

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

2021-2022 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 **primarily 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 Student Aid Report (SAR) generated after the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is completed. *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 for each term (full time or part time). **Note:** After the initial scholarship award amount is calculated, the amount may be decreased if the applicant's enrollment changes from full time to part time. However, the applicant's award amount will not be increased if the applicant's enrollment changes from part time to full time.
- 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 awarded and mailed or electronically transmitted 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. Scholarship can not be used for 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.

APPLICATION CYCLES AND TIMETABLE

Refer to the Application Cycle Timetable below to determine when you should apply to receive your funds when needed. Based on the Application Window in which you apply, your application will be considered for the applicable semesters listed in the Timetable. **NOTE: We cannot award funds for semesters/terms that have passed as of the date of your application.**

Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program 2021-2022 Academic Year Application Cycle Timetable				
Cycle	Applicable Semesters	Application Window	Recipients Notified by	Scholarship Funds Sent to Schools
21-1	Fall 2021 Spring 2022 Summer 2022	May - June 2021	July 15	Fall: starting in July Spring: starting in December Summer: starting in May
21-2		July - August 2021	September 15	Fall: starting in September Spring: starting in December Summer: starting in May
21-3		September - October 2021	November 15	Fall: starting in November Spring: starting in December Summer: starting in May
21-4		November 2021	December 15	Fall: starting in December Spring: starting in January Summer: starting in May
21-5	Spring 2022 Summer 2022	December 2021	January 15	Spring: starting in January Summer: starting in May
21-6		January 2022	February 15	Spring: starting in February Summer: starting in May
21-7		February 2022	March 15	Spring: starting in March Summer: starting in May
21-8		March 2022	April 15	Spring: starting in April Summer: starting in May
21-9		April 2022	May 15	Spring: starting in May Summer: starting in May
21-10	Summer 2022 Only	May 2022	June 15	Summer: starting in June
21-11		June 2022	July 15	Summer: starting in July
21-12		July 2022	August 15	Summer: starting in August
21-13		August 2022	September 15	Summer: starting in September

After your initial scholarship is awarded, you will receive an email providing your award amount and specific instructions to follow in order to accept your award.

Then, prior to each subsequent semester for which you indicated enrollment on your application, you will receive an email requesting you to confirm your enrollment for the upcoming semester:

- Spring enrollment confirmation emails will be sent beginning November 1st
- Summer enrollment confirmation emails will be sent beginning April 1st

Once you confirm your enrollment, you will receive an email providing your award amount and specific instructions to follow to accept your award.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The application and all required documents must be submitted **online**. **Do not mail or email documents.** (READ THE DESCRIPTIONS OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS BELOW)

1. APPLICATION

The 2021-2022 Application is available on 1 May 2021.

2. DD214

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

3. LEAVE AND EARNINGS STATEMENT (LES)

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

4. TRANSCRIPTS

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

5. 2021-2022 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 may be completed after 1 October for the following academic year at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. For 2021-2022, the student must use data from his/her **2019 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. 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. An ETS date must be provided.

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 uploaded 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.

HOW TO APPLY

The application can be found here <https://aerhq.academicworks.com>

Once you click on the link, you will have to **sign up**, if you are a first-time applicant, or **sign in**, if you are a returning applicant. Once you enter your name in the General Application, you will be directed to the Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program. **Be sure to complete the Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship application and not the MG James Ursano Children's Scholarship application.**