



HATS OFF FOR VETERANS

2026 HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

SCHOLARSHIP OPENS FEBRUARY 1, 2026, AND CLOSES ON MARCH 31, 2026.

Dear Veteran:

Thank you for applying for the 2026 Hats Off For Veterans (HOFV) Higher Education Scholarship.

If you are a United States military veteran pursuing your first undergraduate degree, this scholarship is intended to recognize and support your academic goals. While the GI Bill provides important educational benefits, the HOFV Higher Education Scholarship offers supplemental financial assistance to help veterans overcome additional financial barriers as they transition from military service to higher education.

This scholarship is exclusively for veterans who are enrolled in or accepted to a college or university and are working toward their first undergraduate (bachelor's) degree.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- Two (2) awards of \$2,000 will be granted for the 2026 academic year.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Be a United States military veteran
- Be pursuing your first undergraduate (bachelor's) degree
- Be enrolled at least part-time at a college or university
- Be a legal resident of the state of Texas
- Provide a copy of DD-214 (required)
- Provide proof of Texas residency (Texas driver's license or state ID)
- Provide proof of college enrollment or acceptance for the 2026 academic year

NOT ELIGIBLE

- Two-year and associate degrees
- Graduate or postgraduate students
- Veterans pursuing a second bachelor's degree
- Spouses or dependents of service members
- Active-duty members



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If you do not meet the eligibility criteria for our higher education scholarship, we encourage you to apply for the HOFV Professional Development Grant. This incentive grant aims to assist veterans in advancing their employment and educational prospects through professional development initiatives. The application can be accessed on our website at www.HOFV.org.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Completed applications must be received no later than March 31, 2026, by 11:59 PM (CST). Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

SUBMISSION METHODS

Email submissions must be sent to Lisa@HOFV.org and time-stamped no later than March 31, 2026, at 11:59 PM (CST).

Hard copy submissions must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2026, and mailed to:

HOFV Scholarship Department
P.O. Box 1689
Kyle, TX 78640

Applications are evaluated according to a numerical scoring system determined by the HOFV Scholarship Committee. Recipients will be notified individually and announced publicly on Friday, April 17, 2026.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at Lisa@HOFV.org, or call 512-682-5333.

Thank you for your service and for submitting your application for the 2026 HOFV Higher Education Scholarship. We wish you the best of luck in the selection process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lisa Adams'.

Lisa Adams, CEO



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TODAY'S DATE: _____

SECTION I — APPLICANT PERSONAL INFORMATION

I've applied for this scholarship before. Yes— Year Applied: _____ | No—

Full Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Texas County of Residence: _____ Telephone Number: _____

SECTION II — MILITARY SERVICE (Check all that apply):

Please indicate the branch or branches in which you served.

-
- U.S. Army
 - U.S. Army Reserve
 - Army National Guard
 - U.S. Marine Corps
 - U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
 - U.S. Navy
 - U.S. Navy Reserve
 - U.S. Air Force
 - U.S. Air Force Reserve
 - Air National Guard
 - U.S. Space Force
 - U.S. Coast Guard
 - U.S. Coast Guard Reserve
 - Other: _____

I have an honorable discharge. Yes— No— Other— If no/other, please explain:



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I have a copy of my DD-214. Yes— No— *(A copy of your DD214 must be provided with this application to be eligible to apply.)*

I am a Disabled Veteran. Yes— No— I am recognized at _____ % Disability.
Please note that appropriate documentation is required to confirm your military disability status.

SECTION III — CURRENT EDUCATION INFORMATION

QUESTION

RESPONSE

This will be my FIRST undergraduate (bachelor's) degree

Yes No

Student Status – Fall 2026

Full-Time Part-Time Online Classes

College or University

School Address

City, State, Zip Code

Declared Major

Minor (if applicable)

Current Classification

Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Current GPA

_____ N/A (Entering as Freshman)

Anticipated Graduation Date (MM/YYYY)

_____/____

I have attached a copy of my 2026 school registration with this application. **Please read the notice below for more information.*

Yes No



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SECTION IV — PERSONAL ESSAY

Use additional paper for the following requested information. If emailing your application, be sure to save your essay in a Microsoft Word or PDF format. **DO NOT USE AI OR CHATGPT!**

Applicant must submit a typed, original personal essay that meets all of the following requirements:

- Minimum 500 words **but not more than 750**
- **12-point font**
- **1.5 or double spaced**
- Submitted as a **Microsoft Word (.docx) or PDF** file if emailing

In your essay, address **all** the following:

- a. Why did you join the military and what were your primary duties?
- b. What are your most proud achievements aside from joining the military?
- c. Please provide a detailed explanation of how you plan to utilize the scholarship funds. Be sure to include specific goals or objectives that the funding will help you achieve, such as tuition, educational resources, personal or professional development, or financial assistance towards cost of living.
- d. Explain why you believe you deserve this award, highlighting your achievements, dedication, and how receiving the scholarship will impact your academic and professional aspirations.

