Scholarship Guidelines

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants to the ThanksUSA Scholarship Program must:
- Be dependent children[1], age 24 and under (as of the 5/15/2014 application deadline), of U.S. military service personnel[2]
- **or** be spouses of U.S. military service personnel[2]
- **and** be current high school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll or students who are already enrolled in undergraduate study at an accredited two-or four-year college or university or vocational-technical school for the entire 2014-15 academic year. Dependent children must enroll full-time.[3] Spouses may attend full or part-time.[3]
- **and** have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average (GPA) on a 4.00 scale or its equivalent on their relevant academic record (e.g., high school record for incoming freshmen or postsecondary school record for those already enrolled in a college, university or vocational/technical school).

[1]Dependent *children are defined as natural and legally adopted children or stepchildren living in the service member's household and/or primarily supported by the service member.*

[2]*U.S. military personnel are defined as those who have served full-time for at least 180 days since 9/11/01 and all those who have been either killed or wounded in action since 9/11/01. U.S. military personnel are defined as members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard. Members of the military reserves who have been activated to full-time duty and members of the National Guard who have been federalized and who otherwise meet the requirements are both eligible. **Retired or discharged service personnel are eligible to apply but must have served 180 days after 9/11/01. Public Hea**lth Employees are ineligible to apply.*

[3]*Full-time study is defined as full-time enrollment (usually considered to be 12 credits per term) for the entire 2014-15 academic year. Part-time is defined as a minimum of 6 credits per term of the entire academic year.*

What will be awarded?

If selected as a recipient, the student will receive an award of $3,000 for educational expenses. Awards are not renewable. Students may reapply in subsequent years if ThanksUSA is offering the same scholarship program.

Three types of scholarships will be awarded:

1. **Awards granted to dependent children are for first-time undergraduate study** at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school and are NOT for non-degree licensure/certificate programs or graduate study.
2. **Awards granted to spouses** may be used for a first-time undergraduate degree at an accredited two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school. **Spouses may also use the award for non-degree licensure/certification programs regardless of whether an undergraduate degree has already been completed.** (Examples include post teaching degree credentials, nursing license after degree, ongoing real estate classes to

keep licensure up-to-date.) Spouses may attend part-time (minimum 6 credits per term). **Graduate degrees are ineligible.**

3. **Kaplan University** is proud to offer one full undergraduate scholarship through ThanksUSA for an **eligible military spouse.** Click here to return to the ThanksUSA website for complete details including eligibility and other terms and conditions.

Both dependent children and spouses who have completed a vocational program or associate's degree may use the award for study toward a first-time bachelor's degree. Master's programs or graduate-level study are not eligible.

Students enrolled at a Military Academy are not eligible to apply. If a student decides to attend a service academy after receiving an award, the award will be forfeited.

How many scholarships will be awarded this year?

ThanksUSA will award up to 500 scholarships in 2014. Of those 500, one will be a full undergraduate scholarship for an eligible spouse through Kaplan University's online program.

How do I apply?

The first step in applying for any of the three scholarship types is to create your application account and complete your student profile. To begin click on the Create an Account link *at the bottom of* this page.

You may wish to gather the following information that will be needed for the application process:

- U.S. Military Service Personnel's Social Security Number and base or unit location information
- Student and U.S. Military Service Personnel email addresses
- List of student's involvement in school activities, church activities and community activities (Please be thorough.)
- Student's transcript of grades - unofficial copies are accepted - see below for those requirements
- Short statement of student's educational and career objectives
- Financial information from the family's most recently submitted tax return (See Financial Instructions for help completing this section of the application.)

The link to your application is displayed on the Student Overview page of this site. Your Student Profile is NOT your application. Your application will remain available for updates until you submit it. After it is submitted, your application data can be reviewed or printed for your files, but no further updates can be made.

During the application process, you will be able to leave the site by clicking on the Log Out button located on any application *page.* To log in, you must enter your username and password. **Standard capitalization (Jill Smith, not jill smith or JILL SMITH) must be used when entering data.** Once the application is submitted, no further revisions can be made. Carefully review your application before submission. Be sure your application is complete before hitting the Lock and Submit button. After you submit *the application*, no changes can be made, but you will have access to your scholarship account to view your submitted application and to modify your profile, if needed.

Are any documents required?

Yes! You must also upload the following documents:
- Evidence of active military duty (this may consist of a Statement of Service, a letter or written statement from the Personnel Department or the Commanding Officer, a copy of Duty Orders, a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty or a DD 214). Do not send a copy of your military I.D.
- A current, complete transcript of grades. Grade reports are not accepted. Unofficial and online transcripts must display student name, school name, grades and credit hours for each course and term in which each course was taken.
- A photo of the applicant (no other people should be in the photo - it must be a photo of the applicant alone). Size requirements: minimum 2x3 inches, maximum 4x6 inches.
- If applicable, documentation of injury sustained in the line of duty, disability determination or copy of death certificate for killed in the line of duty must be submitted.

If you are not able to upload the documents, they may be mailed to Scholarship Management Services postmarked no later than May 15, 2014. Write the applicant's name and application ID number on each document and on the back of photographs.

Mail to:
ThanksUSA Scholarship Program
Scholarship Management Services
One Scholarship Way
Saint Peter, MN 56082

When is the program deadline?

Your application must be submitted electronically by **11:59 p.m. CDT on May 15, 2014**. All of the required documents must be uploaded by **11:59 p.m. CDT on May 15, 2014** or mailed to Scholarship Management Services postmarked no later than that date.

How are recipients selected?

Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of financial need, academic record, demonstrated leadership and participation in school, church and community activities, a statement of goals, and unusual personal or family circumstances. Preference will be given to children or spouses of service personnel killed or injured during active duty. Financial need as calculated by Scholarship Management Services must be demonstrated for the student to receive an award.

Recipients are selected by Scholarship Management Services and ThanksUSA. Decisions of the selection committee are final and are not subject to appeal. The program is competitive; not all applicants will be selected as recipients.

How and when will I be notified?

All applicants will be notified in August. Notification will be sent to non-recipients by email to the email account that is listed in their student profile. Letters will be mailed to those selected to receive an award. Not all applicants to the program will be selected as recipients. Students may reapply in subsequent years if ThanksUSA is offering the same scholarship program.

What are a recipient's responsibilities?

- Recipients must complete and submit a Scholarship Acceptance Form by the indicated deadline. Details will be provided in the notification email to recipients.
- Recipients must notify their school about the award and deliver the scholarship check to the school in a timely manner.
- Recipients must notify Scholarship Management Services of any changes in address, school enrollment, or other relevant information and send a complete transcript when requested.
- Dependent Children must maintain full-time enrollment as defined by their school (usually considered to be a minimum of 12 credits). If they drop below full-time, they forfeit their award.
- Spouses must maintain a minimum of 6 credits per term or they will forfeit their award.

How and when are scholarships paid?

- Payments for students **not** attending Kaplan University will be in two installments in late September and January.
- Checks are payable to the school for the student and mailed to the recipient's home address.
- The Kaplan University scholarship recipient will receive details concerning his/her scholarship in his/her award letter.

ThanksUSA reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program.

Questions? Contact us

Support for telephone calls/emails will end at 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on 5/15/2014.

Email: thanksusa@scholarshipamerica.org
Call: 1-507-931-0631

Visit www.thanksusa.org.

Create an Account