

OVERVIEW: TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



APRIL 2018

The Texas Legislature created the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) to encourage students to participate in Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs at civilian colleges. A student must meet specific eligibility criteria in order to receive an initial scholarship award. In addition to the eligibility criteria, a student must enter into an agreement requiring a four-year commitment as a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine or a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States. Annually, the governor and the lieutenant governor may each appoint two students, and each state senator and each state representative may appoint one student to receive a conditional TASSP. A maximum of 185 students may be appointed annually.

ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION

In order to be considered for a TASSP award, a **student enrolling in higher education directly from high school** must meet **two** of the following **four** academic criteria at the time of application:

- ✓ Be on track to graduate, or has graduated high school and complete the curriculum requirements of the Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan, or the International Baccalaureate Program (IB);
- ✓ Have a high school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
- ✓ Achieve a college readiness score on the SAT (1070) or ACT (23);
- ✓ Be ranked in the top one-third of the prospective high school graduating class.

A **non-freshman student** applying for an initial award must meet the continuing eligibility requirements outlined below that also apply for continuing receipt of the award.

Students must be enrolled in an institution of higher education in the fall 2018/spring 2019 academic year to be nominated for a TASSP award during the current nomination cycle.

ELIGIBILITY FOR RECEIPT OF INITIAL AWARD

To receive an initial conditional award through the TASSP, a selected student must:

- ✓ Be enrolled in a Texas public or private accredited institution of higher education;
- ✓ Be a member in good standing of a ROTC program while enrolled in the institution, as certified by the institution;
- ✓ Enter into a written agreement with the Coordinating Board agreeing to:
 - Complete four years of ROTC training;
 - Graduate no later than six years after the date the student first enrolls at an institution of higher education;

- No later than six months after graduation, provide the Coordinating Board with verification of:
 - (i) A four-year commitment to be a member of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine; or
 - (ii) A contract to serve as a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States;
- Meet all prescreening requirements of the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine or the branch of the armed services with which the student enters into a contract; and
- Repay the award if the student fails to meet the requirements for obtaining the award.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUED AWARDS (AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE)

Dependent on funding availability, a student may continue to receive an annual conditional TASSP if the student:

- ✓ Maintains satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution in which the student is enrolled;
- ✓ Continues to be a member of a ROTC program; and
- ✓ Has not earned a baccalaureate degree or a cumulative total of 150 credit hours, including transferred hours.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much will each selected student receive through the TASSP?

Given the decrease in appropriated funding in 2017 and the legislative intent to fund both initial and renewal awards, the FY19 TASSP annual amount for both initial and renewal awards will be \$4,000. In no case will the award exceed the student's cost of attendance less the total amount to be paid to a student for being under contract with one of the branches of the armed services of the United States and other financial assistance.

What is the deadline for legislators to submit to the Coordinating Board their student selection?

The deadline for legislators to make a TASSP appointment is **July 31, 2018** for the 2018-2019 academic year. Formal appointments must be made by the legislator or legislator's designee through an online process approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at <https://www1.theccb.state.tx.us/apps/tassp/>.

What is the student deadline to complete their school initiated TASSP application after being appointed by a legislator?

Students must complete their TASSP online applications by **October 15, 2018**.

How may interested students get more information to be considered for a TASSP?

Interested students may contact a legislator for more information. Each legislator may set-up additional requirements for their selection process and may use any application process the legislator wishes to use to seek student nominations. To be considered for a scholarship, students may contact the Office of the Governor, Office of the Lt. Governor, Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or a Texas State Senator or a Texas State Representative. Students may locate a legislator by visiting this link: <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/>.

For more information:
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