

Fellowships Program Information Sheet – Goldwater Scholarship

Updated: 04-22-2024

Section	Brief description	More information
1. Award	The Goldwater Scholarship, a highly competitive and highly prestigious scholarship and among the nation's oldest, awards approximately 450 awards per year of \$7,500 to sophomores and juniors committed to pursuing research careers in STEM. Sophomores receive \$7,500 in each of their junior and senior years while juniors receive \$7,500 in their senior year to be used toward tuition and other fees. Applicants should have significant research experience and demonstrate strong intellectual engagement in the sciences, mathematics, & engineering. They must show potential to become the next generation of research leaders in their chosen fields.	https://goldwater.scholarsapply.org/Characteristics the Foundation seeks in a Goldwater Scholar The Goldwater Foundation will support students who intend to pursue medicine if "research is a central part of the student's career goals." Only certain fields in psychology are considered natural sciences. See Frequently Asked Questions .
2. Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This scholarship is open to U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents. Applicants must be in their sophomore or junior year during the academic year in which they apply. In practice, individuals need a GPA of 3.70+ to be considered. GPAs >3.85 are typical for competitive candidates and Smith nominees. Applicants must intend to pursue a STEM research career. 	Eligibility criteria Fields of study See definition of terms : "sophomore," "junior," "resident," and "transfer student."
3. Timing	Application for nomination occurs in mid-fall. Once nominees are selected there are two months to prepare the external application due near the end of January.	Important Dates .
4. Selection Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants should exhibit academic achievement through challenging loads, advanced work, and awards. Applicants should demonstrate progress toward their research goals through research activities, relevant course work, research achievements (including presentations and publications), and consistency across application. More competitive applicants will be ones who have engaged in additional research or taken leadership in their research. Applicants must have a strong, technical research essay showing expected or obtained research results. Recommendation letters (3) must speak to research potential and commitment. 	Application Tips Frequently Asked Questions .
5. Smith Role	Students must be nominated and endorsed by Smith College. Review by faculty and staff precedes confirmation of endorsement. Up to four students may be nominated annually.	Representative Responsibilities Endorsement Process
6. Fun fact(s)	Fourteen Smithies have been selected as Goldwater Scholars and five recognized with honorable mentions in the last decade. Four juniors were selected as Goldwater Scholars in 2019; two selected in 2020; and one in 2021	2019 awardees . 2020 awardees . 2021 awardee .
7. How to get started	Express your interest to your Smith research supervisor and other advisers. Students considering applying to Goldwater should fill out an interest form ASAP.	Contact fellowships@smith.edu or make an appointment on Handshake to learn more about the Goldwater.