

Georgia HERO Scholarship Program

Information and Application Instructions

Program Information

The Georgia HERO (Helping Educate Reservists and their Offspring) Scholarship program was created to provide educational grant assistance to members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reservists who served in combat zones or the children of such members of the Georgia National Guard and U.S. Military Reserves. The Georgia HERO Scholarship Program is administered by the Georgia Student Finance Authority (GSFA).

General Student Eligibility Requirements

The following requirements apply to all categories of HERO Scholarship recipients:

1. Must be enrolled or accepted for admission in an eligible Georgia college or university.
2. Must meet Georgia residency requirements, as defined by GSFA.
3. Must meet U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien requirements, as defined by GSFA.
4. Must be in a matriculated status in a program of study leading to a college Degree, Technical diploma, or Technical certificate.
5. Must not be obligated to pay a refund on a GSFA or Federal Title IV grant or scholarship.
6. Must not be in default on a GSFA or Federal Title IV student educational loan.
7. Must meet Federal Selective Service registration requirements.
8. Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in accordance with the Federal Title IV standards and practices of the institution.
9. Must be in compliance with the Georgia Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990.

Selective Service Status

For males (assigned at birth) 18-26, you must meet the Selective Service registration requirement. GSFA will check the student's Selective Service Registration Status. For more information visit www.GAfuture.org.

Specific Eligibility Requirements for Categories of Students

In addition to the General Student Eligibility Requirements, a HERO Scholarship recipient must meet all of the specific requirements for one of the following four categories of students.

Category A

The eligible student must be a member of the Georgia National Guard or be a U.S. Military Reservist who completed at least one qualifying term of service. A qualifying term of service is defined as deployment overseas, on or after February 1, 2003, for active service to a location outside of the United States and its territories designed by the U.S. Department of

Defense as a combat zone, for a cumulative period of at least 181 days.

Students who meet the requirements for Category A are eligible to receive HERO Scholarship funds of up to \$2,000 per award year, for a total of four award years and a maximum of \$8,000.

Category B

The eligible student must be the biological child, adoptive child, or legal ward of a member of the Georgia National Guard or the U.S. Military Reserves who completed at least one qualifying term of service. The student must have been age 25 or younger during the qualifying term of service. A qualifying term of service is defined as deployment overseas, on or after February 1, 2003, for active service to a location outside of the United States and its territories designed by the U.S. Department of Defense as a combat zone, for a consecutive period of at least 181 days.

For each qualifying term of service cumulative, the student earns HERO Scholarship funds of up to \$2,000 for one award year. The maximum benefit is four award years for a total of \$8,000.

Category C

The eligible student must be the biological child, adoptive child, or legal ward of a member of the Georgia National Guard or the U.S. Military Reserves who was killed or received 100 percent disability as a result of injuries received in an eligible combat zone. The student must have been age 25 or younger during the qualifying term of service. A qualifying term of service is defined as deployment overseas, on or after February 1, 2003, for active service to a location outside of the United States and its territories designed by the U.S. Department of Defense as a combat zone. There are no minimum days of service required for Category C.

Students who meet the requirements for Category C are eligible to receive HERO Scholarship funds of up to \$2,000 per award year, for a total of four award years and a maximum of \$8,000.

Category D

Be a surviving spouse of a member of the Georgia National Guard or U.S. Reserves who was killed in a combat zone or died as a result of injuries received in a combat zone. The member must have been deployed outside of the United States for active duty service on or after February 1, 2003 to a location designated as a combat zone. The surviving spouse must file an application for the initial Georgia HERO Scholarship award each year but no later than two calendar years following the death of the member and no award can be issued later than eight calendar years after the initial award was issued.

Students who meet the requirements for Category D are eligible to receive HERO Scholarship funds of up to \$2,000 per award year, for a total of four award years and a maximum of \$8,000.

Required Documentation

1. Copy of DD214 military record or other acceptable military documentation for the Georgia National Guard member or the U.S. Military Reservist.
2. Copy of the student's birth certificate, adoption document, or legal guardianship document. (Categories B and C only.)
3. Copy of death certificate. (Category C only, if applicable.)
4. Copy of military record of injury. (Category C only, if applicable.)

