

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program

The Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program was established by Congress in 1986 to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater, who served his country for 56 years as a soldier and statesman, including 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue research based careers in these fields.

Program:

- Mathematics
- Natural sciences
- Engineering

Criteria for Selection:

- Strong candidates have had the opportunity to participate in research. In their materials, the nominees discuss their research experience and request that one of their recommendations be completed by the individual who supervised the work. The research experience should be significant and demonstrate that they are "making meaning from science." The research might involve learning effective benchmark practices, but the candidate's commitment to and passion for science and engineering are important.
- Students who may not have had opportunities for research will demonstrate intellectual curiosity in other ways, perhaps through independent investigation of a theory or issue related to their fields of interest.
- Many strong candidates have competed for and been awarded internships in research facilities or worked as lab assistants in local industry or at their postsecondary institutions. Other related types of employment are also helpful.
- Abilities and potential are also shown by a candidate's meeting significant responsibilities, involvement in mathematics/science/engineering student organizations, related employment, independent investigation and research, early participation in graduate courses, or other accomplishments outside the classroom. Among recent scholars, 25-30% have published their research, and 50% have made professional presentations.
- Strong candidates will provide evidence that demonstrates their individuality.
- Nearly all Goldwater Scholars intend to pursue doctoral degrees; this is now almost a prerequisite. Students who plan a career in secondary math/science education are not considered strong candidates for the Goldwater Scholarship.
- Nearly all Goldwater Scholars have a 4.0 GPA, or very close to it. According to the Foundation, the mean GPA among Scholars is 3.95 with a very small standard deviation.
- Strong letters of recommendation are essential and critical. At least one letter of recommendation must come from a faculty member who has supervised the student's research.
- Candidates must prepare a carefully thought out, well-researched response to the essay question. The essay topic should directly relate to the student's area of academic study and should represent an area where the student's knowledge is notable. Many students cite actual research experience in which they are or have been involved. In addition to actual experiences, evidence of additional investigation into the study of the topic must be demonstrated.

Nomination:

Four-year institutions are eligible to nominate up to four students who are in the sophomore or junior class. Two-year institutions may nominate up to two students who are sophomores. To be considered, a

student must be nominated by his or her college or university using the official nomination materials provided to each institution.

Award:

Each scholarship covers eligible expenses for tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of \$7,500 annually. The Trustees award up to 300 Goldwater Scholarships.

Eligibility:

- Be a full-time matriculated sophomore or junior pursuing a degree at an accredited institution of higher education during the academic year that you apply. "Sophomore" is defined as a student who plans two more years of full-time undergraduate study. Sophomore nominees can expect to receive a maximum of two years of support. Students in two-year colleges who plan to transfer to a baccalaureate program at another institution may be nominated. "Junior" is defined as a student who plans one more year of full-time undergraduate study. Junior nominees can expect to receive a maximum of one year of support.
- Have a college grade-point average of at least "B" (or the equivalent) and be in the upper fourth of his or her class.
- Be a United States citizen, a resident alien, or, in the case of nominees from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, a United States national. Nominations from resident aliens must include a letter of the nominee's intent to obtain U.S. citizenship and a photocopy of the Alien Registration Card.

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship And Excellence In Education Foundation

6225 Brandon Avenue, Suite 315

Springfield, VA 22150-2519

Phone: 703/756-6012 FAX: 703/756-6015

goldh2o@erols.com

<http://www.act.org/goldwater/>