Harry S. Truman Scholarship Pathways

The following information is not a checklist or blueprint to being selected for a national award, but is rather a list of experiences that an individual might pursue and mold to fit their individual interests. Students should not try to “collect” every type of experience, but should work within a defined area of focus and passion. Students should demonstrate a sustained commitment and attention to documenting impact, whether that is in a field of study, research, or difference made in the community.

Award profile: The Truman Scholarship supports scholars in their junior year who answer the call to public service leadership. The foundation selects 55-65 students annually. Trumans are working in the West Wing, sitting on the US Supreme Court, and serving in federal and state legislatures. They transform nonprofits, deliver crucial services and organize for change in local communities. Truman Scholars are leaders in academia, research, and health care. They can be found in every branch of the Armed Services. And many make a difference beyond the borders of the United States.

Notable award winners: Senator Chris Coons, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Jon Favreau, Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, Governor Janet Napolitano, George Stephanopoulos, Sanah Jivani (UTSA)

Future careers Fields: Law, Policy, Non-Profit sector, Social Entrepreneurship, International Affairs; students from sciences and engineering are also competitive provided their career goals benefit the public in substantial ways.

Recommended Experiences: Bold items represent substantial accomplishments

Leadership and Policy
- Harvard Kennedy Public Policy Leadership Conference
- Work on policy change on the local or national level

On-Campus Leadership Roles
- Leadership position in SGA, position in student and judicial affairs, president of student club or student advocacy group; founder of on-campus organization or campus chapter.

Community Outreach Opportunities
- Form your own community-based advocacy group, foundation, non-profit
- Immigration advocacy: work at a migrant resource center
- Financial assistance: become a tax assistance preparer
- Education: tutoring in after school programs, teach English as a second language
- Religious/Spiritual: volunteer or mission work

Experiential Learning Programs
- The Archer Fellowship Program (Washington D.C.)
- UTSA Legislative Scholars
- UTSA Citymester
- Study Abroad with emphasis in service learning

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