



ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

2026-2027 MG James Ursano Scholarship Program for Dependent Children of Active, Retired and Deceased Soldiers

GENERAL INFORMATION

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a nonprofit organization with the primary mission of providing financial assistance to Soldiers and their dependents in time of valid emergency need. The MG James Ursano Scholarship Program is funded by donations and was established in 1976 as a secondary mission to help Army families with undergraduate college expenses for their dependent children.



We communicate primarily by email; therefore, we advise you to add scholarships@aerhq.org, angie.pratt@aerhq.org, and jessica.e.ballard@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 MG James Ursano Scholarship Program offers need-based scholarships to dependent children of Army Soldiers. Need is determined by the results of the 2026-2027 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for each applicant. **See the FAFSA Instructions on the AER website for FAFSA guidance.**
- The MG James Ursano Scholarship Program is not an entitlement and applications are not automatically approved. **Students must reapply each year** and are eligible to receive funds for up to four academic years of full-time enrollment.
- Because AER is funded by donations, award amounts vary and are not guaranteed from term to term year. Award amounts are determined based on the total budget allotted, number of applications received, and each applicant's Student Aid Index (SAI) reported on the FAFSA Submission Summary.
- Students are awarded by email prior to the fall and spring semesters and must accept their awards for each semester. The scholarship funds are mailed or transmitted electronically **directly to the school** and may be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing (either on or off campus), and food.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Student must be a dependent of a Soldier on federal active duty, a retired Soldier, or a deceased active or deceased retired Soldier. Children of National Guard/Reserve Soldiers are eligible if the Soldier is on Title 10 Orders for the entire academic year.
- Student must be registered as a dependent of the Soldier in DEERS (Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System).
- Student must be under the age of 24 (eligibility ends at the end of the semester in which the student reaches their 24th birthday. Example – turning 24 in December would mean the scholarship would be awarded for the fall semester ONLY.)
- Student must remain unmarried for the entire academic year.
- Student must not be a member of the National Guard, Reserves, or other military branch.
- Student must not have already earned a bachelor's degree and must be enrolled, accepted, or pending acceptance as a full-time student in an accredited post-secondary or vocational institution listed in the US Department of Education's Database <https://ope.ed.gov/dapip/#/home>. The MG James Ursano Scholarship will not be awarded for second bachelor's degrees or for graduate degree programs.
- Because financial need is already met, a student attending a Military Service Academy is not eligible.
- Student must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Any MG James Ursano Scholarship recipient who also receives funding from other sources (i.e., GI Bill, school or organizational scholarships, 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 student's complete financial aid package.** No student can receive funding above the school's established Cost of Attendance – once all costs are covered, the school must return any remaining funds to AER.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The application is available starting 1 January 2026. The application must be complete, and all required documents **must be uploaded in a non-editable format (such as pdf) by midnight EDT on 1 April 2026. Do not mail or email documents.** All changes to information furnished to AER must be submitted in writing to scholarships@aerhq.org.

DESCRIPTIONS OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS – ALL DUE BY midnight EDT on 1 April 2026.

1. APPLICATION

The 2026-2027 MG James Ursano Scholarship Application is available after 1 January 2026. Click this link to access the application: <https://aerhq.academicworks.com>



APPLICATION LINK

2. TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts must include all completed course work **through the student's FALL 2025 SEMESTER** and reflect the student's cumulative GPA based on a 4.0 scale. If the student has previous college credit, upload college transcripts. If no previous college, upload high school transcripts. **Unofficial transcripts are acceptable if they include the student's name, school name, and cumulative GPA based on a 4.0 scale.** Transcripts must be in a **non-editable format (such as pdf)**.

3. 2026-2027 FAFSA Submission Summary (formerly SAR)

The FAFSA Submission Summary from the FAFSA application is used to determine each applicant's need. The 2026-2027 FAFSA must be completed at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. You will be notified by FAFSA 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.**

4. LEAVE AND EARNINGS STATEMENT (LES)

If the Soldier sponsor is on active duty, the most recent LES must be provided.

5. 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 academic year. **Exceptions may be made to this requirement with a smaller award offered for a single semester based on active duty dates.

6. DD214 (if applicable)

If the Soldier Sponsor is retired, upload a copy of the DD214.

7. CASUALTY REPORT (if applicable)

If the Soldier died while on active duty, upload a copy of the Casualty Report.

TIMETABLE

1 January	Application available
1 April	Deadline to submit application and all required documents
By mid May	Scholarship award notices for Fall term are emailed to all recipients
By end of July	Scholarship funds for Fall term are sent to schools after recipients accept awards
By end of November	Scholarship award notices for Spring are emailed to all recipients
By end of December	Scholarship funds for Spring term are sent to schools after recipients accept awards