



**William T. Grant Scholars Program:
Checklist for Nominating Institutions**
(Revised April 15, 2011)

Because institutions' processes for selecting nominees will likely vary, we provide guidance on the characteristics we look for in successful candidates for the William T. Grant Scholars Program. In addition to reviewing this document, we strongly recommend that institutions refer to our [Scholars Application Guide](#) for a detailed discussion of our selection criteria. You may also refer to program information available on the [Funding Opportunities](#) page on our website at www.wtgrantfoundation.org.

The program supports promising early-career researchers in an effort to expand their expertise and enable them to do important work to benefit youth. The award is *not* meant to fund a next study in an applicant's program of research that does not significantly expand his/her expertise into new areas.

If you need more clarity after reviewing this document and other resources, please email us at info@wtgrantfdn.org.

Eligibility Requirements

- Each year, only one applicant may be nominated from a major division (e.g., College of Arts and Sciences, School of Medicine) of a university or a major department of a nonprofit organization.
- Applicants must be in secure career ladder positions at their institutions, but need not be in tenure-track academic positions. This includes positions in research organizations such as MDRC, Mathematica Policy Research, RAND, or Urban Institute.
- Applicants must have received their terminal degree within seven years of submitting their application. In the medical field, the seven-year maximum is dated from the completion of the first residency. Please see the chart below.

William T. Grant Scholars Eligibility Chart	
Terminal Degree Date (or completion of first residency)	Final Year of Eligibility
2004	2011
2005	2012
2006	2013
2007	2014
2008	2015

Current Research Interests



- ☑ Successful proposals present projects that are consistent with the Foundation's Current Research Interests. These interests are to understand and improve the everyday settings of youth ages 8 to 25 in the United States. We support research that enhances our understanding of: (1) how settings work, how they affect youth development, and how they can be improved; and (2) when, how, and under what conditions research evidence is used in policy and practice that affect youth, and how its use can be improved.
- ☑ Applicants should read our [Current Research Interests](#) document and visit the Resources section of our website, which contains [Annual Report Essays](#) with detailed discussion of studies that fit our interests.
- ☑ We fund research in a variety of disciplines that fit our Current Research Interests. We also support different types of research methods and encourage mixed-methods work.

Professional Development

- ☑ Successful applicants identify "stretch" area(s) in which the award and plan of work will significantly expand his or her expertise. This can include developing expertise in a different discipline, method, and/or content area. Examples of "stretch" are when an ethnographer proposes to learn quantitative skills to analyze a national longitudinal data set or an economist proposes to learn about child development theory and methods.
- ☑ Successful applicants have strong mentoring plans in which mentors demonstrate commitment to helping the applicant develop expertise in the identified stretch area(s). This is demonstrated by the mentors' appropriateness and track record for mentoring, detailed discussion of how the mentoring relationship will expand the applicant's expertise, and consideration of how and when their work together will transpire.
- ☑ The Scholars award should add value and not simply support activities an applicant would undertake without the award

Promise of the Applicant

- ☑ Successful applicants demonstrate an ability to conduct and communicate creative, sophisticated research.
- ☑ Having fewer first-authored publications of high-quality empirical work in reputable sources is more important than a long list of publications that demonstrate less rigor or significance.