truman Foundation awards more than 50 scholarships, up to **\$30,000** each, to support graduate study leading to careers in public service. We are allowed to nominate up to **four** students to compete nationally (plus three additional students if they are transfer students). This document details how to compete for that nomination.

The campus deadline is **Friday, October 20, 2023**. By filling in the NCS Intake form in spring or summer before applying, you can initiate a conversation with the K-State Truman advisor: NCS Intake form: https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bswzZxeuFa0ZdZQ. Late applications will be considered but may not receive prime consideration.

The following items are included in this document.

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I am happy to talk with interested students as you consider applying and during your application process. Please feel free to set up a meeting with me if you have questions about the application process or about the Truman in general. Contact me by e-mailing bethpowers@ksu.edu to set up an appointment.

Sincerely,

Beth Powers
Truman Faculty Representative
207 Leadership Studies Building / 785-532-3422
bethpowers@ksu.edu

Eligibility

Eligible students for the 2023-2024 campus application cycle will:

1. Be in their penultimate year of school (for candidates graduating in four years or more) or in their final year of school (for candidates graduating in three years or fewer). Specials note:
 - A. Students in the College of Architecture, Planning and Design are only eligible to apply nationally during the third year (final year of undergraduate standing).
2. Be citizens of the United States or a United States national from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or expecting your citizenship by the date of the award.
3. Be currently enrolled at K-State and enrolled during the entire 2023-24 academic year (study abroad is acceptable).
4. Plan a career in public service. The Truman Foundation provides the following definition:
Employment in any of the following: government at any level, uniformed services, public-interest organizations, non-governmental 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.
5. Have a strong record of leadership and service on campus and/or within the community.
6. Rank in the upper quarter of their class academically. Note that, while the exact number can vary from year to year (and between colleges) top quartile typically requires a 3.6 GPA or higher, approximately.

Contact me, Beth Powers, if you have questions regarding eligibility. I understand that determining whether your career goals fit the competition and/or what constitutes a “strong record” is not always cut and dried.

There are a number of helpful resources at www.truman.gov (under the “Candidates” tab).

Instructions

1. A complete application will consist of the following:

- **Campus Application/Policy Proposal** (Pages 8-14)
- Transcripts
- Three or more Letters of Recommendation
- **Campus Interview Information** (Page 15)

2. All materials should be submitted to:

Beth Powers at
bethpowers@ksu.edu

I prefer emailed documents for all or most of the application. References and transcripts can arrive separately via email or regular mail.

3. Please read the following sections carefully. They detail what is required for each of the components listed above.

Campus Application/Policy Proposal

Pages 8-14 are a fillable Microsoft Word template that serves as the application itself. Please limit your answers to the space provided. With several slight changes in format, those pages have been adapted from the “Truman Sample Application” on the Truman website. You should be able to type directly into the template. Just remember to save often and spellcheck your essay answers in another format.

Your letter writer regarding **Leadership Ability and Potential** should, among other things, verify/discuss what you choose to write about in Question 7 (example of leadership).

Your letter writer regarding **Commitment to a Career in Public Service** should, among other things, verify/discuss what you choose to write about in Question 8 (recent satisfying public service experience).

The application includes a short **policy proposal**. We recommend that you consult with faculty mentors who might offer advice about your chosen topic. The memo should propose a narrow and specific solution related to some aspect of the broader issue(s) you identify in Question 9 of the application. If you are having difficulty conceptualizing the policy proposal, I am happy to talk through this with you in more detail and/or allow you to read some successful samples.

Transcripts

Order an unofficial or official transcript from **EVERY** college or university where you have earned **ANY** college credit, including for study abroad. We want all of them, not just K-State. The listing of the other school on your K-State transcript is **NOT** sufficient.

You can either have transcripts emailed or mailed directly to me, or submit them with the rest of your application materials. I will accept either electronic or hard copies of transcripts.

You can print an unofficial K-State transcript through the *Other Academics* section in KSIS and send it directly to 207 Leadership Building. We cannot order transcripts for you. Talk with me if you are having difficulty obtaining an official transcript.