CONTACT US

Georgia Student Finance Authority
770.724.9249 • 800.505.GSFC (4732)
GAfuture.org

WARNING: Any person who intentionally makes or furnishes a false statement or misrepresentation on this form, or on any form or writing hereafter furnished for use in connection with this application, and any person who accepts or uses the same knowing it to be false, for the purpose of enabling the student to establish eligibility for, or to wrongfully receive, state student aid funds, may be subject to fine or imprisonment, or both, under provisions of Georgia law.

PART A. STUDENT: COMPLETE THIS PART (ITEMS 1-18)

1. Email Address (Required)		2. Last Name (Please Print)		First Name	Middle Initial
3. Social Security Number		4. Permanent Mailing Address (Number, Street, Apt., P.O. Box, RFD, etc.)			
5. Date of Birth (Mo/Day/Yr.)		City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number
6. Age	7. Gender (Assigned at birth) A. ___ Male B. ___ Female		8. U. S. Citizenship Status A. ___ U.S. Citizen B. ___ Permanent Resident C. ___ Other		
9. Email Address			10. How long have you lived in Georgia immediately preceding the first school term for which you are requesting aid? ____ Years ____ Months		
11. Are you applying as a GA National Guardsmen or Reservist? Yes ___ No ___					
12. Are you applying as a dependent of a GA National Guardsmen or Reservist? Yes ___ No ___					
13. Are you applying as a spouse of a GA National Guardsmen or Reservist? Yes ___ No ___					
14. Do you have a baccalaureate degree? A. ___ Yes B. ___ No		15. Are you on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces? A. ___ Yes (Complete Items 16-17) B. ___ No (Go to Item 18)		16. Is Georgia currently shown as your home state of record? Yes or No	17. Do you pay Georgia State Income Tax? A. ___ Yes B. ___ No
18. Choose any two semesters or three quarters for which aid is requested and indicate, to the best of your knowledge, the number of hours you plan to enroll each term. ____ Summer ____ Fall ____ Winter ____ Spring					

STUDENT CERTIFICATION, AUTHORIZATION AND AGREEMENT

I certify that 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

Area Code and Telephone Number

Date Signed

STUDENT: PROVIDE YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO YOUR SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL AID OFFICE

PART B. FINANCIAL AID OFFICER: COMPLETE THIS PART

All required documents must be attached. Complete Part B below and upload the application and documents to GSFA through GAfutures' secure Postsecondary Function Upload Documents module as soon as possible.

Award Amount:

Will awarding of this scholarship exceed the student cost of attendance? Yes ___ No ___ School Name _____

List the dollar amount of the award per the student's request on Part A, number 18.

____ Summer 2024 ____ Fall 2024 ____ Winter 2025 ____ Spring 2025

****Students are paid \$1,000/semester or \$700/quarter if enrolled in 12 or more quarter hours of undergraduate coursework or enrolled in nine or more hours of graduate coursework. If enrolled in three quarters, one quarter must be awarded at \$600, in order not to exceed the \$2,000/year maximum award. Students enrolled for less than 12 hours are paid \$83.33/semester or \$55.55/quarter of Undergraduate coursework. Graduate students enrolled for less than 9 hours are paid \$111.11/semester or \$74.07/quarter hours.**

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 that the student: (1) is enrolled or accepted for admission as an undergraduate or graduate student; (2) is or will be a legal resident of Georgia for a minimum of 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the date of registration; (3) is a U.S. citizen or eligible permanent resident alien; (4) is in a matriculated status in a program leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; (5) is maintaining satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the Title IV standards and practices of the institution; (6) does not owe a refund from a GSFA or Federal Title IV grant or scholarship; (7) is not in default on any GSFA or Federal Title IV student loan; (8) meets Selective Service requirements; and (9) is in compliance with the Drug Free Postsecondary School Act.

Authorized Signature

Federal School Code

School Official's Email Address

Date Signed

Direct Telephone Number