

# THE BEINECKE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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A PROGRAM OF THE SPERRY FUND

*2024-25 Student Information Session*

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# HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES 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 scholarship supports students intending to pursue research-based or creative graduate study in the **arts, humanities, and social sciences**, and it encourages them to be courageous in their graduate school choices



Since 1975 the program has selected 739 college juniors from 122 different undergraduate institutions for support during graduate study at any accredited university

# BENEFITS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP (THE 3 MS)

## Money:

- \$35,000 of non-replacement funds over five years (\$5,000 directly to the student, \$30,000 funneled to/through the graduate program)

## Mentorship:

- Access to a network of past and present Beinecke Scholars in graduate schools and professional positions across the country

## Matthew (Loar):

- Meals, essay drafts, mock interviews, graduate funding negotiations, general student advocacy

# THE BEINECKE EFFECT, 2024

- Other fellowships received:
  - **Kendra Lyimo**, Marshall
  - **Arden Woodall**, Fulbright ETA
  - **Tanajia Moye-Green**, Knight-Hennessy, NSF GRFP
- Graduate school placements among 2023 Scholars (PhDs):
  - Brown, Columbia, Georgetown, Minnesota, Northwestern, Princeton, Stanford (x2), Yale (x2)



# ELIGIBILITY (FOR 2025)

- College junior who is enrolled full-time in the term during which the application is due **AND** who expects to graduate between December 2025 and August 2026
- US citizen or a US national from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Documented history of being eligible to receive need-based financial aid (past receipt of scholarships does not count against the student!)
- Must plan to enter a **research-based** or **creative** graduate program in the arts, humanities, or social sciences (NOT: JD, MD, MPH, MPP, MBA, MAT, etc.)

# SELECTION PROCESS



- 146 institutions participate in the Beinecke Scholarship Program
- Each school is invited to nominate **one** student each year
- All applications (~90-100) are reviewed by a selection committee of scholars at universities with top-ranked PhD programs
- Up to 20 scholarships will be awarded in 2025

# SELECTION CRITERIA



1. Evidence of academic success and relevant academic background
2. Clarity of research/creative focus
3. Knowledge and fit of proposed graduate programs
4. Quality and breadth of recommendations



# APPLICATION

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- One-page application form
- Current CV
- 1000-word statement of research interests and plans for graduate study
- Unofficial transcript
- Three letters of recommendation
- \*Creative portfolio (for creative applicants)
- \*\*Financial Aid Data Sheet
- \*\*\*Nomination letter (written by liaison)





# THE MOST COMPETITIVE CANDIDATES

- **The research/creative focus:** Moving from MEsearch to Research!
- Use the statement to articulate and help us understand:
  - the research/creative questions that interest you,
  - the origins of your interest in those questions,
  - the work you have done to deepen your engagement with those questions,
  - and the larger stakes of those questions for your field and long-term goals (i.e., answer the “so what?” question)

# THE MOST COMPETITIVE CANDIDATES

- **The graduate programs and career goals:** Aspirational and appropriate!
- We are asking:
  - are you likely to go to graduate school?
  - are you likely to get into graduate school?
  - are you likely to get into the specific graduate schools you have identified?
  - are the graduate schools you have identified good fits for you and your interests?
  - can you connect the dots between graduate school and your future career?

# THE MOST COMPETITIVE CANDIDATES

- **Letters of recommendation/nomination:** Written by people who know you (and think highly of you)!
- A character reference is less useful
- We want letters that
  - speak to your academic/creative accomplishments,
  - and can vouch for your likelihood of gaining entry to and then succeeding in graduate school (and beyond!)

# SELECTION TIMELINE

- Application deadline: **March 28, 2025 (5pm ET)**
- Deadline to submit financial aid data sheet: **March 31, 2025 (5pm ET)**
- Anticipated notification date: **June 1, 2025**



# QUESTIONS?



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