

# 2019 ThanksUSA Scholarship Program

## Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants to the ThanksUSA Scholarship Program must:

- Be dependent children<sup>1</sup>, age 24 and under (as of the 5/15/2019 application deadline), of U.S. military service personnel<sup>2</sup>,
- **or** be spouses of U.S. military service personnel<sup>2</sup>
- **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 2019-20 academic year. Dependent children must enroll full-time.<sup>3</sup> Spouses may attend full or part-time.<sup>3</sup>
- **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). **Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA to qualify for the Purdue University Global awards.**

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. military personnel are defined as those who have served full-time for at least 180 days after 9/11/01 and all those who have been either killed or wounded in action after 9/11/01. U.S. military personnel are defined as members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard. U.S. military personnel are further defined as 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. Spouses and dependent children of retired or discharged service personnel are eligible to apply but military member must have served 180 days after 9/11/01. Spouses and dependent children of Public Health Employees are not eligible to apply.

<sup>3</sup>Full-time study is defined as full-time enrollment (usually considered to be 12 credits per term) for the **entire 2019-20 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 full-time or part-time (minimum 6 credits per term). **Graduate degrees are ineligible.**
3. In honor of the commitment and sacrifice made by our military and their families, Purdue University Global is proud to offer several scholarships through ThanksUSA for **eligible military spouses and dependent military children**. Applicants must meet all ThanksUSA eligibility guidelines, have a 3.0 GPA from high school or prior college coursework, and be a first-time student to Purdue University Global. [Click here to return to the ThanksUSA website](#) for complete details including eligibility and other terms and conditions.

Purdue University Global will provide three different types of scholarship awards: (Applicants must have a GPA of a 3.0 or higher.)

1. Purdue University Global will provide 5 full-tuition (4-year) ThanksUSA/Purdue University Global Scholarships to military spouses and dependent military children.

2. Purdue University Global will provide 5 full-tuition and 5 partial-tuition (47%) scholarships to military spouses who are licensed registered nurses who want to enhance their education by obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). **Students must provide a copy of their current nursing license.**
3. Purdue University Global will provide 5 full-tuition and 5 partial-tuition (47%) scholarships to military spouses and dependent military children who currently hold an associate's degree and would like to earn their bachelor's degree through Purdue University Global. **Students must provide a copy of earned Associate's degree.**

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.

Scholarship recipients will be invited to participate in ThanksUSA's initiative **Pathways for Patriots** which includes networking, mentoring, and internship opportunities. [Please click here to return to ThanksUSA's website for details.](#)

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.

## Helping Hand Scholarship

In addition to the criteria described above, to be eligible for a Helping Hand Scholarship an individual must be a spouse or child of United States military personnel, including National Guard and Reserves, who have been disabled (physically or mentally) or are fallen during their service.

- Helping Hand Scholarship recipients must begin their post high school education at a community college of their choice and complete the applicable requirements in connection with receiving an Associate degree. A recipient must take a minimum of 12 units per semester. Such eligible recipient may receive up to \$4,000 per year provided they continue to meet the Sponsor's applicable scholarship criteria;
- Helping Hand Scholarship recipients who wish to continue their education to obtain a four-year Bachelor's degree following completion of their applicable community college degree are eligible to receive up to \$15,000 per year provided they continue to meet the Sponsor's applicable scholarship criteria and take a minimum of 12 units per semester;
- Helping Hand Scholarships are renewable up to three years and granted up to a maximum of \$38,000;
- Helping Hand Scholarship recipients must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or greater each and every semester.
- Applicants must provide a financial aid award letter and similar documentation as may be requested by Sponsor to determine their financial need prior to granting a final award amount or renewal award amount;
- Helping Hand Scholarship finalists will be selected by Scholarship America pursuant to Sponsor's current practice with a final scholarship award determination to be performed by Sponsor, and will be based on financial need and scholastic capabilities. The financial need shall be weighted twice as important as scholastic capability.
- One scholarship will be named the "Helping Hand Educational Fund/ThanksUSA" for the 2019-2020 academic year.

## Pathways for Patriots

The Pathways for Patriots program combines the monetary support of a ThanksUSA scholarship with professional development made available through networking, mentoring and internship opportunities. By pairing scholars and sponsors with mutual academic and career goals, ThanksUSA will facilitate meetings, events and opportunities designed to develop working relationships between the parties. These relationships will help you in your educational and professional development as you hold mentoring sessions, attend networking events and apply for internship opportunities. We are confident that you will find these benefits highly valuable to your overall success during school and following graduation.

## How many scholarships will be awarded this year?

ThanksUSA will award approximately 300 scholarships in 2019. Several will be scholarships for eligible spouses and dependent children through Purdue University Global.

## 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 base or unit location information.
- Student email address.
- 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 and 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 suitable for publication/media release (**no other people should be in the photo -- it must be a photo of the applicant alone**). Size requirements: minimum 202x288 pixels, maximum 384x576 pixels (file size 2 MB or less).
- 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 applicable, a copy of your current nursing license (RN). (For RN to BSN award.)
- If applicable, a copy of earned Associate's degree. (For Purdue University Global Associate's to Bachelor award.)

If you are not able to upload the documents, they may be mailed to Scholarship America postmarked no later than May 15, 2019. Write the applicant's name and application ID number on each document and on the back of photographs.

Mail to:

ThanksUSA Scholarship Program  
Scholarship America  
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, 2019**. All of the required documents must be uploaded by **11:59 p.m. CDT on May 15, 2019** or mailed to Scholarship America 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 evaluation of personal essay. Preference will be given to children or spouses of service personnel killed or injured during active duty. Financial need as calculated by Scholarship America must be demonstrated for the student to receive an award.

Recipients are selected by Scholarship America, ThanksUSA and Purdue University Global. 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.

Helping Hand Scholarship finalists will be selected by Scholarship America pursuant to the Helping Hand Administration's current practice with a final scholarship award determination to be performed by the Helping Hand Administration, and will be based on financial need and scholastic capabilities. The financial need shall be weighted twice as important as scholastic capability.

## 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 letter 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 America 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 will be in two installments in August and December.
- Scholarship America mails scholarship checks (payable to the educational institution) to student recipients, or sends funds via EFT directly to participating institutions.
- The Purdue University Global scholarship recipients will receive details concerning their scholarship in their 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.

## Contact Us

Support for telephone calls and [Contact Us](#) submissions will end at 4:00 p.m. Central Daylight Time on May 15, 2019.

Call: 1-507-931-8209 and ask for the ThanksUSA Scholarship Program

Visit [www.thanksusa.org](http://www.thanksusa.org).