

Barry Goldwater Scholarship: Timeline for the 2026–2027 Competition

September 1, 2026: Goldwater Scholarship application materials will be available on the [Goldwater Scholarship](#) website, and [Interest Form](#) submissions will open. (If you do not already have an account on the submission website, you will need to create one.)

September/October 2026: [Students who qualify](#) will begin the online application process. This includes completing an Interest Form before working on an application and reference letters from three faculty members. As part of their application, students will write a [research essay](#). This essay should be sent to a faculty member in their department for feedback and then revised based on that feedback. (*Note:* The essay must be written solely by the student applicant.)

October 23, 2026: The deadline for students to submit an Interest Form is Friday, October 23rd. After you have submitted your Interest Form, you will also send an email to the campus representative, Dr. Ashley Waring-Sparks, at alwarin@ilstu.edu. Students are encouraged to contact Dr. Waring-Sparks with any questions about the application process.

December 4, 2026: Complete applications are due by NOON on Friday, December 4th.

December 7, 2026: Applications will be sent to the Campus Screening Committee on December 7th.

Week of December 14, 2026: The Campus Screening Committee will convene to discuss candidates' applications and nominate up to four students. Then, applications will be returned to nominees with recommendations from the committee. Nominees may meet with Dr. Waring-Sparks to review the committee's feedback.

Week of January 11, 2027: Applicants will meet with Dr. Waring-Sparks to review their completed application.

January 18, 2027: The deadline for nominees to submit the final draft of their applications in the online system is Monday, January 18th.

January 29, 2027: The deadline for online submission of nominees' applications to the Goldwater Scholarship review committee is Friday, January 29th (submitted by Dr. Waring-Sparks).

March 26, 2027: Goldwater Scholars will be announced on Friday, March 26th.