To ensure that you meet eligibility requirements, please respond to the following questions. Please circle Yes (Y) or No (N).

**Are you . . .**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a citizen or permanent resident of the United States?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>enrolled as a full-time student at Luther College and will have</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>sophomore standing according to Luther College’s graduation requirements after January 2016?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a first-generation college student as established by the U.S. Department of Education <em>(see last page)</em> and/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a student who has a demonstrated need/income level established by the U.S. Department of Education <em>(see last page)</em> and/or</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a member of an underrepresented group in graduate education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, etc.)? and/or</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a student who has followed a non-traditional pathway to college due to exceptional talent and motivation in the face of adversity? and/or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>a student with a demonstrated commitment to applying and including diverse backgrounds and perspectives to learning, scholarship, service, and leadership in the academy?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>able to verify excellent undergraduate academic achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(preferred minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>planning to pursue a doctoral degree or complete graduate studies in humanities, humanistic social sciences, and/or the arts?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>willing and able to participate in all GSEF sponsored events during your Junior and Senior Year?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate School Exploration Fellowship Application Checklist

- Completed entire application
- Requested two faculty recommendations (faculty should submit their letters directly to the dean’s office)
- Completed personal statement
- Completed statement of research interests
- Please tell us how you heard about the GSEF Program: ________________________________

Application Deadline: April 22, 2016

Submit completed applications as a pdf file to:
Janine Brandt @ brandtja@luther.edu
Dean’s Office administrative assistant
Luther College

Application questions should be directed to:
Terry Sparkes, associate dean
sparkete@luther.edu
563-387-1005

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: ________________________________
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Date of birth: ___________________________ 
(Month/Day/Year) 

Student ID #: ___________________________

Address: ______________________________ 
(Street) (City) (State, Zip code)

Email address: __________________________ 

Cell Phone #: __________________________

Sex: ___Male ___Female

Birthplace: ______________________________ 
(City, State, Country)

Citizenship: ___U.S. Citizen ___Permanent Resident ___Other _______________________

Ethnicity / Race (check all that apply):
☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native
☐ Asian American (please specify):________________
☐ Black/African American
☐ Caucasian
☐ Hispanic/Latino(a)
☐ Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
☐ Other (please specify):________________

Check any TRiO program(s) in which you have participated:
☐ Talent Search
☐ Upward Bound
☐ Upward Bound Math/Science
☐ Veterans Upward Bound
☐ EOC
☐ SSS/Luther TRIO Achievement

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

Cumulative GPA:__________ Major GPA:__________

Major:________________________ Minor (if applicable):________________________

Research interest(s):________________________
List the name of up to THREE professors on your home campus who you feel could serve as your Faculty Mentor:

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Preliminary Topic(s) for Summer Research Project:

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

PREFERRED CIC DEPARTMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS
Please indicate if you have any preferences regarding the CIC departments and/or institutions in which you might like to pursue a summer research opportunity. While there is no guarantee that you will be matched with your preferences, the coordinators will do everything possible to try to place you with the departments, individuals, and/or institutions that you list.

STATEMENT OF RESEARCH INTEREST
Your personal statement MUST address the following:

- Provide an understanding of your research areas of interest to the reader
- Why this discipline of great interest to you
- Specific experiences and traits that highlight your academic success and preparation to pursue research

PERSONAL STATEMENT
Your personal statement MUST address the following:

- Why you want to pursue a Ph.D or other graduate studies programs
- What your academic aspirations and career goals include
- How the Graduate School Exploration Fellowship will help you achieve this goal

Length: Two pages or 250 words (maximum), typed, and double-spaced for each statement

FACULTY RECOMMENDATIONS
You must provide the Search Committee with two faculty recommendation letters that assess your ability for academic research as well as your motivation and ability to succeed in graduate school. NOTE: We will only accept letters of recommendation from faculty members who can attest to your ability to do independent research and who understand your desires to obtain a graduate degree. In the spaces below, provide the names and valid email addresses of your faculty recommenders.

Recommender #1

Name:  
Title/Position:  
Extension #:  
Email address:  

Recommender #2

Name:  
Title/Position:  
Extension #:  
Email address:  

SIGNATURE
I certify that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and complete.

Signature:  
Date:  
Federal TRIO Programs
Annual Low Income Levels

(Effective January 28, 2014 until further notice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Family Unit</th>
<th>48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions</th>
<th>Alaska</th>
<th>Hawaii</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$17,505</td>
<td>$21,870</td>
<td>$20,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$23,595</td>
<td>$29,490</td>
<td>$27,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$29,685</td>
<td>$37,110</td>
<td>$34,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$35,775</td>
<td>$44,730</td>
<td>$41,145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$41,865</td>
<td>$52,350</td>
<td>$48,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$47,955</td>
<td>$59,970</td>
<td>$55,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>$54,045</td>
<td>$67,590</td>
<td>$62,160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>$60,135</td>
<td>$75,210</td>
<td>$69,165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For family units with more than eight members, add the following amount for each additional family member: $6,090 for the 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia and outlying jurisdictions; $7,620 for Alaska; and $7,005 for Hawaii.

The term "low-income individual" means an individual whose family's taxable income for the preceding year did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount.

The figures shown under family income represent amounts equal to 150 percent of the family income levels established by the Census Bureau for determining poverty status. The poverty guidelines were published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register on January 22, 2014.
**First-generation:**

An individual, neither of whose parents *completed* a baccalaureate degree;

*or*

An individual who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent and whose supporting parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree.

*or*

If your parent(s) and/or guardian(s) attended college but do not have a bachelor's degree (i.e., did not graduate), you are considered to be first-generation.