



KANSAS HERO'S SCHOLARSHIP

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, public safety officers, or prisoners of war 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 DEADLINE:

Summer 2026: July 1, 2026 Fall 2026: September 1, 2026 Spring 2027: February 1, 2027

The application for the Kansas Hero's Scholarship is available online at sfa.kansasregents.gov

All required documentation should be submitted through the online scholarship portal using the "Upload Documents" button on the home screen by scholarship deadlines above.

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 online 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; once funding is exhausted, the application will close for the school year.

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 studies**. 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. Students will need to renew their application each year to receive funding. Eligibility is NOT retroactive – we cannot provide this benefit for semesters that have already passed.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY? There are three groups for this scholarship:

- Dependents and spouses of deceased servicemembers who died while serving in active military service, dependents and spouses of disabled military servicemembers, who sustained a service-connected injury or disability that rendered the servicemember incapable of continuing military service, or are entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 80%.
- Dependents and spouses of deceased public safety officers who died while performing duties as a Kansas public safety officer, or dependents and spouses of disabled public safety officer that sustained a service-connected disability that rendered the Kansas public safety officer incapable of performing duties.
- Prisoners of War.

Review the following pages for "Required Documentation" and "Definitions" to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements and provide the relevant documentation.

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.



Military Servicemember

*The following documentation must be submitted along with the online application.
Applications without complete documentation will not be considered.*

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 service, **OR** Is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 80%.

Please provide documentation for ONE category below:

Category 1: *Death during military service:* The servicemember died while serving in active military service.

- A copy of the servicemember's DD214 and/or other separation documents; **AND**
- A copy of the DD Form 1300 showing the servicemember's death occurred during active duty.

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.

- A copy of the servicemember's DD214 and/or other separation documents; **AND**
- Evidence proving the injury/disability caused the servicemember to be incapable of continuing their military service.

Category 3: *Service-connected Disability – 80% disability or more:* The servicemember is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability of at least 80%.

- A copy of the servicemember's DD214 and/or other separation documents; **AND**
- 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.

AND

Proof that the servicemember is a Kansas resident:

- *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.*
- 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**
- A copy of the servicemember's current Kansas-issued ID card, or a copy of the servicemember's Kansas voter registration record; **AND**
- 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).

AND

Proof of relationship between applicant and servicemember:

Spouse: A marriage certificate providing evidence of marriage between the applicant and the servicemember.

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 step children of the servicemember.

Questions?

Email: scholars@ksbor.org

Phone : 785-430-4300



Public Safety Officer

*The following documentation must be submitted along with the online application.
Applications without complete documentation will not be considered.*

Dependents and spouses of Public Safety Officer, provided that the public safety officer 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:

Please provide documentation for one category below:

Service-Connected Death:

- A death certificate citing the death of the public safety officer; **AND**
- Additional conclusive documentation should be provided showing the death was a result of performing duties as Kansas public safety officer. Potential documentation could include an official letter from the department in which the public safety officer was affiliated, medical documentation, etc. Documentation should be conclusive.

OR

Service-connected Disability:

- Official documentation addressing that the injury or disability was sustained while performing duties as a Kansas public safety officer, and how such injury or disability prevents the individual from performing the duties at or above the pay level of the position the person held at the time of injury or disability. Potential documentation could include an official letter from the department in which the public safety officer was affiliated, medical documentation, etc.

AND

Proof of relationship between applicant and public safety officer:

Spouse: A marriage certificate providing evidence of marriage between the applicant and the public safety officer.

Dependent: A birth certificate or a certificate of adoption showing the relationship between the applicant and the public safety officer. In the case of a stepparent who has not legally adopted the applicant, acceptable documentation would include a marriage certificate between the public safety officer and the biological/adoptive parent, as well as a birth certificate or adoption certificate with the biological adoptive parent's information listed.

AND

Proof that the public safety officer is a Kansas resident:

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

Questions?

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Prisoners of War

*The following documentation must be submitted along with the online application.
Applications without complete documentation will not be considered.*

Prisoner of War, provided that individuals who are eligible were Kansas residents upon entering United States armed forces **AND** show proof of POW status:

Please provide documentation below:

- Documentation showing they were a resident of Kansas when entering the United States armed forces.
AND
- Proof of POW status:
 - A letter from the Veteran's Administration, the Department of Defense, or an Armed Services department verifying POW status
 - A DD Form 214 identifying POW status
 - A military medical identification card identifying POW status, or
 - A POW card issued by the detainment facility

Questions?

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KANSAS HERO'S SCHOLARSHIP—DEFINITIONS

(CONTINUED)

The following definitions are intended to clarify eligibility for the Hero's Scholarship. If you have questions about your situation pertains to a definition below, please contact the Kansas Board of Regents Financial Assistance office at 785-430-4300.

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.

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?

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