

# 2010 BARRY M. GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

## GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION PROCESS

The following guidelines may assist institutions in the identification and selection of nominees for the Goldwater Scholarship Program. Although these suggestions do not guarantee that an institution's nominee will win a Goldwater Scholarship, they may provide information that can assist your recruitment efforts.

### **Consider the purpose of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation and the goals of the scholarship program:**

- § Foster and encourage excellence in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering
- § Protect U.S. leadership in science and technology by educating and training new generations equipped to meet ever-increasing challenges

### **Understand the characteristics the Foundation seeks in the Goldwater Scholar:**

- § Strong commitment to a career in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering
- § Student of promise who displays intellectual intensity in science, mathematics, or engineering
- § Potential for a significant future contribution in their chosen field

The Foundation does not strictly define "eligible" fields of study as it prefers to be inclusive, rather than exclusive, of majors appropriate for consideration. The list of educational plans included in the **Bulletin of Information** is intended only to provide a broad representation of majors and career objectives of recent Goldwater Scholars. This list is not intended to be all inclusive.

### **The institution's president or chancellor gives high priority to the program:**

- § Assigns responsibility for the program to an administrative staff member (such as an assistant dean or director of the honors program) who assists students in competing for Goldwater and other national scholarships
- § Establishes a scholarship committee which may have broad responsibility to assist the institution and its students in competing for a variety of national competitive scholarships
- § Recognizes Goldwater nominees and winning Goldwater Scholars

### **Institutions may have the greatest success when Faculty Representatives:**

- § Are interested in, and committed to, effective participation in the Goldwater Program
- § Start the nomination process far enough in advance to ensure a wide solicitation of candidates from various departments and schools and the selection of the best nominees
- § Involves other faculty members in identifying candidates
- § Knows many potential candidates, perhaps from directing the honors program or special programs for exceptional Scholars
- § Vigorously recruits candidates to apply
- § Understands what the Goldwater Scholarship Program seeks

### **Nominate candidates who possess and clearly demonstrate the characteristics the Foundation seeks. Consider that:**

- § The competition for the Goldwater Scholarship Program is intense. Typically, more than 1,200 well-qualified nominees are considered for just 300 scholarships. The Foundation's independent review committee screens an outstanding and diverse pool of students representing a broad cross-section of colleges and universities.
- § Strong candidates may have had the opportunity to participate in research. In their materials, the students discuss their research experience, and request that one of their recommendations be completed by the individual who supervised the work.
- § Students who may not have had opportunities for research will demonstrate intellectual curiosity in other ways, perhaps through independent investigation of 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 related or student organizations, employment, independent investigation and research, early participation in graduate courses, and accomplishments outside the classroom.

- § Strong candidates will provide evidence that demonstrates their individuality.
- § Students who plan a career in secondary math/science education are not considered strong candidates for the Goldwater Scholarship.
- § Nearly all Goldwater Scholars intend to pursue doctoral degrees.

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### **Number of Nominations and Scholarship Awards**

Four-year institutions may nominate up to four students who are sophomores or juniors during the current academic year. Two-year institutions may nominate up to two students who are sophomores during the current academic year.

“Sophomore” is defined as a student who plans two more years of full-time undergraduate study beginning September 2010. Sophomore nominees can expect to receive a maximum of two years of support. “Junior” is defined as a student who plans one more year of full-time undergraduate study beginning September 2010. Junior nominees can expect to receive a maximum of one year of support. **The grade level as indicated on the Nomination Form should be the same as the grade level indicated by the student on their application, and will be binding in all cases.**

Awards will be made on the basis of merit to students who have outstanding potential and who intend to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. Students who plan to study medicine are eligible for a Goldwater Scholarship ***only*** if they plan a research career rather than a career as a medical doctor in a private practice.

