USC Discovery Scholars
Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences
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 Scholars in the Dornsife College are recognized for submitting projects similar to one of the following activities:

- Participation in a **departmental honors program**, leading to the completion of an original research paper or project
- Two semesters of **directed research** culminating in a paper that documents the original research performed
- Publication of research in a **scholarly journal** as a named author (if coauthoring with a faculty member, a letter of memorandum from the faculty member detailing the student's contributions must be included)
- Presentation of research in paper or project form at a competitive regional or national **scholarly conference**
- Selection as a 1st or 2nd prize winner at the annual **USC Symposium for Scholarly and Creative Work** and submission of a paper that documents the research performed.
- Participation in a **SOAR or SURF** program, leading to the completion of a research product
- **Internship** work that involves research and leads to a scholarly research product

A two-page abstract completely describing the research performed and the experience of the student in the research activity is also required. Additionally, the qualifying academic work, if graded must earn a mark of B+ or better.

School Contact
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