Letters of Recommendation

Start by asking each individual (politely) if they are willing to write a strong letter on your behalf. If they agree to help you, then please provide **Page 6 and Page 7** of this packet to each willing recommender. It is also advisable to share your resume and discuss your plans for the future with these individuals. As a general rule, it is good manners to request letters of recommendation at least three weeks before they are due, preferably four.

You must provide **at least three** letters of recommendation to the campus committee. However, we are happy to consider *up to six* at the campus level. You should have at least one letter that focuses on each of the following areas:

- Academic Performance and Potential.
- Leadership Ability and Potential
- Commitment to a Career in Public Service.

Be sure to communicate with your recommenders regarding which area you wish them to focus on. However, it is fine for the recommender to touch on more than one area if he/she chooses.

The best letters come from people who know you well *and* have seen your commitment to the ideas/goals/activities you discuss in the application. Individuals who can provide insights and anecdotes that go beyond recitation of your résumé are particularly valuable.

Recommenders typically email their letters directly to my office. They may provide the letter to you if they wish. But sealed letters should stay sealed.

Campus Interview Information

If you are invited to interview with the campus nominating committee in late October 2023, I will use Page 15 to set the times for campus interviews. Please be as flexible as possible (but accurate) as you indicate your availability.

Interviews will only last fifteen to twenty minutes, so even small blocks of open time can be helpful in the scheduling process. The Truman Foundation conducts interviews nationally so the interview is a critical step in the nomination process as well. Campus interviews closely mirror the format and duration of those national interviews. We may conduct these interviews over Zoom or in person depending on interviewer and candidate availability.

TRUMAN CANDIDATE TIMELINE	
Spring 2023 Summer 2023 October 20, 2023 Late October 2023 November - January Early February 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Truman info sessions & meetings with NCS director• Interested candidates receive bi-monthly emailed advice• Campus application due to NCS director• Interview/selection of campus nominees• Nominees work to refine applications• Truman national deadline

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Based on when I will graduate . . . am I eligible?** Most students are only eligible in *this* application cycle if they will graduate *between December 2024 and August 2025*. See Page 2 for exceptions.
2. **How many students apply at the campus level?** We do not share this from year to year (and it varies). What matters most is whether *you* are a good fit.
3. **What constitutes a career in public service?** The definition is quoted on Page 2 of this packet. In short though, they are looking for people who intend to work for a government, education or nonprofit entity **and** who are interested in impacting public policy. To say it another way . . . students should plan careers that aspire to *improve the ways in which public institutions serve the public good*.
4. **Are fields like medicine and teaching eligible?** While such professions are clearly public services, the Truman Foundation wants your interest in the profession to orient towards policy leadership. Do you primarily want to help individual clients or are you strongly motivated to improve/change the ways in which affiliated institutions do their thing. Eligible students intend the latter (although working for policy change may still involve a career that retains a clinical/practitioner dimension).
5. **I have a few college credits from high school. Do I need that transcript as well?** Yes. We want transcripts or legible copies of transcripts from **everywhere** that you have earned college credit.
6. **What is the Washington Summer Institute?** The WSI is an opportunity for Truman Scholars to intern in Washington DC *the summer after they graduate*. Internships are possible for government agencies or for nonprofits. Answer yes to Question 11 in the application unless you already have definite plans following graduation (such as a military obligation or plans to enter the Peace Corps).
7. **What should I write for Question 15?** This is the “What Additional Information . . .” question. It is often called the Truman Personal Statement. Leaving it blank is not an option. In general, most of the application wants you to explain *what* you want to do, but Question 15 is the only place where you can help us understand *why* you want to do it. You need to put your goals in the context of who you are as a person. Note that anecdotes are good ways to communicate a larger point. Spending a paragraph generalizing about your qualities and traits does not make for compelling reading. Tell the reader a story to illustrate instead.
8. **How many sources should I use on the Policy Proposal?** There is no set number. You need to use enough to establish the problem and make your case effectively, but compiling a long list just to show how much research you have done is not particularly helpful.
9. **What is the expected format for citations?** In text: *20 million people a year die from lightning strikes (1)*. In the Works Cited: *1. A Bogus History of Lightning Strikes, Ben Franklin, 1750*. This parenthetical/footnote model for citation is recommended because it works with the limitations of the form and minimizes the impact on your word count. However, you can use any format for bibliographic entries that you are comfortable with.
10. **To whom do I address the Policy Proposal?** Research what government official you think could initiate the change you are proposing. They want to see that you understand the mechanisms of power in the public sector.
11. **It seems like a lot of work. Is it worth my time to apply?** Reviewing some applications from past winners can be a helpful benchmark (in 207 Leadership Building). Two additional thoughts. First, the Truman application mostly asks questions that you want to answer for yourself as you consider a career in public service. Win or lose, many students feel that completing the application helps them to clarify goals and sharpen their ability to market those goals. Second, if you hope to make a difference in the world, you must be willing to strive for things that have no sure outcome. Students who have the ambition to lead must be willing to risk occasional failure in pursuit of their aspirations.

