

**USC Discovery Scholars**  
**Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism**  
Submission Criteria



**Eligibility**

Discovery Scholars will:

- Have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA upon graduation
- Complete an undergraduate degree within five years
- Complete and submit an online application, letter of recommendation, and senior project as explained below by the annual deadline.

**Online Application**

Submit an online application via the Discovery Scholars website:

<http://ahf.usc.edu/scholars/discovery/apply/>

**Letter of Recommendation**

All Discovery Scholar submissions must include a letter of recommendation from a USC faculty member. Whenever possible, the letter should come from the faculty member who has supervised or mentored the student on the project being presented for consideration. The letter of recommendation should provide context for the student's work relative to: the student's overall achievement and performance in the program; the scope and quality of the student's contribution to the submitted project; the merit of the project relative to both the quality of work typically presented at the undergraduate level and the highest standards of the discipline; and the value and implications of the project in the field of study and beyond.

**Project Criteria**

**School of Communication**

The essential criterion for a Discovery Scholars submission for students from the School of Communication is that the piece should construct, advance, and support an original intellectual argument. Recognizing that an argument may be advanced through a range of different media, we invite Communication majors to submit any substantive piece of innovative work for the Discovery Scholars Prize. While entries may be presented in standard research paper format, or may include multi-media components, we also encourage the submission of work that is entirely multimedia in its presentation, such as a video, documentary film or website. Students may submit work that was originally produced for a class or as a Communication Honors thesis, as well as work done independently during their undergraduate career at USC.

**School of Journalism (Journalism & Public Relations)**

Journalism and Public Relations majors may submit original projects demonstrating clarity and depth in which the central underpinning is innovation. These projects in either public relations or journalism may advance an idea or present an existing one in new ways; the work may be a package of stories or public relations campaigns in which multimedia is the primary form of delivery; blogs, video, and interactive graphics may be part of the submission. The portfolio, or body of work, may also be presented in more traditional ways: well-written narratives in a print publication for journalism students or press kits and brochures for public relations. The projects

should in most cases be produced under the direction of a USC faculty member, ideally presented on a digital platform.

**School Contact**

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