

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

2022-2023 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 and angie.pratt@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 angie.pratt@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 activated on Title 10 Orders are also eligible. **Spouses of Soldiers who have separated from the Army without retiring are not eligible.**
- Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program offers scholarships based solely on financial need as evidenced by the 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. 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, due to budget constraints, the applicant's award amount will not necessarily 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 cannot 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 Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program 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 each term, any remaining AER scholarship funds must be returned to AER.

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.

Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program 2022-2023 Academic Year Application Cycle Timetable				
Cycle	Applicable Semesters	Application Window	Recipients Notified by	Scholarship Funds Sent to Schools
21-1	Fall 2022 Spring 2023 Summer 2023	June 2022	July 15th	Fall: starting in July Spring: starting in December Summer: starting in May
21-2		July 2022	August 15th	Fall: starting in August Spring: starting in December Summer: starting in May
21-3		August 2022	September 15th	Fall: starting in September Spring: starting in December Summer: starting in May
21-4		September 2022	October 15th	Fall: starting in October Spring: starting in December Summer: starting in May
21-5		October 2022	November 15th	Fall: starting in November Spring: starting in January Summer: starting in May
21-6		November 2022	December 15th	Fall: starting in December Spring: starting in January Summer: starting in May
21-7	Spring 2023 Summer 2023	December 2022	January 15th	Spring: starting in January Summer: starting in May
21-8		January 2023	February 15th	Spring: starting in February Summer: starting in May
21-9		February 2023	March 15th	Spring: starting in March Summer: starting in May
21-10		March 2023	April 15th	Spring: starting in April Summer: starting in May
21-11		April 2023	May 15th	Spring: starting in May Summer: starting in May
21-12	Summer 2023 Only	May 2023	June 15th	Summer: starting in June
21-13		June 2023	July 15th	Summer: starting in July
21-14		July 2023	August 15th	Summer: starting in August
21-15		August 2023	on a weekly basis	Summer: on a weekly basis

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

Then, prior to each subsequent semester for which you have indicated enrollment on your application, you will receive an email with your estimated award amount based on the enrollment entered on your application. You will need to reply to accept your award and confirm your enrollment for the upcoming semester.

- Spring award emails will be sent approximately November 1st
- Summer award emails will be sent approximately May 1st

If your enrollment has decreased, your award amount will also be decreased, and we will notify you of the new award amount.

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 2022-2023 Application is available by 1 May 2022.

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 and enter the cumulative GPA as 2.0.

5. 2022-2023 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 2022-2023, the student must use data from his/her **2020 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 guidance.**

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. If you are a returning applicant, **DO NOT USE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS TO CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT**. Please contact us if you don't remember your credentials.

Once you enter your name in the General Application (new applicants only), 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.**