

**USC Discovery Scholars
Keck School of Medicine**
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

Discovery Scholar candidates must demonstrate exceptional research and scholarship within the field of Health Promotion or Global Health in one of the following ways:

- Submission of a substantial *original research* project conducted independently by the student, under the supervision of a USC faculty member.*
- Completion of at least four units of HP 490: Directed Research, earning a grade of A- or better and resulting in a paper that documents the *original research* performed.*
- Publication of research in a scholarly journal as either author or co-author. If the publication is co-authored, a faculty letter is required to document the extent of the student's contribution.
- Presentation of a research project or paper at a refereed session of a national or regional professional conference.
- Selection as a first- or second-prize winner at the University's annual Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Work and submission of a paper that documents the research performed.

- Participation in a team research project will be considered (e.g., research conducted for HP 490 projects). In such cases, the student must submit a description and supply evidence of his/her *significant contribution* to the larger project. The extent of the student's contribution should be explained and documented in the faculty letter of recommendation submitted as part of the application.

* Original research means that your project is distinct and separate from the faculty member's study.

Note: Posters, slides, and other materials can be submitted as a *supplement* to but **not in place of** the student's written work.

School Contacts

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Academic Advisor