

# Lougheed

Center for Applied Learning

EXPLORE EXPERIENCE REFLECT BECOME

## *PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROJECT DESCRIPTION*

Completed PDF application forms should be uploaded along with a completed Information Form and submitted at the URL provided (Note: in order to save your added text, you must download and save the PDF to your computer before you begin typing). Two letters of recommendation should be sent directly by recommenders to [presidentialscholars@potdam.edu](mailto:presidentialscholars@potdam.edu)

*You are welcome to consult with the Director of the Office for Student Research and Creativity for advice on formulating your project and completing your application, including questions related to the purchase of resources or equipment for the project per your budget (some restrictions may apply). For questions about the application process, please contact the OSRC secretary at [presidentialscholars@potdam.edu](mailto:presidentialscholars@potdam.edu)*

### **Part I.**

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT TITLE (limit of 12 words):

### **Part II.**

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#### **ESSAY**

Students in the Presidential Scholars Program will complete an independent research or creative project by the final semester of their senior year. The project may be an outgrowth of research/creative endeavors within the major, an interdisciplinary exploration, a community-related or service learning experience, or combine personal interests with an academic, intellectual, and creative component. The project is expected to contribute to a field of academic interest and expand the student's horizons outside the classroom.

Please submit an essay of **not more than 350 words**, explaining your proposed project and research questions and emphasizing the following:

- The project's purpose and relation to your academic and personal goals
- The project's research methods or creative modes and significance for your particular academic community
- Skills needed to complete this project (such as coursework, software skills, or artistic techniques) and your plans to acquire these skills
- The format of your work and venues for presentation
  - Will you present your project to the academic community, here or elsewhere?
  - On-campus demonstrations of your work might include workshops/demonstrations, museum displays, video screenings, teaching demonstrations, or presentations of a paper or poster
  - Off-campus presentations may occur at regional or national meetings in one's discipline
- Relevant prior experiences (class projects, hobbies, jobs, volunteer work, or other extracurricular activities)

**Essay objectives:** Your essay will need to convince the Presidential Scholars Selection Committee that:

- You have a student-driven, independent research or creative project that contributes to your educational growth and to the academic community at large
- You are capable of pursuing the project independent of your academic coursework
- You have developed a strong plan to carry out your project
- You have the skills to complete this project in the time allotted

**Check your work:** Proofreading your application is a critical step in the process. Have others read over the final draft of your essay. Typographical errors and poor grammar are not characteristics of the high-quality work expected of Presidential Scholars. Some common problems include:

- Noun-verb agreement
- Use of contractions (formal writing does not use contractions – i.e. doesn't)
- Incorrect use of apostrophes
- Spelling (“their/there” confusion is not caught by spellcheckers)

*Your essay goes here:*

## **Part III.**

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### **THE TIMELINE**

A timeline that outlines important stages of the process is needed to complete your project. Before you write your essay, sketch out a timeline semester by semester; take account of when and where you will need to devote more or less attention to the project, based on your expected course load and other time considerations. A general outline of the process will guide you in crafting your timeline:

- Presidential Scholars are admitted into the program during the fall semester
- Shortly after they are notified, Scholars meet with their Faculty Mentors to begin planning
- Scholars may begin using their funds once they and their Mentors have agreed on a plan (This is the beginning of your timeline)
- Presidential Scholars present their projects at a mandatory Colloquium in December or mid-to-late spring of their senior year, which marks the project's culmination (Your timeline should end with this presentation)

Give a short description (one or two lines each) of your research/creative endeavors project goals, semester by semester (4 semesters if you are a junior, and 6 semesters if you are a sophomore)

FALL (1<sup>st</sup> sem.):

SPRING (2<sup>nd</sup> sem.):

FALL (3<sup>rd</sup> sem.):

SPRING (4<sup>th</sup> sem.):

FALL (5<sup>th</sup> sem.):

SPRING (6<sup>th</sup> sem.):



**Budget Justification:** Explain the reasons why budget items are essential for your project.