⊘ ESSAYS GENERATED BY ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TOOLS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED! This includes, but is not limited to, content generated by: ChatGPT, Grammarly AI, Jasper, QuillBot, or any other AI-assisted writing platform

➡ Any essay determined to be written in whole or in part by AI will result in immediate disqualification, with no appeal. Applicants are expected to submit **their own original work**, written in their **own voice**, based on **personal experience**. The HOFV Scholarship Committee reserves the right to use AI-detection tools and manual review processes to evaluate authenticity.



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SECTION V — LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

1. Applications must include letters of recommendation.
 - a. Three (3) letters of recommendation including their current contact information are required.
 - b. All three letters of recommendation must be from non-family members. Examples include recommendations from individuals who can highlight your military career, your present employer, a teacher, a past leader or mentor.
 - c. HOFV will verify all letters of recommendation.
 - d. Please feel free to attach more than three letters. We appreciate reading about all of your accomplishments and achievements.

These materials can help provide additional evidence of your qualifications, accomplishments, and character. Including such documentation may strengthen your application by giving the scholarship committee a more comprehensive understanding of your background, contributions, and potential. Please ensure that all attached documents are relevant, up-to-date, and clearly labeled for easy review by the committee.

SECTION VI — ACCOMPLISHMENTS & AWARDS

Please provide details of any civic or volunteer activities including any honors, awards, or leadership positions you have held.

Please provide details of any military-related awards and honors you have.



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SECTION VII — MEDIA RELEASE & PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AUTHORIZATION FORM

Hats Off For Veterans (HOFV) celebrates the achievements of the veterans we serve. If selected as a scholarship recipient, HOFV may publicly announce your award.

By signing below, you grant Hats Off For Veterans permission to use and publish the following information for promotional and informational purposes related to the scholarship award:

AUTHORIZATION ITEM

CONSENT

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Use of my full name | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Use of my declared major / field of study | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Use of my college or university name | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Use of my photograph / headshot | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

HOFV maintains a strict policy of not disclosing personal information, including your mailing address, phone number, birthdate, or any other sensitive details.

Approved uses may include, but are not limited to: print media, digital publications, HOFV websites, newsletters, email communications, and social media platforms.

If selected, please include a recent headshot or professional photograph with your application or be prepared to provide one upon request for public announcement purposes.

Applicant Full Name (Printed): _____

Applicant Signature and Date: _____ **Date:** _____



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SECTION VIII — FINAL CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE PAGE

By signing below, I certify that all information provided in this application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false, misleading, or incomplete information may result in disqualification from the scholarship process or revocation of an awarded scholarship.

I confirm that I am a United States military veteran pursuing my first undergraduate (bachelor's) degree and that I meet all eligibility requirements for the 2026 Hats Off For Veterans (HOFV) Higher Education Scholarship.

I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with all application requirements, including submission deadlines, documentation requirements, essay guidelines, and media release terms. I understand that late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

I grant Hats Off For Veterans permission to verify all information submitted as part of this application, including military service, academic enrollment, and supporting documentation.

Applicant Full Legal Name (Printed): _____

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Office Use Only:

Date Received: _____

Application Complete: Yes No

Received By: _____

Forward to Committee: Yes No



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APPLICANT CHECKLIST — 2026 HOFV HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Use this checklist to ensure your application is complete before submission. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

<u>REQUIRED ITEM</u>	<u>COMPLETED</u>
Completed all sections of the 2026 HOFV Scholarship Application	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signed and dated the application	<input type="checkbox"/>
Confirmed eligibility as a U.S. military veteran pursuing first undergraduate degree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of DD-214 attached	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of Texas residency (Texas driver's license or state ID) attached	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proof of enrollment or acceptance for the 2026 academic year attached	<input type="checkbox"/>
Completed Current Education Information section	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal Essay (minimum 750 words, typed, correct formatting, NOT AI-generated)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Three (3) letters of recommendation from non-family members with contact information	<input type="checkbox"/>
List of school-sponsored activities, accomplishments, or leadership roles	<input type="checkbox"/>
List of military awards and honors (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
List of civic or volunteer activities (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media Release & Public Announcement Authorization completed and signed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recent headshot or professional photo included or available upon request	<input type="checkbox"/>