



ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR THE KANSAS HERO'S SCHOLARSHIP – MILITARY

WHAT BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE?

The Kansas Hero's Scholarship Act (K.S.A. 75-4364) establishes a waiver which provides an opportunity for eligible dependents and spouses of certain deceased or disabled military servicemembers to attend an eligible public Kansas postsecondary educational institution without payment of tuition and required fees. The student will be responsible for all other charges associated with the student's academic program. This waiver is only available for undergraduate coursework.

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Fall Semester: October 1

Spring Semester: March 1

Summer Semester: June 1

This scholarship is awarded on a first come, first served basis and funding is limited. Applicants are encouraged to submit the completed application and required documentation as soon as they know which eligible school they will be attending. Waivers are guaranteed only up to the amount of funding available each year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Dependents or spouses of a current or former military servicemember, provided that the servicemember is a current resident of the State of Kansas (or was a resident of the State of Kansas at time of death) **AND** falls into one of the following categories:

- Died while serving in the military, **OR**
- Sustained a service-connected injury or disability that rendered the servicemember incapable of continuing such military service; **OR**
- Is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 80%.

Please review the "Required Documentation" section on page 2 and "Definitions" on page 3 to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements and provide the relevant documentation. Applicant must submit documentation showing all requirements are met by the applicant and servicemember.

WHERE CAN ELIGIBLE STUDENTS RECEIVE THE HERO'S SCHOLARSHIP?

Public Kansas postsecondary educational institutions, which includes public technical colleges, public community colleges, public state universities, and Washburn. This scholarship is not available for attendance at private or independent institutions. This scholarship is not available at out-of-state institutions.

LENGTH OF ELIGIBILITY:

Each eligible dependent or spouse may qualify for tuition and fee waivers for a total of ten (10) semesters of **undergraduate instruction**. Summer semesters are eligible for funding and count as 1/3 of a semester of eligibility. Eligibility will begin during the first semester following the application. If currently enrolled when applying, eligibility will start during the current semester for which an applicant met the application deadline. Eligibility is NOT retroactive – we cannot provide this benefit for semesters that have already passed.

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals who are also using Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits should carefully consider how the Hero's scholarship may affect those benefits. We encourage students to talk with their school's military-affiliated centers/staff about how to maximize all of their entitlements.

Please review the required documentation listed on the next page.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

The following documentation must be submitted along with the application; applications without complete documentation will not be considered. The application is on page 4.

1) Please provide documentation for one Category below

- a) **Category 1: *Death during military service:*** The servicemember died while serving in active military service.
 - i) A copy of the servicemember's DD214 and/or other separation documents; **AND**
 - ii) A copy of the DD Form 1300 showing the servicemember's death occurred while the servicemember was on active duty.

- b) **Category 2: *Service-connected Disability – incapable of continuing military service:*** The servicemember sustained a service-connected injury or disability that rendered the servicemember incapable of continuing their military service.
 - i) A copy of the servicemember's DD214 and/or other separation documents; **AND**
 - ii) Evidence that proves the injury/disability caused the servicemember to be incapable of continuing their military service.

- c) **Category 3: *Service-connected Disability – 80% disability or more:*** The servicemember is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 80%.
 - i) A letter from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) outlining that the servicemember has a service-connected disability, including the combined percentage rating of service-connected disability evaluation of 80% or more, dates of service, and the effective date of the latest disability determination.

2) **Proof that the servicemember is a Kansas resident:**

- a) *For deceased servicemember, death certificate should be sufficient in most cases, but additional documentation may be requested if residency at time of death cannot be clearly determined.*
- b) A copy of the servicemember's last Leave and Earnings statement or a copy of page 1 of the servicemember's most recent state income tax returns.; **OR**
- c) A copy of the servicemember's current Kansas-issued ID card, or a copy of the servicemember's Kansas voter registration record; **AND**
- d) A copy of a recent utility bill or equivalent with the servicemember's name and current address and date listed on it (no more than two months old).

3) **Proof of relationship between applicant and servicemember:**

- a) ***Spouse:*** A marriage certificate providing evidence of marriage between the applicant and the servicemember.
- b) ***Dependent:*** A birth certificate or a certificate of adoption showing the relationship between the applicant and the servicemember. In the case of a stepparent who has not legally adopted the applicant, acceptable documentation would include a marriage certificate between the military personnel and the biological/adoptive parent, as well as a birth certificate or adoption certificate with the biological/adoptive parent's information listed. In the case of dependents who are neither children nor stepchildren of the servicemember, please contact us for guidance on acceptable documentation.

