

The Goldwater Scholarship

Goldwater Open House

John Mateja, PhD

President


September 5, 2024

www.goldwaterscholarship.gov

Open House Presenters

- Scholarship America
 - Linda Zuhlsdorf and Laura Mickle
- Goldwater Foundation
 - Anne Marie Kanakkanatt and Shellby Pagett
- Open House (Reviewers and Fellowship Advisors)
 - Bert Holmes
 - Kerry Karukstis
 - Babs Wise
 - Julio Turrens
 - Paul Urayama
 - Paul Zorn
 - Gisele Muller-Parker





“Receiving the Goldwater Scholarship confirmed to me that I could contribute original, meaningful work to the scientific community, which left me just to determine what specific area I wanted to impact most.”

Naomi Mburu
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Chemical Engineering
2018 Goldwater Scholar

No Changes in 2025 to Goldwater’s:

- **Mission:** To identify, encourage, and financially support this Nation’s next generation of research leaders in STEM.
- **Level of Financial Support:** Sophomores up to \$15,000, Juniors up to \$7,500
- **Fields of Study:** Determines background of reviewers who read applications
- **Eligibility Requirements**
- **Application Elements:** Online application, transcripts, 3 letters, research essay

Changes Over the Past 5 Years



- **Doubled the number of scholarships in 2019**
- **Review by discipline, not by state**
- **Transfer and Veteran Student Initiatives** – A 5th student can be nominated if one or more of your nominees is a transfer student or a veteran. A 6th student can be nominated if a transfer student AND a veteran are nominated.
- **Students who transfer to an accredited 2- and 4-year U.S. academic institution may still be nominated by the school FROM which they transferred.**
- **In the year nominated, students do not have to be enrolled full time but must be full time during academic terms receiving funding.**

Changes over the past 5 years

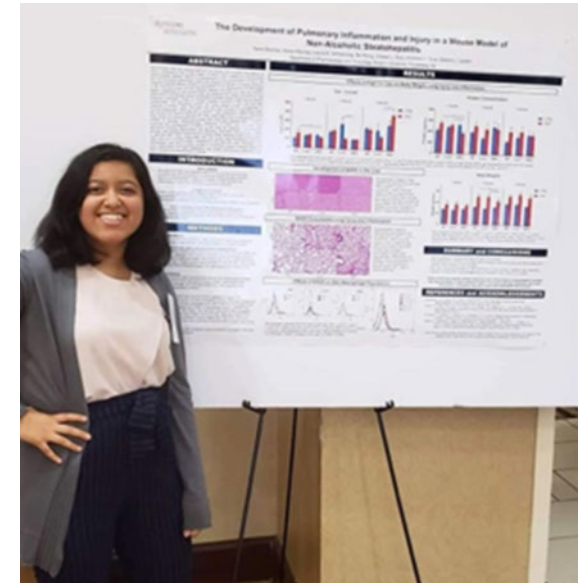


Selection Process

- Files are reviewed holistically (balanced consideration of review categories) with selection based on merit, not financial need.
- Review categories – 1) Career goals, 2) research essay/research experience, 3) academic performance, 4) reference letters, and 5) other considerations
- Packets of 30 nominations are read by a two-person review team
 - Select 6-7 Scholars – team members must agree
 - Select 2 nominees for additional review – team members must agree
 - A reviewer may identify 1 student for **“Diamond”(hidden gem)** consideration at the Foundation level.
 - *Enables reviewers to “level the playing field” – i.e. account for the fact that all students don’t have the same opportunities.*
 - *Diamonds are expected to exhibit ability, promise, and interest in a research career but due to various life challenges do not have the same level of productivity/experience as other applicants.*
 - *Some characteristics that might lead a reviewer to designate a student as a Diamond: Low-income, first-generation, non-traditional, gender, race, community college, health challenges, homelessness, among others.*
 - *Diamond is an internal designation only. Once selected, a GOLDWATER SCHOLAR is a GOLDWATER SCHOLAR!*
 - *CRs should NOT be reluctant to nominate applicants who have faced life challenges but who persevered and show promise and ability to pursue a research career.*
 - **Diamond is NOT a NOMINATION category; Diamond is a REVIEW category**

