

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); attorney with Williams & Connolly, LLP in Washington, DC, attorney with TN Attorney General's office – Nashville, 2015, Baker Center Board member.

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*; graduated with MA from Columbia University Teachers College (full scholarship), Director, Pre-K-5 Admissions Research & Analytics, for City of New York Dept. of Education.

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*. Currently Coordinator of Policy and Community Engagement at Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Whitesburg, Kentucky.

Lisa Dicker (May 2014) Lisa Dicker, from Tullahoma, Tennessee, with majors in Political Science and Asian Studies and minors in Chinese, Religious Studies and Philosophy. She will graduate from Harvard Law School in May 2017 with her Juris Doctor. Lisa's Baker Scholar project was on the effect of the One Child Policy on gender equality in China. She has done legal and dispute resolution work

in Boston, New Hampshire, D.C., China, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo over the last two years. This summer (2016) she is working at Public International Law & Policy Group on their Syria Negotiation Support Team.

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 5:00 PM Tuesday, August 30** at the Baker Center.
- Applications due by **5:00 PM Tuesday, September 13.**
- **Interviews the week of September 19-23.**
- Notification of selection by Monday, September 26.
- Orientation for new Baker Scholars at **4:00 PM on Wednesday, October 12.**

APPLICATION FORM

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 13**. 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 **ALL of 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.** (**Follows below** -- sent directly from faculty member to Nissa Dahlin-Brown Nissa@utk.edu or Baker Center, 1640 Cumberland Ave.)

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 13 to:

Nissa Dahlin-Brown Nissa@utk.edu

Name of Applicant

Name and Position of Faculty Appraiser

Signature of Faculty Appraiser

Date

Baker Scholars are required to 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. As such, we request your candid appraisal of the applicant named above to assist the Baker Scholar Committee in assessing whether he/she is well suited for the Baker Scholars Program. This appraisal will be treated as confidential and is intended for use only by the Committee.

I. Past/Current Relationship with Applicant

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

I. Rating/Ranking of Applicant

Please rate the applicant on the following characteristics using the scale provided.

Excellent=1, Very Good=2, Good=3, Fair=4, Poor=5, Not Able to Judge=6

Motivation	1	2	3	4	5	6
Initiative	1	2	3	4	5	6
Reliability	1	2	3	4	5	6
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	6
Adaptability	1	2	3	4	5	6
Writing Ability	1	2	3	4	5	6
Oral Communication Ability	1	2	3	4	5	6
Interpersonal Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6
Intellectual Capacity	1	2	3	4	5	6
Analytical Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6

Please rank the applicant among recent undergraduates you have known equally well (circle one)

Upper 10% Upper 25% Upper 50% Lower 50%

FACULTY APPRAISAL FORM

III. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Applicant

Please note any particular strengths or weaknesses of the applicant that you believe may impact the likelihood of successful completion of a high quality project within the Baker Scholar Program.

Strengths _____

Weaknesses _____

IV. Additional Comments

Please feel free to offer any additional comments that might be helpful in the Committee's assessment of whether this applicant is well-suited for the Baker Scholars Program.

V. Submission Instructions and Deadline

Please submit this appraisal form directly to Dr. Nissa Dahlin-Brown. **Place in campus mail to the address below, fax to 974-8777 or send as an attachment to nissa@utk.edu by Tuesday, September 13.**

Dr. Nissa Dahlin-Brown
Baker Center
1640 Cumberland Ave.
CAMPUS 3340

If you have any questions about the Baker Scholars Program or this appraisal request, please feel free to contact either Dr. Nissa Dahlin-Brown, Baker Center Associate Director (nissa@utk.edu, 974-8681) or Dr. Bill Park, Baker Center Director of Undergraduate Programs (wpark@utk.edu, 974-7473).