

ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF 2024-2025 Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program for Spouses of Active, Retired and Deceased Soldiers

GENERAL INFORMATION

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, please 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 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 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 Index (SAI) on the FAFSA Submission Summary 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).
- Applicants may apply at any time during the year. Please refer to the following Time Table for details on the application cycles and awarding schedule
- A recipient is eligible to receive scholarships for up to the equivalent of four academic years of full-time study. An application must be submitted once for each academic year (fall, spring, and summer).
- After the scholarship application is approved, the recipient will receive an email providing the award amount, based on the enrollment on the application, and instructions to accept the award. Then, prior to each subsequent semester for which the applicant has indicated enrollment on the application, an email will be sent with the semester's award amount. **The Time Table shows the dates these emails will be sent.**
- The scholarship funds are mailed or electronically transmitted directly to the schools (based on the school's preference) each semester; the recipient will also be notified. Funds are to assist with tuition, fees, books, and supplies.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Applicant must be a dependent Spouse and registered as the Spouse of the Soldier in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System).
- Applicant 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.
- Applicant must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale.
- Applicant must not be on active duty, 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. **Please consult with your Financial Aid Counselor; 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 semester/term, any remaining AER scholarship funds will not be provided directly to the recipient and must be returned to AER.

APPLICATION CYCLES AND TIME TABLE

Refer to the Application Cycle Time Table below to determine when the applicant should apply to receive funds when needed. The submission date of the application determines for which semesters/terms the application will be considered for a scholarship. **We cannot award funds for a semester/term that has already passed as of the date we receive the application.** **Example:** An application submitted in January 2025 will only be considered for a scholarship for Spring 2025 and Summer 2025.g

Mrs. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program 2024-2025 Academic Year Application Cycle Time Table				
Cycle	Application Submitted	Awarded for School Semesters/Terms	Recipients Notified	Scholarship Funds Sent to Schools
1	June 2024	Fall 2024 Spring 2025 Summer 2025	July 15th	Fall: July Spring: December Summer: May
2	July 2024		August 15th	Fall: August Spring: December Summer: May
3	August 2024		September 15th	Fall: September Spring: December Summer: May
4	September 2024		October 15th	Fall: October Spring: December Summer: May
5	October 2024		November 15th	Fall: November Spring: January Summer: May
6	November 2024		December 1st	Fall: December Spring: January Summer: May
7	December 2024	Spring 2025 Summer 2025	January 15th	Spring: January Summer: May
8	January 2025		February 15th	Spring: February Summer: May
9	February 2025		March 15th	Spring: March Summer: May
10	March 2025		April 15th	Spring: April Summer: May
11	April 2025		May 15th	Spring: May Summer: May
12	May 2025	Summer 2025	June 15th	June
13	June 2025		July 15th	July
14	July 2025		August 15th	August
15	August 2025		on a weekly basis	August/September

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 2024-2025 Application is available by 1 June 2024.

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. **Do not upload Orders unless the Soldier is on Title 10 Orders.**

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 applicant is going to be enrolled in college classes and enter the cumulative GPA as 2.0.

5. 2024-2025 FAFSA Submission Summary (formerly SAR)

The FAFSA Submission Summary from the FAFSA application is used to determine each applicant's need. The 2024-2025 FAFSA must be completed at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. FAFSA will notify the applicant when the FAFSA Submission Summary can be downloaded from the FAFSA website. We require the complete FAFSA Submission Summary; do not upload FAFSA emails, confirmations, or any other correspondence from FAFSA. **Refer to our FAFSA 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 must be uploaded in pdf or similar non-editable format. All changes to submitted information must be submitted in writing to scholarships@aerhq.org.

HOW TO APPLY

- ❖ Please be sure to read all the information above in this document before continuing. It is all important and will prevent unnecessary emails, phone calls, and confusion.
- ❖ 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**. You may also be asked to create a Blackbaud ID; this is a requirement from our software provider. When you create a Blackbaud ID, use the same email address you have used to sign up. **DO NOT USE A NEW EMAIL ADDRESS**. Please email scholarships@aerhq.org 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.**