

Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program



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ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENTS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

This academic scholarship program is administered by the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs and applies to the dependents of Alabama's disabled veterans.

This pamphlet was prepared to give a brief summary of these benefits. If full and comprehensive treatment of the law is desired, it may be found in Chapter 6 of Title 31 of the Code of Alabama (1975).

Representatives of this department, known as Veterans Service Officers, are located in county offices throughout the state. Their offices are normally located in the county courthouse or in the immediate vicinity. They will be happy to assist applicants with these educational benefits. Their services are entirely free.

For additional information about the services of our department or to locate our county office nearest you, please visit our website at www.va.alabama.gov

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. Kent Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "D".

W. Kent Davis
Rear Admiral, USN (Retired)
Commissioner

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The veteran must meet the following qualifications to establish eligibility of his/her dependents:

MILITARY SERVICE

An honorable discharge or other proof of honorable termination of service from the armed forces for a period of at least 90 consecutive days of active duty service or service less than 90 consecutive days of active duty service if the veteran or serviceman was discharged or released by reason of qualifying service-connected disability.

DISABILITY REQUIREMENT

The veteran must meet one of the following service-connected disability conditions established by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (formerly the Veterans Administration) or the appropriate military service department:

- a) A former prisoner of war (POW); or
- b) Declared missing in action (MIA); or
- c) Died as the result of a service-connected disability; or
- d) Died while on active military service in the line of duty; or
- e) Rated 40% or more due to his/her service-connected disability(ies).

Veterans with a disability rating of 20-30% may qualify if the effective date of their disability rating is on or before July 31, 2017. This provision will expire on July 31, 2023.

Veterans whose disability rating is less than 20% prior to May 23, 2017 but had a claim for compensation pending prior to that date which resulted in a final award by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs of at least 20% may be eligible if the dependent applies for benefits within six months of that final adjudication.

STATE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

1. The veteran must have been a permanent civilian resident of the state of Alabama for at least one year immediately prior to their initial entry into active federal military service or any subsequent entry into federal active military service where a 12-month break in service occurred

AND one of the following:

- a) Current Alabama resident for at least two years immediately prior to the date of application for this benefit or date of veteran's death; **or**
- b) Current resident who was discharged from active duty within 12 months prior to the date of the scholarship application; **or**
- c) Filed a resident Alabama income tax return for the past 10 consecutive years.

Permanently service-connected veterans rated at 100% who do not meet the above residency requirements may qualify after establishing proof that they have been a bona fide resident for at least five years immediately prior to the date of application or the date of the veteran's death. This applies to 100% permanent and total ratings only.

DEPENDENT

A dependent is defined under our program as a child, stepchild, spouse or un-remarried widow(er).

DEPENDENT STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Students applying for benefits must meet all of the following:

1. Must be a current resident of the state of Alabama at the time of application and maintain that residency while receiving the benefit; **and**
2. Must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each year that they are covered under the Alabama G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program; **and**
3. Must comply with Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by their education institution; **and**
4. Must complete a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release form for each educational institution that they attend to authorize the release of personally identifiable information required to determine continued eligibility and as required for necessary reporting.

ENTITLEMENTS

All other scholarships and grants must be applied to required education expenses first (unless otherwise prescribed by state or federal law). After these are utilized, textbooks and applicable fees will be billed to the program up to a combined maximum total of \$1,000 per student and tuition will be billed to the program **up to** the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Cap (currently \$250 per semester hour).

Children and stepchildren of qualified veterans may receive five standard academic years (10 semesters) at any Alabama qualifying school for undergraduate courses of study. Students have 8 years from the date the application is received at the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs headquarters office to use their 10 semesters. Benefits cannot be granted retroactively.

Children and stepchildren of qualified veterans are also eligible to attend comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities at state four-year colleges or universities were applicable.

