

## Education Scholarships for U.S. Army Special Forces Families

The mission of the Green Beret Foundation (GBF) is to provide for all generations of the U.S. Army Special Forces Regiment and its families with emergency, immediate, and ongoing support. GBF works very closely with other nonprofits to ensure that it is spreading the umbrella of support as wide as possible. GBF also works with other organizations to ensure it is not duplicating services and utilizing the donor dollars as effectively and efficiently as possible. To this point, GBF has prepared the following primer on education scholarships available to U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers, spouses, and children. This primer will be updated periodically to reflect the most up to date information so bookmark this document for future reference. De Oppresso Liber.

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## Scholarships for Military Spouses

### [Green Beret Foundation Athena Scholarship](#)

The Green Beret Foundation will award six Special Forces spouses who are pursuing their **undergraduate** or **graduate** degrees with \$5,000 each. Funds will be paid directly to the educational institutions.

**Application Window: Feb 1 through March 15**

Learn More: [greenberetfoundation.org/athena-scholarship/](https://greenberetfoundation.org/athena-scholarship/)

### [National Military Family Association - Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarship](#)

Funds may be used for tuition, course or lab fees, program costs, program fees or exam costs/fees. In addition to college courses towards **any level degree** or **certificate**, scholarship funds may be used for professional expenses such as licensure/certification (or renewal), **CEU's**, **professional examinations** and **other related expenses** such as fingerprinting and background check fees, or clinical supervision of mental health license hours. Business Owners: Funding can be used for **military spouse-owned business** needs including, but not limited to: inventory and merchandise, business marketing, branding, manufacturing, supplies, permits, additional supplies.

**Application Window: Year-Round**

Learn More: [www.militaryfamily.org/programs/spouses-scholarships/](https://www.militaryfamily.org/programs/spouses-scholarships/)

### [Pat Tillman Foundation](#)

Active-duty personnel, veterans, and their **spouses (this includes surviving spouses)** may apply for this scholarship that honors remarkable service members pursuing an **undergraduate**, **graduate**, or **professional degree**. Applicants who are selected are recognized as "Pat Tillman Scholars" and are invited to professional workshops and training. The application includes two essay questions, a character recommendation, and proof of military service. Students must enroll full time in a degree program. Scholarship amount average is \$10,000 per academic year.

**Application Window: December 1, 2024 through February 1, 2025**

Learn More: [pattillmanfoundation.org/apply/](https://pattillmanfoundation.org/apply/)

### [Ms. Patty Shinseki Spouse Scholarship Program](#)

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. Scholarships are based solely on **financial need**.

**Application Window: Application Cycle Timetable can be found on the website.**

**Last Updated: 8 January 2025**





Learn More: [www.armyemergencyrelief.org/scholarships/spouse/](http://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/scholarships/spouse/)

### Folds of Honor

Dependents and/or spouses of **fallen, disabled, and Purple Heart** recipient service members pursuing higher education can apply for the Military Higher Education scholarship.

Classification must be one of the following:

- KIA – must provide DD1300
- Killed in the Line of Duty (includes suicide) – must provide DD1300
- Deceased with a VA disability rating - post separation (includes accident, illness or suicide) – must provide service member’s DD214 AND the following applicable document(s):
  - ● If death was deemed service-connected: Service member’s VA Decision Letter verifying the service member died due to a service-connected disability, OR
  - ● If death not deemed service-connected: Service member’s final VA Benefit Summary Letter (10% or higher), AND a state-issued death certificate
- Disabled with a VA disability rating (10% or higher for Higher Education) – must provide service member’s current year VA Benefit Summary Letter AND DD214
- Active Duty (MUST have a PURPLE HEART) – must provide service member’s current duty orders AND Purple Heart documentation. \*Only applicable for Higher Education applicants\*

**Application Window: February 1 through March 31**

Learn More: [foldsofhonor.org/scholarships/military-scholarships/](http://foldsofhonor.org/scholarships/military-scholarships/)

## Scholarships for Military Children

### Special Operations Warrior Foundation - (Pre-school to Career)

Special Operations Warrior Foundation ensures complete post-secondary educational support and additional educational opportunities “cradle to career,” for eligible **surviving children of fallen Special Operations Personnel, children of all Medal of Honor Recipients, and children of active duty Special Operations Personnel whose non-military spouse passes away on or before September 1, 2018**; and provides immediate financial assistance to severely wounded, ill, and injured Special Operations Personnel — today and in the future.

