USC Discovery Scholars
Viterbi School of Engineering
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

Undergraduate students majoring in Engineering or Computer Science who have participated in research with faculty, who have excelled in their senior design projects beyond the standard requirements for completion of the course, or who have competed in the University's annual Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Work, the KIUEL Senior Design Expo, the USC Student Innovation Showcase or similar competitions are eligible to apply for designation as Discovery Scholars.

Candidates should submit documentation of a completed project, including a research quality paper of at least five pages in length that summarizes the research methods employed and documents the research performed by the student specifically. Past submissions have included students who have participated in undergraduate research and who have also co-published technical journal articles with their faculty mentors; developed portfolios of multiple projects related to alternative vehicles; developed plenary posters for presentations related to robot learning at technical conferences; developed unique data modeling programs as part of a faculty research project or senior design project, etc. Any published journal articles as well as recognition given at any of the above competitions should be included as addendums to the required documentation submitted.

All submissions will be evaluated on the basis of creativity and competency in the relevant areas of engineering and will be reviewed by a faculty committee in the Viterbi School.

School Contact
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