The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy seeks outstanding University of Tennessee juniors for appointments as Baker Scholars. The Baker Scholar Program is intended to enrich the participant’s college experience by engaging them in a rich exploration of public policy, governance or public service over the remaining 3-4 semesters of their undergraduate career.

Scholars will have access to University faculty, professionals in the community, and the Baker Center staff to help them structure their experience. Baker Scholars complete one of two types of projects: (1) a research thesis investigating a specific public policy issue or (2) a creative initiative designed to contribute toward understanding of public policy issues, improved governance, civic engagement, or public service. Scholars work under the guidance of a faculty mentor but are expected to demonstrate a high degree of initiative and independence in developing and carrying out their project plan. By conducting research or organizing an initiative to address important social issues, Baker Scholars assist the Baker Center in fulfilling its role as a public policy center.

Since its inception in 2003, the Baker Scholar Program has consistently attracted some of UT’s most academically gifted, politically curious students. Selected former and current scholars include:

Sarah Keeton Campbell (2004) – Founding Baker Scholar in 2003; College Scholars; SGA President; Torchbearer; graduate of Duke Law School (2009); clerk to Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito (2011-12); currently an attorney with Williams & Connolly, LLP in Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Williams (2012) – College Scholars; intern with University of Pennsylvania’s Netter Center for Community Partnerships; study abroad in South Africa; senior thesis on Education in South Africa Before and After Apartheid; currently MA Candidate at Columbia University Teachers College (full scholarship).

Blair Kuykendall (2013) - College Scholars and Economics; Haslam Scholar; Editor-in-Chief for two years of The Daily Beacon; Torchbearer; senior thesis on Analyzing the Effectiveness of OECD Economic Regulation in Compliance with ICESCR; currently attending Georgetown University Law School.

Matthew Dillon (2013) – College Scholars; Social Sciences Award at Exhibition for UG Research; senior thesis on A False START: The Role of Ballistic Missile Defense in US-Russian Relations; currently in dual MA Program in International Affairs, Paris Institute of Political Studies and London School of Economics.

Eric Dixon (Dec 2013) Four majors: Economics, Global Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology; Baker Center representative at Harvard University’s Institute of Politics; created a new student organization – UT Community Partnership Service Corps; SGA Vice-President candidate; Truman Scholarship finalist; senior thesis on Growing the Clean Energy Economy in Central Appalachia: A Policy Approach.
Who should apply to become a Baker Scholar?

- Juniors with a GPA of 3.35 or higher who wish to pursue a research question or creative initiative related to one of the three Baker Center focus areas (global security, energy and environment, leadership and governance) or another public policy subject/issue of current relevance.

What are the expectations of Baker Scholars?

- Meet regularly with faculty mentor and make substantial progress on chosen project each semester.
- Submit progress reports to the Director of UG Programs in line with announced deadlines.
- Enroll in BCPP 317: Baker Scholar Seminar for one credit-hour in spring semester of junior and senior year.
- Actively participate in Baker Center events, as well as activities for networking among Baker Scholars.
- Complete written project report and make oral presentation in spring semester of senior year.

What criteria are used in the selection of Baker Scholars?

- Application information
- Essay responses
- Academic history
- Current resume
- Faculty recommendation
- Interview with Baker Scholar Committee

What is the timetable for selection of new Baker Scholars?

- Information Session at 4:30 PM Wednesday, August 27 at the Baker Center.
- Applications due by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 16.
- Interviews the week of September 22-26.
- Notification of selection by Monday, September 29.
- Reception/Orientation for new Baker Scholars at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 8th.
Please complete this application form and submit it along with the following attachments to the address at the bottom of the page by **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 16**. If you have any questions about this form or the application requirements, please contact Dr. Nissa Dahlin-Brown (Associate Director) at 974-8681 or nissa@utk.edu OR Dr. Bill Park (Director of Undergraduate Programs) at 974-7473 or wpark@utk.edu.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- **Essay.** Please address the following questions in **500 words or less.**
  1. Explain the nature of your interest and involvement in public policy to date.
  2. Identify the general public policy area or specific issue you wish to address by completing a research thesis or creative initiative and why you are interested in it. If you already have identified a faculty mentor to supervise your project, or have someone in mind, please include this information as well.
  3. If selected, what do you hope to gain from participation in the Baker Scholar Program?
- **Academic History Report.** (student copy is acceptable)
- **Current Resume.** (no more than two pages)
- **Faculty Appraisal Form.** (sent directly from faculty member to Baker Center)

**WAIVER AND STATEMENT OF INTENT**

I, ________________________________, wish to be considered for appointment as a Baker Scholar by the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee. I hereby give permission to officials at this institution to release information requested in connection with the Baker Scholar selection process. I understand that this application will be available only to authorized individuals. I waive the right to have access to the required faculty appraisal form. If selected as a Baker Scholar, I understand that I must meet the requirements of the Program to remain in good standing. I affirm that all of this application is my own work, or is formally cited from other sources. I affirm the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Legal name in full ____________________________ Gender: M___ F ___ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

(Check one) ___ US Citizen OR ___ International student from _________________(Country)

Permanent Address: __________________________ Campus Address: _______________

_______________________________ __________________________

Phone number: __________________________ E-mail address: _______________________

Major(s): __________________________ Minor(s): __________________________

Cumulative GPA: _________ Expected graduation (month/year) ____________

Submit this application form and required attachments by 5:00 PM Tuesday, September 16 to:

Ashley Jakubek (ajakubek@vols.utk.edu)