**Application Window: SOWF reaches out directly to eligible families.**

Learn More: [specialops.org/](https://specialops.org/)

### Duskin & Stephens Foundation - (K-12)

The Duskin and Stephens Foundation has historically awarded \$3,000 of tuition per year for up to three years paid directly to each recipient's school. The scholarships will cover up to \$3,000 of the tuition costs per year for three consecutive years - for a total award of \$9,000.

**Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:**

- Applicant's legal guardian is a current Special Operations Soldier, Sailor, or Marine OR applicant is a Gold Star family member of a former SOF soldier.
- Applicant is a rising K-12th grader who attends a state or federally accredited private school.

**Application Window: Can be found on the website. 2024 Closed on March 15, 2024.**

Learn More: [www.duskinandstephens.org](https://www.duskinandstephens.org)

### Folds of Honor - (K-12)

Scholarships for dependents of fallen or disabled service members in **K-12** can apply for the **Military Children's Fund** scholarship. Applicant must be: enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited private school OR tutoring institution (must be fully enrolled before accepting a scholarship award offer).

Classification must be one of the following:

- KIA - must provide DD1300
- Killed in the Line of Duty (includes suicide) - must provide DD1300
- Deceased with a VA disability rating - post separation (includes accident, illness or suicide) - must provide service member's DD214 AND the following applicable document(s):
  - If death was deemed service-connected: Service member's VA Decision Letter verifying the service member died due to a service-connected disability, OR
  - If death was not deemed service-connected: Service member's final VA Benefit Summary Letter (90% or higher), AND a state-issued death certificate.

**OR**



- Disabled with a VA disability rating (90% or higher for Children's Fund) - must provide service member's current year VA Benefit Summary Letter AND DD214.

**Application Window: February 1 through March 31**

Learn More: [foldsofhonor.org/scholarships/military-scholarships/](https://foldsofhonor.org/scholarships/military-scholarships/)

### SFA Scholarship - Children and Grandchildren

The Special Forces Association scholarship fund was established to help **dependents** and **grandchildren** of Special Forces Association members pursuing collegiate academic goals. Awardees serve as a local voice for the Special Forces Association and community, representing the motto of Special Forces, "De Oppresso Liber", helping others towards freedom from oppression. This SFA scholarship is highly competitive.

**Application Window: June 1 through June 30**

Learn More: [www.specialforcesassociation.org/sfa-scholarship/](https://www.specialforcesassociation.org/sfa-scholarship/)

### Special Forces Scholarship Fund Powered by Green Beret Foundation

Scholarships are awarded annually and limited to **undergraduate** and **graduate** studies that result in a degree or **vocational certification** from an accredited institution. SF Scholars will receive no more than four (4) annual scholarships for undergraduate studies and two (2) scholarships for graduate studies.

**Application Window: February 1 through March 15**

Learn More: <https://greenberetfoundation.org/sf-scholarship-fund/>

### American Legion

The American Legion's scholarships provide financial assistance to high school students with exceptional academic and leadership qualities, including those participating in youth programs or connected to military service. There are various scholarships available, each with specific requirements and application windows.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is a **needs-based** scholarship for the children of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as children of **post-9/11 veterans** having been assigned a **combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater** by the Department of Veterans Affairs also qualify.

**Legacy Scholarship Application Window: Current through March 26, 2025**

Learn More: <https://www.legion.org/get-involved/scholarships>

**Last Updated:** 8 January 2025





### Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program

Dependent Children -active, retired, deceased while active.

The Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship Program is based on **applicants' financial needs** and was established to assist Children of Soldiers in obtaining their first **undergraduate** degrees. Applicants may receive assistance for up to four academic years but must meet eligibility criteria and reapply each year.

**Application Window: January 1 through April 1**

Learn More: [www.armyemergencyrelief.org/scholarships/child/](http://www.armyemergencyrelief.org/scholarships/child/)

### Fisher House Foundation - Scholarships for Military Children Program

Unmarried military dependent children under the age of 23 - active, reserve/guard, deceased, or retired

500 scholarship grants, each for \$2,000, will be awarded to scholarship recipients There is **at least one recipient selected at every commissary** location where qualified applications are received. Additional recipients are chosen on a prorated basis. Therefore, more applicants may be selected from those commissaries with more significant numbers of applicants.

**Application Window: December 11, 2024 through February 12, 2025**

Learn More: [fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs/scholarships-for-military-children/](http://fisherhouse.org/programs/scholarship-programs/scholarships-for-military-children/)

### No Greater Sacrifice

No Greater Sacrifice (NGS) is dedicated to the children of our nation's **fallen and wounded Service members** (post 9/11/01) by delivering scholarships and resources to improve their quality of life through the pursuit of higher education. NGS defines "higher education" as advanced learning through a bachelor's degree or associate's degree from an approved institution or certificate from a trade school.

**Application Window: Can be found on the website each year, expectation for 2025, is January 2025.**

Learn More: [nogreatersacrifice.org/who-we-help#g-feature](http://nogreatersacrifice.org/who-we-help#g-feature)

### Folds of Honor

Scholarships for dependents of **fallen, disabled, and Purple Heart** recipient service members pursuing higher education can apply for the **Military Higher Education** scholarship.

Classification must be one of the following:

- KIA – must provide DD1300
- Killed in the Line of Duty (includes suicide) – must provide DD1300

**Last Updated:** 8 January 2025





- Deceased with a VA disability rating - post separation (includes accident, illness or suicide) – must provide service member’s DD214 AND the following applicable document(s):
  - ● If death was deemed service-connected: Service member’s VA Decision Letter verifying the service member died due to a service-connected disability, OR
  - ● If death not deemed service-connected: Service member’s final VA Benefit Summary Letter (10% or higher), AND a state-issued death certificate
- Disabled with a VA disability rating (10% or higher for Higher Education, 90% or higher for Children’s Fund) – must provide service member’s current year VA Benefit Summary Letter AND DD214
- Active Duty (MUST have a PURPLE HEART) – must provide service member’s current duty orders AND Purple Heart documentation. \*Only applicable for Higher Education applicants\*

**Application Window: February 1 through March 31**

Learn More: [foldsofhonor.org/scholarships/military-scholarships/](https://foldsofhonor.org/scholarships/military-scholarships/)



## Scholarships for Green Berets

### Veterans Affairs GI Bill

If you qualify for the maximum benefit, we'll cover the full cost of public, in-state tuition and fees. We cap the rates for private and foreign schools, and update those rates each year.

- **Money for housing (if you're in school more than half time).** We'll base your monthly housing allowance on the cost of living where your school is located.
- **Money for books and supplies.** You can receive up to the maximum stipend per school year.
- **Money to help you move from a rural area to go to school.** You may qualify for a one-time payment if you live in a county with 6 or fewer people per square mile and you're either moving at least 500 miles to go to school or have no other option but to fly by plane to get to your school.

\*This resource can be transferred to eligible family members.

Learn More: [www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/](http://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/post-9-11/)

### CSM (Ret) Bennie Adkins Scholarship Powered by GBF

This educational scholarship is provided to deserving Special Forces qualified personnel seeking higher education as a means of assisting in their transition into civilian life. Scholarship funds can be used for tuition, books, fees, room and board, and other direct associated costs of higher education. Funds will be transferred directly to the accredited institution.