DEFINITIONS (in alphabetical order):

Dependent: Includes birth child, adopted child, stepchild, or any other child who is dependent in whole or in part to such individual by marriage or consanguinity.

Injury or disability: any lesion or change in the physical structure of the body causing damage or harm thereto that is not transitory or minor AND occurred only by accident, intentional act of violence, or repetitive trauma.

Required fees: Charges required by an institution to be paid by every student as a condition of enrollment. These do not include other charges associated with the student's academic program or living costs, such as program/lab/course fees, books, materials, living costs, optional expenses, etc.

Service-connected injury or disability: The injury or disability was directly caused by the servicemember's active military service. Injury or disability happening while on active duty is not sufficient – the death or injury must have been a direct result of the servicemember's active-duty service, as shown by documentation provided with the application.

Servicemember: Any person who had active military service in any armed service branch of the United States military, and any person who had active state or federal service in the Kansas army or air national guard.

Resident of Kansas: A person who has present and fixed domiciliary residence in the State of Kansas where the person intends to remain for an indefinite period and to which the person intends to return following absence.

Spouse: A person currently married to the servicemember, or who was married to the servicemember at the time of the servicemember's death and who has not remarried.

**APPLICATION FOR THE KANSAS HERO'S SCHOLARSHIP
FOR DEPENDENTS AND SPOUSES OF MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS**



Applicants for the Kansas Hero's Scholarship must complete and return this application form and all required supporting documentation by creating an account online at <https://sfa.kansasregents.org/> and using the "Upload Documents" button to submit. Alternatively, you may mail completed materials to:

Kansas Board of Regents, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, KS 66612.

Waivers will be provided if a student meets eligibility criteria and funding is available. Please read the instructions and definitions on the cover page of this form to assist in determining whether you will be eligible for this benefit. Please provide all relevant required documentation in addition to submitting this form.

Applications that do not include required documentation will be denied.

APPLICATION DEADLINES: Fall Semester: October 1; Spring Semester: March 1; Summer Semester: June 1

Name of Applicant (eligible dependent or spouse) Student ID, if known

Street City State Zip Code

Applicant Email address Applicant Phone Number

Educational Institution the Applicant will be Attending (DO NOT LEAVE THIS BLANK)

Enrollment Start Date: _____ Anticipated Graduation: _____
MONTH/YEAR MONTH/YEAR

Select start term for Hero's Scholarship Waiver: Fall Semester Spring Semester Summer

Applicant's relationship to servicemember (DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED):

Spouse Biological child Adopted child Stepchild Other dependent

Name of servicemember: _____

Is the servicemember a resident of the State of Kansas? Yes No

When did the servicemember become a Kansas resident (MONTH/YEAR)? _____

In what state did the servicemember file their most recent state income tax return? _____

Is the servicemember registered to vote in the State of Kansas? Yes No

Servicemember's current permanent address (DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED):

(if deceased, please provide permanent address at time of death)

Street City State Zip Code

Servicemember is (SELECT ONE – DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED):

Deceased Date of Death _____
MM/DD/YYYY

Injured or disabled Date injury or disability occurred _____
MM/DD/YYYY

Cause of Servicemember's injury or disability

Did the injury or disability render the servicemember incapable of continuing their military service?

(DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED) Yes No

By signing this application form, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Kansas that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that a false statement may disqualify me for benefits.

Student-Applicant Signature

Date

To submit this application, please create an account online at <https://sfa.kansasregents.org/> and submit completed form and all required documentation using the "Upload Documents" button at the top of the Scholarships page.

Alternatively, you may mail to: Kansas Board of Regents, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 520, Topeka, KS 66612

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals who are also using Chapter 33 Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits should carefully consider how the Hero's scholarship may affect those benefits. We encourage students to talk with their school's military-affiliated centers/staff about how to maximize all of their entitlements. Generally, when a Chapter 33 user receives other aid that is designated solely for tuition and fees (known as restricted aid), the VA's last payer clause states that VA will only pay any remaining tuition/required fees after restricted aid is applied. Because the Hero's scholarship is restricted aid that waives the entirety of an individual's undergraduate tuition and required fees for up to 10 semesters of undergraduate coursework, there is no tuition for the VA to pay when a student receives the Hero's scholarship. Students can still receive their Ch. 33 monthly housing allowance and book stipend, however, we encourage students to talk with their school's military-affiliated centers/staff about how to maximize all of their entitlements.

Questions? Email: scholars@ksbor.org Phone: 785-430-4300