

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 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

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