

## 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](mailto:scholarships@aerhq.org) and [angie.pratt@aerhq.org](mailto: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](mailto: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. **We cannot award funds for a semester/term that has already passed as of the date you submit your application. Example: If you apply in June 2023, your application will only be considered for a scholarship for Summer 2023.**

| Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program<br>2022-2023 Academic Year Application Cycle Timetable |                    |   |                        |  |
|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| Cycle   | Application Window | Applicable Semesters                    | Recipients Notified by | Scholarship Funds Sent to Schools                  |
| 1   | June 2022          | Fall 2022<br>Spring 2023<br>Summer 2023 | July 15th              | Fall: July<br>Spring: December<br>Summer: May      |
| 2   | July 2022          |   | August 15th            | Fall: August<br>Spring: December<br>Summer: May    |
| 3   | August 2022        |   | September 15th         | Fall: September<br>Spring: December<br>Summer: May |
| 4   | September 2022     |   | October 15th           | Fall: October<br>Spring: December<br>Summer: May   |
| 5   | October 2022       |   | November 15th          | Fall: November<br>Spring: January<br>Summer: May   |
| 6   | November 2022      |   | December 15th          | Fall: December<br>Spring: January<br>Summer: May   |
| 7   | December 2022      |   | January 15th           | Fall: January<br>Spring: January<br>Summer: May    |
| 8   | January 2023       | Spring 2023<br>Summer 2023              | February 15th          | Spring: February<br>Summer: May                    |
| 9   | February 2023      |   | March 15th             | Spring: March<br>Summer: May                       |
| 10  | March 2023         |   | April 15th             | Spring: April<br>Summer: May                       |
| 11  | April 2023         |   | May 15th               | Spring: May<br>Summer: May                         |
| 12  | May 2023           |   | June 15th              | Spring: June<br>Summer: June                       |
| 13  | June 2023          | Summer 2023                             | July 15th              | Summer: July                                       |
| 14  | July 2023          |   | August 15th            | Summer: August                                     |
| 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 original application. If your enrollment has decreased, your award amount will also be decreased, and we will notify you of the new award amount. Spring award emails will be sent by the end of November and Summer award emails will be sent by the end May.

## 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 June 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](mailto: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.**