#### Eligibility:

- Eligible candidates must be active-duty Special Forces soldiers, have recently separated within the last five years, or be retired within the previous five years.
- The applicant must have been accepted by or already attending an accredited college, university, or vocational institution.
- For more information please contact [anna@greenberetfoundation.org](mailto:anna@greenberetfoundation.org).

#### **Application Window: Year-Round**

Learn More: <https://greenberetfoundation.org/csmr-bennie-adkins-scholarship/>

### CPT James Ahn Memorial Scholarship

Captain James Ahn, a graduate of UC Riverside and the Claremont McKenna College Army ROTC program, died in 2015 during a parachute training operation while participating with his Special Forces unit in Washington State. In James' honor, we are sponsoring an annual scholarship of \$1,000 to a Special Forces **Veteran** who is working towards the completion of a higher education degree.

#### **Application Window: Can be found on the website, but generally due by June each year.**

Learn More: <https://rotcconsulting.com/cpt-james-ahn-memorial-scholarship/>



### LunaCap Foundation

LunaCap Foundation awards scholarships to active military, veterans, and/or students of Mexican descent entering **their first, full-time** top-tier MBA program at an **eligible school**.

Ten - \$10,000, one-time, need-based scholarships awarded annually each July to help offset the cost of education for eligible candidates attending top-tier MBA school programs, (see eligible MBA schools on application).

**Application Window: January 2 through March 31**

Learn More: [www.lunacapfoundation.org/](http://www.lunacapfoundation.org/)

### Farm Veteran Coalition

The Farmer Veteran Fellowship Fund is a small grant program that provides direct assistance to veterans who are in their beginning years of farming or ranching. The Fellowship Fund does not give money directly to the veteran, but rather to third-party vendors for items the veteran has identified will make a crucial difference in the launch of their farm business. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

**Application Window: January 3 through February 14**

Learn More: [farmvetco.org/fvfellowship/](http://farmvetco.org/fvfellowship/)

## Scholarships for All Members of the Family

### Purple Heart Foundation Scholarship

The Purple Heart Foundation in-house academic scholarships are available to Purple Heart recipients and their direct descendants (including spouses, children, and grandchildren). These scholarships can be used to cover the cost of additional fees associated with higher education, such as:

Tuition  
Room & Board  
Book Fees  
Incidental Fees  
& Other Direct Costs

**Application Window: Opens February 3**

Learn More: <https://purpleheartfoundation.org/services/>

### Military Order of the Purple Heart Purple Heart Scholarship

The Purple Heart Scholarship Program is a competitive program that awards scholarships to Purple Heart recipients and their spouses, children, and grandchildren each year. At least one applicant with military service will be awarded the Navy SEAL LT Michael Murphy Memorial Award.

**Application Window: March 1 through June 1**

Learn More: <https://purpleheart.org/ScholarshipProgram>

### Patriot Foundation - NC Families

Scholarships are available to the children and spouses of fallen or disabled veterans, children of injured active-duty service members, as well as qualifying disabled veterans. Applicants must be **NC residents** accepted to or attending NC **post-secondary** institutions. Disabled veterans must have a VA disability rating of **at least 50%**. To view the scholarship program's eligibility requirements and learn more about the application process, see below.

**Application Window: April 1 through May 15**

Learn More: [patriotfoundation.org/nc-patriot-star-family-recovery-scholarship-program](https://patriotfoundation.org/nc-patriot-star-family-recovery-scholarship-program)



### [Association of the United States Army \(AUSA\) Scholarships](#)

AUSA Premium Members, Association Members, and their dependents (to include children, spouses, and grandchildren) are eligible to apply. Scholarship opportunities available include those for general studies, STEM, Army, and Non-AUSA programs.

**Application Windows: Can be found on the website.**

Learn More: <https://www.ausa.org/scholarships>

### [Fastweb Scholarship Finder](#)

Fastweb is a free scholarship search platform that connects students to scholarships and financial aid tools. Our goal is to help you find scholarships to make school more affordable.

Learn More:

<https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships/articles/college-scholarships-for-military-children-spouses>