Education and Scholarship Resources

Army Emergency Relief is not affiliated with and does not endorse any of the websites listed. This is simply a compiled list of web resources that may provide helpful information. AER does not make any warranty regarding the accuracy or reliability of any information provided in this list. Clicking any link listed below will transfer the user to a page not under AER’s control.

Military Dependents

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/post911_transfer.asp
The Post-9/11 GI Bill allows eligible Service Members to transfer all or some unused benefits to their spouse or dependent children. The request to transfer unused GI Bill benefits to eligible dependents must be completed while serving as an active member of the Armed Forces. Once DOD approves benefits for transfer, the new beneficiaries apply for them at the VA.

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/yellow_ribbon/yellow_ribbon_info_schools.asp
The Yellow Ribbon Program allows US degree granting institutions to enter into an agreement with the VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed either the annual maximum cap for private institutions or the resident tuition and fees for a public institution. The institution can contribute up to 50% of expenses and VA will match the same amount.

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/DEA.asp
The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/fry_scholarship.asp
The Fry Scholarship provides benefits to the children and surviving spouses of an active duty member of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty on or after 9/11. They may receive up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level. Benefits include full tuition and fees, a monthly housing allowance, books and supplies.

http://www.armyscholarshipfoundation.org/
The Army Scholarship Foundation offers scholarships for undergraduate education for dependent children and spouses of U.S. Army Active Duty Soldiers and veterans who received an honorable discharge or were medically discharged.

https://www.ausa.org/resources/scholarships
The Association of the United States Army and its chapters award scholarships to active AUSA member (membership starts at $10 per year) students who enroll in a college-level institution.

https://armydaughters.org/scholarships/
The Society of Daughters awards an annual scholarship to daughters and granddaughters Army career commissioned or warrant officers, active duty or retired. Applicants must be planning to attend or currently attending an accredited post-secondary institution in a degree program.
The Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships and interest-free loans annually to members of AAAA and their spouses, children, and grandchildren of current and deceased members.

AMVETS annually awards scholarships to veterans/active military, their sons, daughters or grand-children. A son, daughter or grandchild of a deceased veteran is also eligible. Awarded on the basis of academic excellence and financial need, the scholarships go to deserving high school seniors, high school JROTC students and veterans pursuing a higher education.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars’ Voice of Democracy program is open to all 9-12 grade students, and awards one national first-place winner a $30,000 scholarship to a U.S. university, college, or vocational/technical school. National scholarships range from $1,000-$16,000, and a first place winner from each state VFW wins an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, DC.

The American Legion has an extensive scholarship program including a legacy scholarship for dependent children of Service Members who died while serving on active duty post-9/11, as well as scholarships for Eagle Scouts and participants in the Boys State and Girls State Programs.

The Purple Heart Scholarship is available to members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, their spouses, children and grandchildren. You must be enrolled full time at an accredited college, university or trade school.

The Military Officers Association of America provides interest-free loans, scholarships and grants to children of active duty or retired military personnel, for up to 5 years of undergraduate education at an accredited 2 or 4-year college or university.

The Scholarships for Military Children program awards one $2,000 scholarship each school year at every commissary location operated by the Defense Commissary Agency worldwide. It is a scholarship program of Fisher House Foundation.

The "Heroes' Legacy Scholarships" program honors soldiers who have fallen in battle, those who have died or have become disabled through their active military service since September 11, 2001. It is open to soldiers’ dependent unmarried children under age 23. It is a scholarship program of Fisher House Foundation.

Operation Second Chance’s scholarship program seeks to further its support for wounded or ill service members or veterans by providing grants of $2,500 or more to dependent children and spouses of qualifying military sponsors. Sponsors are defined by having a VA rating of at least 70% or died in service.
The New York Chapter of the American Logistics Association awards scholarships to children of select active duty, reserve, National Guard or retired members of the US military. Students must plan to enroll full-time in a two or four year college.

