

## TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIPS

**Criteria for Selection** that should be addressed, as appropriate, in a letter of recommendation (taken from the Truman Scholarship Foundation website, <http://www.truman.gov/>):

### Personal Qualifications

Qualifications such as confidence, persuasiveness, diligence, conviction, vitality, poise, and so forth, which contribute to the candidate's leadership abilities.

### Scholarship

Suitability in regards to academic scholarship, intellectual capabilities, and prospects for success in graduate school, particularly related to their academic performance, intelligence, analytical abilities and other characteristics complementary to success in graduate school.

### Potential

Have a demonstrated commitment to a career in public policy or public service. Students must be willing to work in public service for three of the first seven years following the completion of Truman-Foundation-funded study. Describe a significant contribution made by the candidate through one or more public service, community or government-related activities, addressing the candidate's value, interests, goals, and/or ambitions which represent commitment to a career in government or elsewhere in the public service.

### [Thoughts when considering Personal Qualifications and Potential]

1. Does the student have the desire and potential to be an agent of change and to improve the ways that government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or education institutions serve the public?
2. Does the student have the desire and ability to obtain a master's degree, a doctorate, or a professional degree such as a law degree, Master of Public Administration, Master of Public Health, Master of Social Work, Master of Education, Master of Public Policy or Master of International Affairs?
3. Will the student be able to commit three of the first seven years after completion of the Scholarship-funded graduate degree to work in government, education, the nonprofit sector, or the public interest/advocacy sector to improve conditions in our society and/or environment?
4. Has the student participated extensively in two or more of the following?
  - a. Student government and/or campus-based extracurricular activities
  - b. Community service-related activities (not organized by their school or by a fraternity/sorority)
  - c. Government internships, commissions or boards, advocacy or interest groups, nonpartisan political activities, or military/ROTC
  - d. Partisan political activities and campaigns
5. Does the student have defined career interests and/or goals?
6. Has the student demonstrated their leadership potential?