

The Georgia HERO (Helping Educate Reservists and their Offspring) Scholarship program was established to provide educational grant assistance to eligible members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists who served in combat zones as well as the children or the spouses of those service members.

Who Qualifies?

Category A: Service Members

Eligible students must:

- Be a member of the Georgia National Guard or a U.S. Military Reservist, and
- Have completed at least one qualifying term of service

A qualifying term of service is defined as:

- Deployment outside the United States and its territories;
- On or after February 1, 2003
- To a location designated by the U.S. Department of Defense as a combat zone,
- For a cumulative total of at least 181 days

Category B: Children of Service Members

Eligible students must:

- Be the biological child, adoptive child, or legal ward of a qualifying Georgia National Guard member or U.S. Military Reservist, and
- Have been 25 years old or younger during the qualifying term of service

A qualifying term of service is defined as:

- Deployment outside the United States and its territories;
- On or after February 1, 2003
- To a location designated by the U.S. Department of Defense as a combat zone,
- For a cumulative total of at least 181 days

Category C: Children of Deceased or Totally Disabled Service Members

Eligible students must:

- Be the biological child, adoptive child, or legal ward of a Georgia National Guard member or U.S. Military Reservist who was
 - Killed, or
 - Declared 100% disabled as a result of injuries sustained in a qualifying combat zone, and
- Have been 25 years old or younger during the qualifying term of service

A qualifying term of service is defined as:

- Deployment outside the United States and its territories;
- On or after February 1, 2003
- To a location designated by the U.S. Department of Defense as a combat zone

Category D: Surviving Spouses

Eligible students must:

- Be the surviving spouse of a Georgia National Guard member or U.S. Military Reservist who
 - Was killed in a qualifying combat zone, or
 - Died as a result of injuries sustained in a qualifying combat zone during the qualifying term of service

A qualifying term of service is defined as:

- Deployment outside the United States and its territories;
- On or after February 1, 2003
- To a location designated by the U.S. Department of Defense as a combat zone

Award Details

- Maximum per year: Up to \$2,000
- Maximum lifetime award: \$8,000
- Available for two semesters or three quarters: Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring
- Award amounts and eligibility are determined in accordance with program guidelines and available funding

Eligibility Time Limits

- Eligible students may receive funding for up to four award years

Who Can Apply?

To be eligible, the student must:

1. Be enrolled in a credit-earning undergraduate or graduate program at an eligible Georgia college
2. Be a Georgia resident for at least 12 months before classes start
3. Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
4. Meet your college's satisfactory academic progress
5. Not be in default on any federal or Georgia student loans
6. Male applicants must meet Selective Service requirements

Selective Service Requirement

If you were assigned male at birth, you must be registered with Selective Service by age 26.

GSFA will verify your status.

More info: www.GAfutures.org

Required Documents:

1. Copy of DD-214 military record or other acceptable military documentation for the Georgia National Guard member or the U.S. Military Reservist
2. Copy of student's birth certificate, adoption document, or legal guardianship document (Categories B and C only)
3. Copy of death certificate (Category C and D only, if applicable)
4. Copy of military record of injury (Category C and D only, if applicable)

How to Apply

1. Complete Part A of the HERO Scholarship Application
2. Send application to your college's Financial Aid Office
3. The Financial Aid Office completes Part B
4. Upload the completed application and required documentation at GAfutures.org
5. GSFA reviews your application and documentation
6. The applicant and your college are emailed with your eligibility status
7. If you transfer colleges, submit a new application through your new college's Financial Aid Office
 - a. Must attend an Eligible Postsecondary Institution
8. Apply each academic year you wish to receive the HERO Scholarship

PART A – STUDENT COMPLETE THIS PART

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Last Name (Please Print) | | First Name | Middle Initial | 2. Gender (Assigned at Birth) <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female | |
| 3. Social Security Number | | | | 4. Date of Birth (MM/DD/CCYY) | |
| 5. Permanent Mailing Address: | | | City | State | Zip Code |
| 6. Age | 7. U.S. Citizenship Status U.S. Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Resident Alien <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> | | | 8. Email Address (Personal Email) | |
| 9. Are you applying as a GA National Guardsman or Reservist? | | | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Are you applying as a dependent of a GA National Guardsman or Reservist? | | | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Are you applying as a spouse of a GA National Guardsman or Reservist? | | | | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. How long have you lived in Georgia? (Years/Months) | | 13. Do you have a bachelor's degree? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | | 14. Are you on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| 15. Is Georgia currently shown as your home state or record? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | | | 16. Indicate the two semesters or three quarters with the number of hours you plan to enroll Summer <input type="checkbox"/> Fall <input type="checkbox"/> Winter <input type="checkbox"/> Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

STUDENT CERTIFICATION, AUTHORIZATION AND AGREEMENT

I certify the information reported above, and on any other document or writing in connection with this application for student financial assistance is or will be true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize use of the information on this form by the Georgia Student Finance Authority as described in the Instructions. I authorize release and exchange of information between the Georgia Student Finance Authority and educational institutions, state and federal agencies, and private lending institutions from which student financial assistance is sought or obtained by me, and agree that such information exchanged may include financial, enrollment, academic status, legal residency and location information necessary to assure proper administration of student aid programs by state, federal and institutional administrators.

Student Signature

Phone Number

Date Signed

PART B – FINANCIAL AID OFFICER COMPLETE THIS PART

Complete Part B, Check Part A is complete, and upload this App Page to GSFA through GAfutures Postsecondary Functions > Document Upload module.

AWARD AMOUNTS: Maximum Award for Undergraduate Full-Time (12 or more hours) is \$1,000 per semester or \$700/\$700/\$600 per quarter. Hourly Undergraduate rate for less than 12 hours: \$83.33 per semester or \$55.55 per quarter hour. Maximum Award for Graduate (9 or more hours) is \$1,000 per semester or \$700/\$700/\$600 per quarter. Hourly Graduate rate for less than 9 hours: \$111.11 per semester or \$74.04 per quarter hour.

REQUESTED AWARD AMOUNTS:

List the award amount for each term of enrollment. The annual award amount limit is \$2,000, not to exceed the Eligible Postsecondary Institution's cost of attendance after all other scholarships and grants are applied.

Summer 2026 _____ Fall 2026 _____ Winter 2027 _____ Spring 2027 _____

FINANCIAL AID OFFICER CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information reported above, as well as the following, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that the student: (1) is or will be a legal resident of Georgia for a minimum of 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the first day of classes of the school term for which funds are sought; (2) is a U.S. citizen or eligible permanent resident alien; (3) is in a matriculated status in a program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; (4) is maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the Title IV standards and practices of the institution; (5) must not be in default on a Federal Title IV or State of Georgia educational loan; and (6) meets Selective Service requirements.

Authorized Signature

School Official's Email Address

Postsecondary Institution

Date Signed