The American Patriot Freedom Scholarship Program is operated by Homefront America USA and offers $1,000 scholarships to dependent children of Service Members to use towards a four-year degree, vocational, or technical certificate.

The Military Family Support Trust is available to active duty or retired officers’ children who are high school seniors. Scholarships from $2,000 to $12,000 are available.

ThanksUSA offers college, technical and vocational school needs-based scholarships of up to $3,000 for the children and spouses of active duty US military personnel. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college.

The Folds of Honor provides scholarships to spouses and dependents of active duty soldiers killed or disabled in the line of duty. Awards are for a first bachelor’s degree (no graduate programs) and are up to $5,000 per year.

Provides scholarships for post-secondary students who have lost a parent serving in Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps special operations.

Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for dependent children of active duty Service Members who are either killed or permanently disabled (100% VA rating) as the result of an operational mission or training incident, or who are currently certified as MIA or POW.

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation helps secure college scholarships for military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty. (IHOP)

Scholarships are given to children of post 9/11 killed in action or wounded service members pursuing a bachelor’s or associate’s degree from an accredited institution or certificate trade school.

Paralyzed Veterans of America offers scholarships to members, spouses or children under 24 years. The program provides a $1,000 scholarship to each qualified applicant enrolled at an accredited US college or university.

The Korean American Scholarship Foundation-Eastern Regional Chapter scholarships, ranging from $500 to $5,000, are offered to qualified Korean American students. All applicants must be enrolled in a full time program in the US.
AFCEA (Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association) Educational Foundation has scholarships, grants and tuition assistance for full time undergraduate and graduate students attending four-year US colleges or universities.

The Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation (SMART) scholarship for service program helps students pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in STEM disciplines receive a full scholarship and be gainfully employed by the Department of Defense upon degree completion.

Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund provides scholarships to children, step-children, and legal dependents of full- or part-time permanent federal civilian or postal workers employed with the federal government for more than three years, as well as the employees themselves and their spouses.

Listing of scholarships administered by Scholarship America.

Scholarships.com is a college scholarship search engine and financial aid information resource.

Best Colleges list of 2019 top 50 accredited online colleges and universities.

The College Board administers many of the standardized tests such as the SAT and PSAT for college students. This site includes links to practice tests and other helpful resources such as CLEP. Their scholarship finder is: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search.

For college-bound spouses and children, The Folded Flag Foundation provides scholarships and educational grants to cover tuition, fees, books, computers, living expenses (to include child care for students with young children), tutoring, test prep services, and career prep expenses.

Military Spouses

The National Military Family Association awards military spouse scholarships of up to $1,000. They can be used for vocational training, professional certification, undergraduate and graduate school. You must be a spouse of a member of the seven uniformed services with a valid military ID to be eligible.

The Army Scholarship Foundation offers scholarships for undergraduate education for dependent children and spouses of U.S. Army Active Duty Soldiers and veterans who received an honorable discharge or were medically discharged.
University of Maryland University College (UMUC) awards 15 scholarships for up to $1,500 each for first undergraduate degree military spouses who have never attended UMUC.

Sponsored by the Pat Tillman Foundation, the Tillman Military Scholars program awards scholarships to Veteran and Active-duty military service members (pre- and post-9/11) service and their spouses pursuing an undergraduate, graduate or professional degree.

Created for the spouses of post-9/11 military personnel who have been disabled in service to their country. Scholarships are available for continued education at a reputable, accredited university, college, or trade school.

Operation Second Chance’s scholarship program seeks to further its support for wounded or ill service members or veterans by providing grants of $2,500 or more to dependent children and spouses of qualifying military sponsors. Sponsors are defined by having a VA rating of at least 70% or died in service.

ThanksUSA offers college, technical and vocational school needs-based scholarships of up to $3,000 for the children and spouses of active duty US military personnel. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college.

The Purple Heart Scholarship is available to members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, their spouses, children and grandchildren. You must be enrolled full time at an accredited college, university or trade school.

The Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships and interest-free loans annually to members of AAAA and their spouses, unmarried siblings, unmarried children, and unmarried grandchildren of current and deceased members. Some scholarships are specifically reserved for enlisted, warrant officer, company grade, and Department of the Army Civilian members of AAAA.

The Folds of Honor provides scholarships to spouses and dependents of active duty soldiers killed or disabled in the line of duty. Awards are for a first bachelor’s degree (no graduate programs) and are up to $5,000 per year.

American Military University provides online courses with undergraduate and graduate tuition grants for active-duty service members and their spouses/dependents, Guard, Reserve, and veterans. Military spouses are also eligible for scholarships up to $4,000 for qualified programs.

Purdue University Global online degree program awards military spouses scholarships covering 47% of tuition to pursue licenses, certificates, certifications, or associate’s degrees.
Southern New Hampshire University offers military spouses a 30 percent discount toward online undergraduate degrees and a 25 percent discount for online graduate degrees.

Listing of scholarships administered by Scholarship America.

Scholarships.com is a college scholarship search engine and financial aid information resource.

For college-bound spouses and children, The Folded Flag Foundation provides scholarships and educational grants to cover tuition, fees, books, computers, living expenses (to include child care for students with young children), tutoring, test prep services, and career prep expenses.

Best Colleges list of 2019 top 50 accredited online colleges and universities.

Prior-learning assessments (PLAs) award college credit, certification or advanced standing for a student’s non-academic experiences and training. Thousands of US colleges recognize and grant credit for PLAs.

Financial Aid and Career Resources

Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) form for college students to complete to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

The College Affordability Guide’s provides advice on the options students have to reduce the cost of their degree, and offers an analysis of which colleges are doing the most to make high-quality education affordable.

U.S. Department of Education’s main website for financial aid information.

The U.S. Department of Education College Financing Plan is a consumer tool that participating institutions use to notify students about their financial aid package. It is designed to simplify cost and financial aid information making it easy to compare school packages.

The College Affordability Guide’s provides advice on the options students have to reduce the cost of their degree, and offers an analysis of which colleges are doing the most to make high-quality education affordable.

Private student loans provided by banks, credit unions, and other lenders can help bridge the gap between the financial aid you have already received for college and the total cost of attendance. You can compare interest rates, repayment terms, and eligibility requirements for various private student loan lenders on this site.

**Military Service Members**

The GI bill helps Veterans and their family members get money to cover all or some of the costs for college, graduate school, and training programs. Tuition assistance is based on your time served.

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) is responsible for managing education programs to help military members achieve their education and career goals. The program allows military members to take exams and prove that they have completed courses.

Service Members Opportunity Colleges (SOC) was designed by the Department of Defense to accommodate the constantly moving military member. Courses from more than 1,700 schools and the credits earned can be transferred to any other university at or near military installations in the US and overseas.

Army Tuition Assistance provides financial assistance for voluntary off-duty education programs in support of a Soldier’s professional and personal self-development goals. The program is open to nearly all Soldiers including Army Reserve, and Army National Guard on active duty.

The Army Women’s Foundation Legacy Scholarship Program provides scholarships to women soldiers and their family members pursuing a bachelor’s or master’s degree from accredited institutions of up to $2,500 per year.

AMVETS annually awards scholarships to veterans/active military, their sons, daughters or grandchildren. Awarded on the basis of academic excellence and financial need, the scholarships go to deserving high school seniors, high school JROTC students and veterans pursuing a higher education.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars “Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship” provides service members and veterans with scholarships of up to $5,000. You must be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve.

Sponsored by the Pat Tillman Foundation, the Tillman Military Scholars program awards scholarships to Veteran and Active-duty military service members (pre- and post-9/11) service and their spouses pursuing an undergraduate, graduate or professional degree.
The Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) Scholarship Foundation awards scholarships and interest-free loans annually to members of AAAA and their spouses, children, and grandchildren of current and deceased members.