Spouses or un-remarried widow(er)s of a veteran rated as 100% permanently and totally disabled may also receive five standard academic years (10 semesters) at any Alabama qualifying school for undergraduate courses of study. Students have 8 years from the date the application is received at the Alabama Department of Veteran Affairs headquarters office to use their 10 semesters. Benefits cannot be granted retroactively.

Spouses or un-remarried widow(er)s of a veteran rated 40-90% disabled are entitled to three standard academic years (6 semesters) at any Alabama qualifying school for undergraduate courses of study. Students receive 6 years from the date that the application is received at the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs headquarters office to use their 6 semesters. Benefits cannot be granted retroactively.

NUMBER OF AWARDS

There is no restriction on the number of eligible dependents under any single veteran; however, each dependent may only receive the benefit once, regardless of changes in their future dependency status.

AGE DEADLINE

The child or stepchild must initiate training under our program prior to his/her 26th birthday. In certain situations, a child or stepchild may be eligible for our program up to the age of 30. If the applicant is a stepchild, the veteran and the stepchild's parent must be legally married prior to the child's 19th birthday.

UNAUTHORIZED COURSES

Our program does not pay for noncredit courses, remedial courses, placement testing, GED preparation, continuing education courses, pre-technical courses, state board examinations, or any classes beyond undergraduate courses of study.

SUPPLIES

Our scholarship program does not pay for supplies such as pens, paper, notebooks, tools, art supplies, uniforms, computer software products, etc.

BOOK PURCHASES

The G.I. Dependent Scholarship Program will only pay for those textbooks (including e-books and access codes) that are required for the courses in which the student is officially enrolled. Our program **does not** pay for the purchase of reference manuals, suggested reading materials, study guides, recommended workbooks, etc. Reimbursement will not be made.

ELIGIBILITY LIMITATIONS AND TERMINATION

Dependents are eligible to participate in the program only as long as they remain the legal dependent of the veteran from which they derive their eligibility. In the event of a divorce action, the former spouse or stepchild will be ineligible to participate effective the date of the divorce. Any educational financial obligations entered into after the divorce date will be the responsibility of the former spouse or stepchild.

The widow(er) forfeits all entitlements upon remarriage without further consideration of reinstatement. Any educational financial obligations entered into after the remarriage date will be the responsibility of the widow(er).

APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

Applications and assistance may be obtained at any Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Office. To find the county office closest to you, please visit our website at:
www.va.alabama.gov

ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

Complete listing of eligible schools are below. Campus must be physically located within the state of Alabama. Online courses are eligible if offered through the schools listed below.

QUALIFYING ALABAMA STATE SCHOOLS

- Alabama A & M University
- Alabama State University
- Athens State College
- Auburn University
- Auburn University at Montgomery
- Beville State Community College
- Bishop State Community College
- Central Alabama Community College
- Chattahoochee Valley Community College
- Coastal Alabama Community College
- Enterprise State Community College
- Gadsden State Community College
- George C. Wallace Community College
- J.F. Drake State Technical College
- Jacksonville State University
- Jefferson State Community College
- John C. Calhoun Community College
- Lawson State Community College
- Lurleen B. Wallace State Jr. College
- Marion Military Institute
- Northeast Alabama State Jr. College
- Northwest Shoals Community College
- Reid State Technical College
- Shelton State Community College
- Snead State Jr. College
- Southern Union Community College
- Trenholm State Technical College
- Troy University
- University of Alabama
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Alabama in Huntsville
- University of Montevallo
- University of North Alabama
- University of South Alabama
- University of West Alabama

ALABAMA G.I. DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS

QUALIFYING ALABAMA PRIVATE SCHOOLS (JUNE 1, 2022 OR AFTER)

- Amridge University
- Birmingham Southern College
- Faulkner University
- Huntingdon College
- Miles College
- Oakwood University
- Samford University
- South University
- Spring Hill College
- Stillman College
- Talladega College
- Tuskegee University
- U.S. Sports Academy
- University of Mobile



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