

THE BEINECKE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF THE SPERRY FUND

2025-26 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS:

5pm EST March 27, 2026

Purpose of the Program

The Beinecke Scholarship Program was established in 1971 by the Board of Directors of The Sperry and Hutchinson Company to honor Edwin, Frederick, and Walter Beinecke. The Board created an endowment to provide substantial scholarships for the graduate education of young people of exceptional promise.

The program seeks to encourage and enable highly motivated students in their junior year of college to pursue opportunities available to them and to be courageous in the selection of a research- or creative-focused course of graduate study in the arts, humanities, or social sciences.

Since 1975, the program has selected 759 college juniors from more than 120 different undergraduate institutions for support during graduate study at any accredited university. Each scholar receives \$5,000 immediately prior to entering graduate school and an additional \$30,000 while attending graduate school. There are no geographic restrictions on the use of the scholarship and recipients are allowed to supplement the award with other scholarships, assistantships, and research grants. Scholars are encouraged to begin graduate study immediately following graduation and must utilize all funding within six years of completing their undergraduate studies, and within five years of beginning graduate studies.

Nomination Procedure

Each year, approximately 145 colleges and universities are invited to nominate a student for a Beinecke Scholarship. This year, up to 16 new scholarships will be awarded. A complete nomination package must be submitted by **March 27, 2026**. Winners will be selected by a committee comprised of the Director, alumni of the Beinecke Scholarship Program, and faculty members at top research institutions.

Nomination Schedule

- **October 6, 2025:** Director sends instructions for submitting nominations to Participating Institutions.
- **March 27, 2026:** Deadline for receipt of all nominations.
- **June 01, 2026:** Deadline for announcement of awards.

Conditions of Eligibility

To be eligible for a Beinecke Scholarship, a student must:

- Demonstrate superior standards of intellectual ability, scholastic achievement, and personal promise during their undergraduate career.

- Be a college junior pursuing a bachelor's degree during the 2025-2026 academic year. "Junior" means a student who is currently enrolled at the time of application, plans to continue full-time undergraduate study in the following term, and expects to receive a bachelor's degree between December 2026 and August 2027.
- Plan to enter a **research- or creative-focused master's or doctoral program in the arts, humanities, or social sciences**. NOTE: Students in the social sciences who plan to pursue graduate study in neuroscience or clinical psychology should not apply for a Beinecke Scholarship.
- Be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
- Have a documented history of being eligible to receive need-based financial aid during their undergraduate years. Evidence of meeting this criterion includes a student's history of receiving need-based institutional, state, or federal grants-in-aid. **The nominated student will be required to complete and submit a Financial Aid Data Sheet outlining how the student meets this criterion.** During the selection process, the amount of financial need will be one of the factors considered.

Nomination Materials

Campus liaisons must submit nomination materials to the Program Director via the online portal no later than **5pm EST on March 27, 2026**. Required materials include:

- Certification of Eligibility (in portal).
- Personal information and graduate school information (in portal).
- A current C.V. that lists all collegiate activities and awards
- A statement of 1,000 words or less from the nominee devoted to describing their research or creative interests for graduate study and career aspirations beyond these studies. It should also include a discussion of the most relevant academic, professional, extracurricular, and personal experiences that have influenced or shaped the nominee's interests and plans.
- An endorsement letter from the Beinecke liaison summarizing the reasons for the nominee's selection.
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty members or advisors that assess the nominee's intellectual curiosity, character, and potential for advanced graduate study.
- An unofficial copy of the nominee's transcript(s). (Successful applicants will later be asked to submit an official transcript.)
- Candidates who wish to pursue an MFA degree must submit an artist's supplement:

- Creative writers: a maximum of five pages of double-spaced text, though playwrights, poets, and screenwriters should submit the text in the format appropriate to the genre (i.e., not double-spaced, if inappropriate).
- Visual artists (except filmmakers): a digital portfolio containing up to ten images of current work, with an image resolution of at least 300 dpi.
- Performing artists (including filmmakers): video sample(s) no longer than five minutes in total.
- **The nominated student must also complete, sign, and submit a Financial Aid Data Sheet no later than 5pm EST on April 1, 2026. (updated 2/24/26)**

Selection Criteria

There are four primary criteria by which applicants will be evaluated:

- **Evidence of academic success and relevant academic background:** Does the transcript show evidence of high academic achievement? Does the coursework prepare the candidate for the planned field of study? Is there other evidence of high-level performance (e.g., merit scholarships, academic prizes, artistic creations, research publications)?
- **Clarity of research/creative focus:** Are the research questions/creative impact and career path well-defined, coherent, and well thought through? Does the candidate's writing give evidence of higher-order thinking skills and the ability to express thoughts clearly and without jargon?
- **Knowledge and fit of proposed graduate programs:** Has the candidate proposed graduate programs that are appropriately ambitious and a good fit for their scholarly and career plans?
- **Quality and breadth of recommendations:** Are the recommendations excellent and from people who know the candidate and can make informed comparisons with other students? Can any of the recommendations speak to the relevance of the proposed research/creative work, the suitability of the proposed courses, and the ability of the candidate to undertake and excel at scholarly research/creative work?

Scholarship Conditions

A Beinecke Scholar receives a total of \$35,000 in support of their graduate education. Once a Scholar has accepted an offer of graduate study and has received their undergraduate degree, \$5,000 is awarded directly to the student prior to entering graduate school. This award is intended to offset the costs associated with the graduate application process and travel expenses related to the start of graduate school. While in graduate school, Scholars receive an additional \$30,000 in support. These funds are awarded as a supplement to support provided by the graduate school. The award is spread over up to five years to comply with institutional limits on the total amount of a student's annual award. In the absence of institutional support or limits, Scholars may receive a maximum award of \$15,000 per fiscal year. These funds are sent directly to the institution where the student is enrolled and disbursed in accordance with the scholarship policy of the institution. In addition, the following policies apply to the award:

- A scholar must be attending an accredited graduate school as a full-time student in good academic standing in order to receive funding.
- A scholar can attend graduate school in the U.S. or abroad, but there is no guarantee that universities outside the U.S. will be able to accept Beinecke funding.
- A scholar must utilize all funding within six years of completing their undergraduate studies, and within five years of beginning graduate studies.
- A scholar can receive Beinecke funding concurrent with a Knight-Hennessy Scholarship, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, Marshall Scholarship, Rhodes Scholarship, Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and, in some cases, a Fulbright U.S. Student grant (if the grant supports graduate study).
- A scholar cannot receive Beinecke funding concurrent with a Schwarzman Scholarship.
- Nominees who are selected and choose to receive the Truman Scholarship cannot also accept the Beinecke Scholarship.

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