The Beinecke Scholarship, a program of the Sperry Fund, provides $34,000 to juniors planning to pursue graduate study in the arts, humanities, or social sciences. The Sperry Fund will award 20 scholarships in 2015; 125 schools (including UC Berkeley) are each allowed to nominate one applicant. Beinecke Scholars receive $4,000 prior to entering graduate school, and upon entering graduate school, $15,000 per year for the first two years of study. For additional information, visit http://fdnweb.org/beinecke/

The selection process is extremely competitive. Most of the previous recipients were at the top of their class academically and many planned to pursue careers in college teaching and/or research. However, there is no specific preference given to nominees who plan to pursue doctoral studies as opposed to those who plan to pursue a masters degree. In the case of past recipients who planned to attend professional school, their undergraduate program of study usually included a strong background in the liberal arts (often a second major) and/or a well-developed career plan that included a significant commitment to community service.

Eligibility requirements:

- demonstrated superior standards of intellectual ability, scholastic achievement and personal promise
- junior expecting to graduate between December 2015 and August 2016
- U.S. citizen or U.S. national from American Samoa or the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands
- documented history of receiving need-based financial aid

Application procedure:

Since UC Berkeley may nominate only one student for consideration by the Sperry Fund, applicants must submit all application materials to Scholarship Connection by the deadline of February 10, 2015. This early deadline gives the campus selection committee time to carefully review applications and select the campus’ nominee before the Sperry Fund’s February 20th deadline.

To apply, please submit the following to 5 Durant Hall:

Please note that the instructions provided by the Sperry Fund may contradict those on this page. In those cases please follow the instructions below.

- A completed application form. (Including a completed Financial Aid Data sheet)
- A current résumé.
- A personal statement (1,000 words or less) which describes your background, interests, plans for graduate study, and career aspirations. The statement should include a discussion of some experiences and ideas that have shaped those interests, plans, and aspirations.
- One copy of official transcripts from all colleges and universities you have attended. To ensure that your transcripts arrive by the deadline date, do not have them sent to the Scholarship Connection. Instead have the transcripts sent to YOU, or in the case of your Berkeley transcript, ask the Registrar to hold it for you to pick up. All transcripts must be submitted in the original sealed envelope from the university or college Registrar. If you are a transfer student, order official copies from your other school(s) as soon as possible, since it can take several weeks for those transcripts to arrive.
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty members that assess your intellectual curiosity, character, and potential for advanced graduate study. Please ask your recommender to give or send YOU the letter in a sealed envelope with his/her signature across the seal, and submit the sealed envelope with the rest of your application materials.