Online Application: Personal Information

Goldwater Scholars will be representative of the diverse economic, ethnic and occupational backgrounds of families in the United States. Describe any social and/or economic impacts you have encountered that influenced your education - either positively or negatively - and how you have dealt with them. (*optional statement*)



New for 2025



- **AI Question:** A question about AI usage in the preparation of an application is being added to the student on-line application. This question is for Foundation use only! Students' answers to this question will NOT be provided to the reviewers and will not be used as part of the student selection process.
- **High School Projects:** Unless mentored by a college or university faculty member, students should not include research done in high school in their applications.

What makes an application more competitive?

There is no single “recipe” for winning a Goldwater Scholarship

What are the characteristics of a strong application?

- Well articulated career goals (details add credibility)
- Academic accomplishments that support career trajectory
- Research that identifies student’s intellectual contribution and skills
- Letters that speak to ability, promise, and research career direction
- Evidence that students have made the most of the opportunities available to them

Questions

- 1. Can students receive feedback on their applications?**
- 2. Is Goldwater open to students interested in pursuing medical careers?**
- 3. How do you get faculty more involved in the process?**
- 4. Can post-docs and grad students write letters of recommendation?**
- 5. Sophomores vs. Juniors – who should we nominate?**
- 6. How important is a student's GPA?**
- 7. Is the type of prior research experience important?**
- 8. How are different publication types viewed – peer-reviewed, online, open access?**

Questions

- 9. Is where a student wants to pursue a research career – e.g., academia, national lab, private industry – important?**
- 10. As CR, am I involved with the transfer of funds from the Goldwater Foundation to the student?**
- 11. How can I recruit transfer and veteran students?**
- 12. What do reviewers wish more CRs knew?**
- 13. What should a CRs include in their CR statement?**
- 14. What is the purpose of the student pre-application?**

Resources available to Campus Reps

Goldwater Foundation and Scholarship America

- **Policy questions:**
 - Goldwater President (goldwaterpres@goldwaterscholarship.gov)
 - Goldwater Administrative Staff (goldwaterao@goldwaterscholarship.gov)
- **Questions related to student online application and CR dashboard:**
 - Scholarship America Help Desk (goldwater@scholarshipamerica.org)
- **Questions related to student payments**
 - Goldwater Administrative Staff (goldwaterao@goldwaterscholarship.gov)

Open House (Reviewers and Fellowship Advisors)

Goldwater Scholar Community

- **Goldwater Ambassadors Program**
 - Sydney Nelson (sydney.e.nelson@vanderbilt.edu)
 - Kayla Smith (kaylasmith1@arizona.edu)

Future Open Houses

Every Thursday at 4 p.m. Eastern Time (excludes holiday weeks – Nov. 28, Dec. 26, Jan 2)

- September 5, 2024, through January 30, 2025
 - Mix of topical sessions and simple “Question-and-Answer” sessions
 - Suggestions for topical sessions are welcomed!
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- September 12th: “Question-and-Answer”
 - September 19th: “Goldwater Scholar Community AmbassadorProgram” - **BRING STUDENTS!**
 - September 26th: “Building a Campus Goldwater Committee
 - Oct. 3rd – Oct. 17th: “Question-and-Answer”
 - October 24th: “Conversation on Reference Letters”
 - October 31st: “Goldwater Application Process: Myths and Missed Opportunities
 - November 7th: “Question-and-Answer”
 - November 14th: “Hits and Misses in Goldwater Applications”
 - November 21st: “Questions-and-Answer”



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Contact Information

John Mateja, PhD

President

Goldwater Scholarship Foundation

1775 Duke Street

Alexandria, VA 22314

goldwaterpres@goldwaterscholarship.gov

<https://goldwaterscholarship.gov>