Truman Recommendation Request Form

To:

From:

I am requesting a letter of recommendation for the **Truman Scholarship** for use in the campus nomination process. If I am nominated I may request an updated draft for submission at the national level in February 2024.

In both instances I grant you permission to include any information that is considered confidential under FERPA (the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act) that you might deem relevant to the Truman competition. This includes information about my grades/GPA/class rank and details regarding specific projects/tests/assignments. It also includes candid evaluation regarding my performance in relation to any of those elements.

In addition, I acknowledge that the Code of Ethics for the National Association of Fellowship Advisers states that students should: “Neither compose their own letters for faculty to sign (even at the request of faculty) nor ask faculty members to show them their letters of recommendation.”

I also waive or do NOT waive my right to request a copy of your Truman letter in the future. I do understand that letters written confidentially will generally carry more weight. I also understand that I will not be able to obtain a copy of your letter from the Truman Faculty Representative at Kansas State University or from the Truman Foundation.

Signed _____

Date:

Instructions for Truman Recommenders

Kansas State can choose just four students to compete nationally (and up to 3 more if they are transfer students). We do very much appreciate your willingness to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of your student. Thank you. Enthusiastic letters that supply meaningful detail (ideally 1½ - 2 pages) are highly valued by the committee.

Writing Recommendation Letters by Joe Schall has a specific section on writing for the Truman competition that offers some insight and several sample letters: www.e-education.psu.edu/writingrecommendationlettersonline/node/161.

Your student must solicit letters in three distinct areas (listed below) and should indicate which category she/he anticipates that your letter will fulfill. Please address that focus. However, comments that relate to the other two categories are certainly welcome if you have insights or experiences you wish to share.

- ❑ **Leadership Ability and Potential:** Please address personal characteristics which you feel contribute to their capacity for leadership. Anecdotes that show that leadership ability in action are highly valued. In addition, please confirm and elaborate on the leadership example the candidate describes in Question 7 of the application if you have knowledge of that.
- ❑ **Commitment to a Career in Public Service:** Describe a significant contribution made by the candidate through one or more public service, community or government-related activities. Also address the values and goals that the candidate evinces that reflect their commitment to a career in government or elsewhere in public service.
- ❑ **Intellect and Prospects for Continued Academic Success:** Please evaluate their intellectual capability and prospects for success in graduate school. Address the demonstrated intelligence, academic performance and analytical ability of the candidate, as well as any other attributes you believe will contribute to their success in graduate school and beyond.

Here are some additional details specific to the campus nomination process:

1. Please send/address your letter to:
Beth Powers
Truman Faculty Representative
207 Leadership Studies
Building Manhattan, KS
66506-1005
2. I prefer to accept letters electronically. Send to **bethpowers@ksu.edu**. Letterhead and a signature are recommended.
3. Recommenders sometimes ask about the appropriate greeting. **Dear Truman Selection Committee** works well.
4. If your student is nominated, you may be asked if you have updates to your letter for upload to the national competition in February 2024.
5. The campus deadline is **October 20, 2023**.
6. Please contact me, Beth Powers at **bethpowers@ksu.edu** if you have questions. Thank you again for your time and effort in support of the Truman nomination process.

Truman Application Form

Nominees compete *nationally* through the online application system at www.truman.gov. This campus application (adapted slightly from the Truman website) is used by Kansas State University in the campus nomination process. It mirrors what nominees are asked to complete at the next level.