Student Veterans of America and Raytheon have partnered to provide two $10,000 Raytheon Patriot scholarships to US Army veterans enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs at a four year US college.

Arizona State University Online’s scholarship is awarded to active duty and reservist military students seeking an undergraduate degree. It is available to both Arizona and non-Arizona residents.

The American Council on Education collaborates with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to review military training and experiences and recommend appropriate college credit for members of the Armed Forces. ACE’s credit recommendations appear in the Military Guide. AFCEA (Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association) Educational Foundation has scholarships, grants and tuition assistance for full time undergraduate and graduate students attending four-year US colleges or universities. Their War Veteran Scholarships are available for US military veterans (including Reservists and National Guard Personnel).

Purdue Global University may pay up to $166 per quarter credit hour to a maximum of $4,500 per year in military tuition assistance.

Arizona State University Online is available to active duty and reservist military students seeking an undergraduate degree. It is available to both Arizona and non-Arizona residents.

Prior-learning assessments (PLAs) award college credit, certification or advanced standing for a student’s non-academic experiences and training. Thousands of US colleges recognize and grant credit for PLAs.

WiseGenek Military Appreciation Scholarship for active duty, former and future service members. Must be a US Citizen or permanent legal resident. Application deadline is 12/31/20.
Air Force, Navy, Marine, Coast Guard

https://www.hqafsa.org/apply-for-scholarships.html
The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) and the Airmen Memorial Foundation provide several scholarships ranging from $500 to $3,000. Air Force dependents of active duty, Reserve, Air National Guard, retired, and Veteran status may apply when attending an accredited school. You must be sponsored by a member of the association.

https://afas.org/education-support
The Air Force Aid Society helps dependent children and spouses of active duty and retired Airmen work towards a college degree with education grants, scholarships and loans. Grants ranging from $500-$4,000 are awarded.

https://www.nmcrs.org/pages/nmcrs-gold-star-scholarship-programs
The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society provide scholarships of $500-$2,500 to the children of Navy and Marine Corps personnel who died while serving on active duty or after retirement. Spouses of a service member who died as a result of the USS Stark or Pentagon attack or during service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation New Dawn are eligible.

https://www.usnsfc.com/Foundation/pages/Programs/Scholarship
The Navy Supply Corps Foundation gives scholarships to dependents, grandchildren and spouses of active, reserve or retired officers studying at accredited two or four-year schools. Spouses must be enrolled for a minimum of 6 undergraduate hours per semester.

https://www.fra.org/fra/Web/Web/Content/FRA_Scholarships.aspx
The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) offers scholarships to children of service members in the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Recipients must be full-time students enrolled at an accredited college or university in the United States. Awards are provided up to $5,000 to individuals pursuing college and graduate degrees.

https://www.tailhook.net/tef-home
The Tailhook Educational Foundation awards scholarships to the children and grandchildren of navy aviators, aircrewman, and aircraft carrier personnel. Applicants are eligible for awards from $2,500-$15,000 a year and must attend an accredited college or university.

http://www.wingsoveramerica.us/scholarships
The Wings Over America Scholarship Foundation offers college scholarships to dependent children and spouses of military members from the US Navy's aviation community.

http://www.anchorscholarship.com
The Anchor Scholarship is available to dependents of Navy service members who have served a minimum of six years in a unit under the administrative control of Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Atlantic or Pacific Fleet. You must attend, or plan to attend an accredited four-year college or university and intend to work toward a BS or BA degree to be eligible for this award.
The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has scholarships for active duty, reserve or veteran U.S. Marines. Their Heroes Tribute Scholarship offers awards to children of Marines or former Marines who were killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks or have died in combat since 9/11. The foundation also offers scholarships to grandchildren of certain veterans.

The Coast Guard Foundation offers scholarships to the children and spouses of enlisted and reservist Coast Guard personnel.

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance organization offers Education Loan and Grant Programs to all active duty or retired Coast Guard personnel and eligible family members. They reimburse documented educational costs or provide interest free loans for up to $2,000.