



Truman Forensics Union
Department of Communication
Barnett Hall, 1212
Kirksville, MO 63501

January 2023

Greetings from the Truman Forensics Union!

We would first like to say congratulations on your admission to Truman State! We greatly look forward to seeing you on campus in the fall! We know this is an exciting time for you as you prepare for college, and we would like to help facilitate this process as much as possible. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your interest in the team, tell you a little more about what we do and who we are, and inform you about our upcoming **Scholarship Auditions on Friday and Saturday, March 24th-25th**. This year, our scholarship auditions align with a university showcase day where you would be able to meet some of your future teachers and hear more about your specific academic program. If you haven't yet attended a showcase day and would like to attend, you can register for the event at visit.truman.edu!

The inception of Truman Forensics dates back to the 1800s, and since then, we have continued to build a legacy of strong debaters and public speakers! We traditionally do very well at regional competitions and have multiple team members break into final rounds at our state tournament (MAFA) each year in February. We have a very strong debate legacy and have had numerous individual events (IE) students in national outrounds and represent the team at the prestigious Interstate Oratorical Competition in the spring.

We offer students the opportunity to participate in all eleven IE categories across the three speaking genres (Public Address, Interpretation, & Limited Preparation) recognized by the national collegiate forensics associations, in addition to NFA-Lincoln-Douglas (LD) debate. We also sometimes supplement tournament entries with students in other forms of debate, such as National Parliamentary Debate (NPDA) and International Public Debate (IPDA), and in experimental events such as Improvisational Pairs, Broadcast Journalism, Interviewing, and Slam Poetry when offered.

Throughout the competition season (September to April), team members work together with our knowledgeable, award-winning coaches to construct engaging presentations and develop strategic argumentation techniques. We typically compete at about 12 to 15 tournaments per season, ranging from both in-person tournaments, to completely virtual, to hybrid competitions!

If you are interested in auditioning for a scholarship or even participating on the forensics team without a scholarship, I would encourage you to look over the attached information and send in an application so that we can follow up with you in the fall! We are looking for passionate and

motivated students who enjoy speaking on and advocating for important issues through speech and debate activities.

The auditions provide incoming freshman and transfer students an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and their connection to forensics. **The team awards 5-7 scholarships annually based on these auditions, ranging from \$500 to \$3000 each year, renewable for up to 4 years!**

The official audition experience consists of 3 steps:

- 1) An application packet containing information about you, your academic interests, and your interest in forensics;
- 2) A tryout performance; and
- 3) An interview with the current coaching staff.

However, this is not just about scholarships; the weekend should be about learning what your **experience** could be like at Truman and with Truman Forensics. Therefore, we will include some time with Admissions counselors, an opportunity to meet with current team members, and a chance to see some of the work our students have done thus far in the academic year. This weekend is about helping you find your place here at Truman State University.

Below you will find the audition application. If you have any questions about the required application materials or would like more information about the team, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Thank you for your time and, again, congratulations on your acceptance to Truman State University. We hope to welcome you soon to the Bulldog Speech & Debate family!

Sincerely,

Ben Davis, M.A. (he/him)
Director of Forensics
bdavis@truman.edu

Parker Hopkins (he/they)
Assistant Director of Forensics
phopkins@truman.edu

Forensic Service Scholarship Application Form | 2023

Service/Talent Scholarship and/or Robert Newman Debate Scholarship Application Truman State University Forensics

The Truman Forensics scholarship tryout day will be hosted in-person on **Friday and Saturday, March 24th-25th, 2023** on the Truman State University campus.

Service/Talent Scholarships in Forensics are awarded in variable amounts, in consultation with the Office of Admissions at Truman State University. In order to be eligible for these scholarships, students must exhibit demonstrable talent in interscholastic speech and debate activities, outstanding academic potential as a university student, and dedication to a competitive career in intercollegiate forensics.

Students interested in being considered for these scholarships should submit the following materials (with one exception; see Letter of Recommendation) prior to **Friday, March 3rd at 5:00pm**.

- **Application Form** — See the form provided below.
- **Letter of Interest** — A letter explaining why you wish to continue your forensics career with Truman Forensics.
- **Competitive Resume** — A resume of awards/honors won in speech, debate, theatre, mock trial, model UN, or similar speaking and performance related activities.
- **Letter of Recommendation** — A letter from your high school forensic coach/adviser speaking to your background, work ethic, successes, and other relevant qualities/information related to forensics. If you are not currently competing in a forensic program, a letter from a camp lab leader or language arts or social studies instructor should be submitted. *Letters of recommendation may be sent later by your letter writer, but must still be received no later than Friday, March 10th at 5:00pm.*

Invitations to the audition weekend based on these materials will be sent out via email no later than **Wednesday, March 15th at 5:00pm**.

Your application materials may be sent by US mail or as electronic attachments to an e-mail sent to bdavis@truman.edu. They can also be faxed to 660-785-7101. Teachers or coaches are to direct their letters to either address independently of your application materials.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the submission of your application, please feel free to contact us!

US MAIL ADDRESS: Ben Davis, Director of Forensics
Department of Communication
Truman State University
100 E. Normal Ave.
Kirksville, MO 63501

FAX: 660-785-7101

EMAIL: bdavis@truman.edu

Forensic Service Scholarship Application Form | 2023

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:	
Home Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Anticipated Major(s):	
Anticipated Minor(s):	

TRYOUT INFORMATION

The following information will help us plan your participation in the scholarship tryout process. Submitting this application form means you are interested in attending the tryouts if invited. While attendance is strongly recommended for scholarship consideration, if significant conflicts exist, a substitute tryout process may be arranged in coordination with the Truman Forensics directors. Please contact Ben Davis if this is the case (see below).

Would your parent(s)/guardian(s) be accompanying you to tryouts? Yes No

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) if applicable: _____

For the purposes of arranging meals, please note any dietary needs for you or your family:

For **SPEECH AUDITIONS**, we will provide you with example speech sides to select from to prepare for your audition. Each side will be approximately 3-5 minutes of a speech, and may come from a Persuasive Speech, a Poetry Program, or a Prose/DI. The side you choose should be fully memorized for the audition. Sides will be provided in the invitation to the audition day. If you are interested in competing in limited preparation categories, you may choose to perform an Impromptu speech for us, in which case, we will give you a quotation to construct a 5-minute speech from on the day of the auditions.

Applicants interested in competing in **DEBATE (NFA-LD)** should submit one or more of the following:

- A video of a debate in which you are competing (make sure to identify yourself)
- A completed file that you were the sole author of
- A portfolio of evidence you have cut for the previous debate season
- Or any other significant evidence of debate work product.

Based on a review of your debate materials, we will invite you to a virtual interview with the debate coach around the same time as the Speech auditions. Debaters are welcome to attend the audition and university events on Friday and Saturday, but evaluation of application materials and interviews will be conducted virtually.

Please indicate whether you are submitting your application for speech or for debate.

SPEECH

DEBATE