Date	Signature _____		
Legal name in full (Print/Type)	Last Name	First Name	M.I.
Permanent residence	Number, Street, and Apartment Number		
	City	State	ZIP
Your address at school (if different)	Number, Street, and Apartment Number		
	City (if studying abroad, add country)	State	ZIP
How is permanent residence established? (At least two must apply.)	Home telephone	()	
<input type="checkbox"/> Home address for school registration	School telephone	()	
<input type="checkbox"/> Place of registration to vote	(if different)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Family's primary residence	E-mail address		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	Date of birth	Age	
	Month/Day/Year		
(Check one) I am a <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. citizen <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. national <input type="checkbox"/> Resident alien expecting citizenship by the date of award			
Will you be studying in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, or India during the Spring semester? (If yes) Where?			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Name of nominating institution			
Current cumulative GPA		on a scale of	
Your undergraduate major(s)			
Number of college credits earned to date		Total number of credits required for graduation	
Expected date to receive baccalaureate degree		Degree you will receive	
Graduate degree(s) sought		Concentration(s)	

Name _____

1. List the secondary school from which you graduated, and all higher education institutions attended. Include summer, study-abroad, exchange programs and your nominating institution.

School	Location	Dates Attended
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2. List college and HS activities (student government, sports, publications, school-sponsored community service programs, student-faculty committees, arts, music, etc.). List in descending order of significance.

College Activity	Dates	Offices
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High School Activity	Dates	Offices
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3. List public service/community activities (homeless services, environmental protection/conservation, advocacy activities, work with religious organizations, etc.). List in descending order of significance.

Activity	Role	Dates	# of Weeks Active
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Name _____

4. List government activities (internships with government agencies, partisan political activities, ROTC/military, municipal boards/commissions). List student gov. under Item 2.

Activity	Role	Dates	# of Weeks Active
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5. List part-time and full-time jobs and nongovernment internships since high school graduation.

Type of Work	Employer	Dates	Average # of Hours/Week
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6. List awards, scholarships, publications or special recognitions received (descending order of significance).

7. Describe one specific example of your leadership. (The writer of your letter of recommendation re: Leadership Abilities and Potential must confirm this experience.)

Name _____

8. Describe a recent particularly satisfying public service activity (do not repeat experience described in 7).

9. Describe the problem or needs of society you want to address when you enter public service. Use statistical data to define the magnitude of the problem.

10. What are the three most significant courses you have taken in preparation for your career? Explain (in one sentence per class) why these courses were significant.

11. If selected as a Truman Scholar, would you apply for the Washington Summer Institute? If yes, where would you like to work and what issues would you like to address? If no, what are your plans for the summer after you graduate?

Name _____

12. Describe the graduate education program you intend to pursue if you receive a Truman Scholarship.

**13. What do you hope to do and what position do you hope to have upon completing your graduate studies?
Include specific organizations and job titles that exemplify your plans.**

14. What do you hope to do and what position do you hope to have five to seven years later?

15. What additional personal information do you wish to share with the Truman Scholarship Foundation?

POLICY PROPOSAL The proposal must relate to the problem [s] you identified in Item 9.

Do not exceed 500 words (not including the References section on the next page).

To:

Office Held:

Issue:

Problem Statement

Proposed Solution

Major Obstacles/Implementation Challenges

References, Footnote and Exhibits

Signature:

Date:

Campus Interview Information

A faculty panel will conduct interviews with the most qualified applicants as the final step in the campus nomination process.

Check those times when you are **NOT** free for an interview. Please indicate your availability as generously as possible (to keep me from pulling my hair out). Campus interviews will take 15-20 minutes. Interviews may be conducted in person or over Zoom in late October 2023.

Applicants are advised to dress respectfully but to wear whatever they feel is most appropriate and comfortable. The campus committee will not necessarily take formality of dress into account when choosing candidates. However, making a good impression in this regard is usually advisable.

Mark the times you are **NOT** available for a 15-20 minute interview.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7:00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7:30	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you are studying abroad during that time, do you still anticipate having access to Zoom. If not, when do you anticipate returning to Kansas?