



ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

2020-2021 Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program Spouses of Active, Retired and Deceased Soldiers

GENERAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a non-profit organization with the primary mission of providing financial assistance to Soldiers and their dependents in time of valid emergency need. The Scholarship Program was established in 1976 as a secondary mission to help Army families with undergraduate college expenses.

We communicate **exclusively by email**, therefore we advise you to add scholarships@aerhq.org to your email contacts to prevent our communications from being labeled as spam. If you need assistance or have questions during the application process, email scholarships@aerhq.org.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

- The Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program provides Spouses of active duty or retired Soldiers, and widows(ers) of Soldiers who died either on active duty or in a retired status, with financial assistance to pursue their first undergraduate college degree. Spouses of National Guard/Reserve Soldiers on Title 10 Orders are also eligible.
- Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program offers scholarships based solely on financial need as evidenced by information submitted on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and reported on the Student Aid Report (SAR). *See the FAFSA instructions on the AER website for further guidance.*
- Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program is not an entitlement or automatically approved. Students must reapply each year.
- Award amounts are not guaranteed from year to year and are based on the scholarship budget, total number of applications received, and the student's enrollment; amounts may be adjusted if enrollment status changes after the recipient is awarded.
- Scholarships will be awarded for up to four academic years for full-time students or eight academic years for part-time students. However, students must reapply each year.
- The scholarship funds are mailed directly to the schools, prior to each term, and are to assist with tuition, fees, books and supplies.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Student must be a dependent Spouse and registered as the Spouse of the Soldier in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System).
- Student must be pursuing their first undergraduate degree as a full-time or part-time student in an accredited post-secondary or vocational institution listed in the US Department of Education's Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions (<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>). Those pursuing a second bachelor's degree may be considered on a case by case basis. Does not apply to graduate level courses.
- Student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.
- Student must not be active duty or in a reserve component or a retiree of the Army, National Guard, Reserves, or other military branch. Because financial need is already met, students attending Military Service Academies are not eligible.
- Any Spouse Scholarship recipient who also receives funding from other sources (i.e. GI Bill, scholarships, My CAA, VA benefits, etc.) may not be eligible to receive their full scholarship from AER. ***The Financial Aid Office at each school will determine the recipient's final eligibility based on the complete financial aid package.*** Once all costs are covered, any remaining AER scholarship funds must be returned to AER and will not be disbursed to the student.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The link to the application is <https://aerhq.academicworks.com/opportunities/48>. The application and all required documents (**READ THE DESCRIPTIONS OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BELOW**) must be submitted **online**. **Do not mail or email documents**. There is not a deadline to apply, however, the Application Cycle below will be followed so be sure to apply in time to receive your funds when needed.

Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program 2020-2021 Academic Year Application Cycle			
Cycle	Application Window	Recipients Notified	Disbursement to Schools on or about:
20-1	May, June 2020	7/15/2020	7/31/2020
20-2	July, August 2020	9/15/2020	9/30/2020
20-3	September, October 2020	11/15/2020	11/30/2020
20-4	November, December 2020	1/15/2021	1/29/2021
20-5	January 2021	2/15/2021	2/26/2021
20-6	February 2021	3/15/2021	3/31/2021
20-7	March 2021	4/15/2021	4/30/2021
20-8	April 2021	5/15/2021	5/31/2021
20-9	May 2021	6/15/2021	6/30/2021
20-10	June 2021	7/15/2021	7/30/2021
20-11	July 2021	8/15/2021	8/30/2021
20-12	August 2021	weekly	as needed

DESCRIPTIONS OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. APPLICATION

The 2020-2021 Application is available on 1 May 2020 on our website, www.armyemergencyrelief.org

2. DD214

If the **Student** has prior military service, upload the Student's DD214. If the Soldier is retired, upload the Soldier's DD214.

3. LEAVE AND EARNINGS STATEMENT (LES)

If the Soldier Sponsor is on active duty, the most recent LES must be uploaded.

4. TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts must include all college course work through the student's most recently completed semester/term and show the student's cumulative GPA based on a 4.0 scale. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable and **MUST** show the student's name, school name, cumulative GPA in a **non-editable format (such as pdf)**. If no previous college, upload a letter stating this is the first time the student is going to be enrolled in college classes.

5. 2020-2021 STUDENT AID REPORT (SAR)

The Student Aid Report (SAR) from the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is used to determine each applicant's need. The FAFSA must be completed after 1 October at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. For 2020-2021, the student must use data from his/her **2018 tax return**. The SAR can be downloaded from the FAFSA website a few days after the FAFSA application is completed. **We require the COMPLETE SAR in pdf – please see our SAR instructions for more information.**

6. FEDERAL TITLE 10 ORDERS (if applicable)

If the Soldier Sponsor is on Title 10 Active Guard or Reserve orders, upload a copy of the Title 10 Orders showing federal activation for the entire time the student is applying for a scholarship.

7. CASUALTY REPORT (if applicable)

If the Soldier died while on active duty, upload a copy of the casualty report.

PLEASE NOTE: All documents and the application must be submitted online in pdf or similar non-editable format. AER assumes no responsibility for applications or supporting documents not received by this office or not received in a timely manner. All changes to information must be submitted in writing to scholarships@aerhq.org.