

Goldwater Scholarship 2026

The Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program seeks to identify and support outstanding students interested in research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

Established by Congress in 1986, the Goldwater Scholarship Program was designed to provide opportunities for outstanding U.S. students with excellent academic records and demonstrated interest in, and potential for, research careers in the natural sciences, mathematics, and engineering. The Goldwater Scholarship is the preeminent undergraduate award of its type in these fields.

Scholarships of up to \$7,500 per academic year are provided to help cover costs associated with tuition, fees, books, and room and board. A sophomore awardee can expect to receive support for a maximum of two years (4 semesters), and a junior awardee can expect to receive support for a maximum of one year (2 semesters).

To be eligible for nomination for a Goldwater Scholarship, a student must:

1. Be a sophomore or junior during the 2025-2026 academic year
 - Sophomore – two years of full-time undergraduate studies left beginning Fall 2026
 - Junior – one year of full-time undergraduate studies left beginning Fall 2026
2. Have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA
3. Be a U.S. citizen or national, or a permanent resident
4. Intend to pursue a research career in a natural science, mathematics or engineering
5. Must be nominated by their academic institution. See the next page for details on the nomination process for the College of Natural Sciences.

Students interested in pursuing careers in medicine or veterinary medicine are eligible for a Goldwater Scholarship ONLY IF RESEARCH IS A CENTRAL PART OF THE STUDENT'S CAREER GOALS.

Please visit the [Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation](https://goldwaterscholarship.gov) website for more information on both the scholarship and foundation.

From <https://goldwaterscholarship.gov>

CNS Nomination Process

The College of Natural Sciences along with the College of Engineering and the College of Liberal Arts will identify and nominate up to four students to represent The University of Texas at Austin for the Goldwater Scholarship. CNS students interested in being considered for nomination by CNS must complete the CNS preliminary application.

A complete [CNS preliminary application](#) includes the submission of the online Qualtrics questionnaire **AND** Research Essay. Please carefully read all instructions and information found on the online questionnaire. Important instructions and details regarding the Research Essay are also included on the Qualtrics form.

Students may save their progress and return to the application as their time allows. There's no need to attempt to complete it in one sitting. **Please note** – once you have submitted the CNS online application, you **CANNOT** make changes to it nor can you submit a second application. Only the first application submitted will be considered.

DO NOT complete the Goldwater Scholarship Pre-Application found on the Goldwater website. Only students officially nominated by CNS will be required to complete the Goldwater Pre-Application. The Goldwater Pre-Application cannot serve as a substitute for CNS' preliminary application process and it will not be available to CNS during the nominee selection process.

CNS PRELIMINARY ONLINE APPLICATION AND RESEARCH ESSAY DEADLINE:

OCTOBER 20, 2025 - 11:59 PM Central

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

If you are selected to receive a CNS nomination, you will be required to complete the official Goldwater application. The official application consists of the official Goldwater online questionnaire, research essay, three letters of recommendation and official transcripts. Letters of recommendation and transcripts are not required for the preliminary application process and will not be considered during the preliminary review process.

Questions? Contact scholarships@cns.utexas.edu.