
NS&FP Guide to Identifying & Mentoring Potential Applicants for Prestigious Awards

NS&FP offers advising for awards that provide support for undergraduate study, graduate study, research and teaching abroad, domestic and foreign professional placements, and academic and professional summer programs. We provide consultations to help students determine which awards they are eligible and competitive for; offer support throughout the application process, including feedback on essays and other application materials; and coordinate practice interviews for students selected as finalists.

Identifying Students Who Make Strong Candidates for Prestigious Awards

- While some awards focus on academic achievement, many of the awards prioritize leadership, service, and other abilities and experiences
- Students do not have to be academically outstanding to be potential applicants for prestigious awards
- GPA thresholds vary considerably across awards
 - Students with at least a 3.2 are potential applicants for awards for which NS&FP offers advising
- Selection committees tend to look for depth, rather than breadth of experience and engagement
- Students who demonstrate passion and commitment to their academic field(s), volunteer service, and/or other extracurricular engagement are potential candidates
- Identify promising students early, and refer students any time from first through senior year

Referral Process

- We have found that we have the greatest success in reaching highly qualified applicants when students hear directly from a faculty member or mentor that they are potential candidates for these awards and also receive an invitation to an advising appointment from our office
 - Many of the most qualified students are so modest about their accomplishments and capabilities that they do not think of themselves as candidates for prestigious awards without encouragement from faculty whom they know and respect
- As you identify students who are potential candidates for prestigious awards, please:
 - Encourage them to schedule an appointment to discuss the scholarship and fellowship opportunities that match their abilities and interests; appointments may be scheduled via College Connect
 - Use this [form](#) to nominate an exceptional student.

Mentoring and Supporting Students Applying for Prestigious Awards

- Encourage your students to take challenging classes
- Help them find research and professional opportunities
- Invite them to lectures and other intellectually engaging events
- Introduce them to your colleagues
- Talk to them about graduate school or other training that will help them achieve their goals
- Write strong letters of recommendation (see our guide to writing letters of recommendation)
- Provide feedback to students working on applications that require field-specific knowledge or proposals, as well as those that do not
- Participate on campus selection and practice interview committees

National Scholarships & Fellowships Program

<http://nationalawards.college.emory.edu/>

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