



PAT TILLMAN SCHOLARS

The University of Oklahoma is a Pat Tillman Foundation University Partner

Pat Tillman put an all-star NFL career with the Arizona Cardinals on hold to serve his country in the wake of the attacks of 9/11. He enlisted in the U.S. Army with his brother, Kevin, and committed to a three-year term. They served tours in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004. On the evening of April 22, 2004, Pat's unit was ambushed as it traveled through the rugged, canyon terrain of eastern Afghanistan. His heroic efforts to provide cover for fellow soldiers as they escaped from the canyon led to his untimely and tragic death via fratricide.

Founded in 2004, the Pat Tillman Foundation invests in military veterans and their spouses through educational scholarships – building a diverse community of leaders committed to service to others. The Tillman Military Scholars program began in 2008.

The scholars chosen show extraordinary academic and leadership potential, a true sense of vocation, and a deep commitment to create positive change through their work in the fields of medicine, law, business, education and the arts. Every year, 60 new visionary Tillman Military Scholars are added to the community who build on Pat's legacy, principles and commitment to service.

The scholarship covers educational expenses, including tuition and fees, books and living stipend. Each award amount is determined on a case-by-case basis and is intended to meet each applicant's unique need. The exact amount will be based on individual financial need and the strength of application in comparison to the overall pool. On average, award funds are \$11,000 per Scholar, per year.

Who can apply to become a Tillman Military Scholar?

Veteran and active-duty military service members, honorably discharged of pre-and post-9/11 service and from all branches of the U.S. Military, including National Guard and Reserve

Current spouses of veterans or active-duty service members including surviving spouses

Service members or spouses pursuing a degree as a full-time student: Undergraduate (Bachelor's or above); Graduate or post-graduate degree at a public or private, U.S.-based accredited institution

Children are not eligible to apply for the Tillman Military Scholars program. *Scholarships are available to military children through our partners at [Fisher House Foundation](#), [No Greater Sacrifice](#), [ThanksUSA](#), [Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation](#) and [Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation](#).*

If you have not yet enrolled in a particular school, you may still apply, but you must be accepted and enrolled in the institution by the time the award is made in June 2016. "Waitlisted" applicants are eligible to apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

On what basis are Tillman Military Scholars selected?

- Educational and career ambitions
- Record of military service and/or community impact as a military spouse
- Record of personal achievement
- Demonstration of service to others in the community
- Desire to continue to serve others and make a positive impact on your community
- Leadership potential
- Compelling, thoughtful, genuine, and thorough essay responses

The scholarship application opens in February and is due in March/April (last year the due date was April 7). Scholars are typically notified of their award in mid-May.

In order to best prepare for completing the application, please have the following information available during the application process:

- Military service history,
- Educational history,
- Enrollment plans, and
- Expected academic/living expenses and income for the upcoming academic year.

The following documents will need to be uploaded in digital file format:

- Documentation of military service and/or community impact as a military spouse. All discharged service members must provide their most recent DD-214. Active Reservist or National Guard applicants may provide alternate military service verification forms. Note: all submitted military service verification forms will undergo validation.
- Résumé including education, work, public service history, recognitions, and awards earned.
- The application will require responses to two essays exploring the following areas: **military and public service motivation and experience; and educational, career and service ambitions.**
- All Tillman Military Scholar applicants must complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) in order to be considered for funding.
- Letters of recommendation are not required; however, you will be asked for names and contact information for two character references as part of the application.

Tillman Military Scholars are expected to maintain full-time enrollment in a U.S. accredited institution unless they are assuming part-time status during the semester they will graduate.

Distance learners and online degree seekers are eligible to apply, provided they are full-time students.

Scholarship funding can only be used toward a single post-secondary degree.

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OUHSC Contact: Christina McClane, Special Programs Coordinator. Contact information: 405-271-2359, veterans@ouhsc.edu, 941 Stanton L. Young Blvd., Rm. 200, Oklahoma City, OK 73104

OU's Tillman Scholarship Committee will reach out to interested students as information is shared by the foundation for next year's scholar applicants.