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### **Application**

The 2010 Goldwater Scholarship Application is available from the Foundation’s website at [www.act.org/goldwater](http://www.act.org/goldwater), 2010 Goldwater Scholarship Application, “How to Apply”. The following documents should be printed off by the student for use in completing their application. **Documents available for download are:**

1. Application/Supporting Documents Checklist
2. Candidacy Information/Instructions
3. Secondary School Transcript Request

Students should sign the form and mail it to their secondary school principal to request that a copy of their transcript be sent to them. Secondary school transcripts (or a letter from the home school instructor) are required for all students.

Each student should:

- § Submit an application that is accurate with thoughtful responses to the questions, and that presents the necessary characteristics and experiences.
- § The student should prepare a carefully thought out, well-researched response to the essay question. The essay should be typed in journal format (2-columns), confined to two pages (one side only). Font size may not be smaller than 11 point. The essay will need to be mailed in with the transcripts and other supporting documents.

The essay should discuss a significant issue or problem in the student’s field of study that is of particular interest to the student. The student’s essay must include a description of the issue or problem, discussion of an idea for research that would have significant impact on the issue or problem, describing an aspect of the research in which the student would be involved, and explaining the relevance of the issue or problem to the student as a mathematician, scientist, or engineer.

The content and style of the student’s essay will be important to the success of the student’s scholarship application. The student should assume that the reader is knowledgeable in mathematics, science, and engineering, and will have the expertise to read, review, and understand the complexities of the student’s field of specialty. If the student’s essay involves research in which they are or were involved, they should indicate if they are or were the sole researcher or if they collaborated with another individual.

The student should include a bibliography, references, or illustrations, when appropriate, as part of the essay. The essay must include the following identifying information at the top of each page:

- a. Student’s Name
- b. Name of student’s college or university

- § Three online recommendations are required. Recommendations should be from individuals who know enough about the student to assess their personal characteristics, motivation, and potential for a career in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering. The best recommendations are those that come from faculty in the student’s field of study or from individuals who have supervised their work in a research facility. The recommendations must be from:

- a. Two faculty members who can discuss the student’s potential for a career in mathematics, the natural sciences, or

engineering. At least one of these must be a faculty member in the student's field of study.

- b. Another individual/faculty member who can attest to the student's potential. If the student has been involved in research, one recommendation must be from the individual who supervised the student's work.

The recommender will be notified by email within 24 hours after the student enters their name and email address in their online application. It is suggested that the student complete the recommender section of the online application when they first begin their application, and follow up with the recommenders to make sure that they received the email notification to complete/submit a recommendation.

The Faculty Representative Online Nomination Form verifies the eligibility of the student being nominated and is the last step in the online submission process. The Form must be completed and submitted online by the Faculty Representative for the student to be nominated. The nomination process can only be done by the Faculty Representative.

Over 1,200 applications will be reviewed by a group of distinguished representatives from higher education who will work in teams and draw their conclusions about the candidates and their nominating institutions on the basis of the content of the completed application and its supporting documents. Approximately 300 scholars will be selected during this review process.

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Applications/Nominations for the 2010 Goldwater Scholarship Program must be submitted electronically by **January 29, 2010, before 5:00 p.m. central time.** All supporting documents must be **received** by **February 1, 2010**, at the address below:

**Goldwater Scholarship Program**  
**301 ACT Drive**  
**Iowa City, IA 52245**  
**319.341.2333**

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### Supporting Documents

It is the student's responsibility to submit an **original and one copy** of the following documents to their Goldwater Faculty Representative:

1. **Typed essay** confined to two pages (one side only), typed in journal format (2-columns), with a font size no smaller than 11 point
2. **Secondary School Transcript(s)** [including test scores such as ACT, SAT, etc.], letter from home school instructor or GED documentation
3. **College Transcript(s)** from other institutions previously attended
4. If citizenship status is permanent resident, two copies of the student's **Permanent Resident Card** and **letter of intent** to become a U.S. citizen.

The Faculty Representative will combine all of the above materials with **an original and one copy** of the **student's official college transcript**. The Faculty Representative will submit the complete application packet to the Goldwater Review Committee. Materials received directly from the student will not be considered.