

Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program

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 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

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 have 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.

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 or another undergraduate officer commissioning 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 or another undergraduate officer commissioning program;
 - Graduate no later than six years after the date the student first enrolls at an institution of higher education;
 - After graduation, enter and 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 all requirements:

- (i) Complete four years of ROTC training or another undergraduate officer commissioning program;
- (ii) Graduate within the six years after the date the student first enrolls at the institution of higher education;
- (iii) Enter into a contract and fulfill the agreement with the armed services.

Eligibility for Continued Awards (As Funds Are Available)

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

- ✓ Maintains satisfactory academic progress as determined by the Coordinating Board;
- ✓ Continues to be a member of a ROTC program or another undergraduate officer commissioning 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?

The TASSP award for the 2022-2023 academic year is estimated at a maximum of \$10,000 but is subject to change based on available funding. The TASSP award cannot exceed the student's cost of attendance at the college of their choice.

Can non-freshman students be nominated for an initial TASSP?

Yes. Students already enrolled at an institution of higher education may be nominated for a TASSP. Students must still complete ROTC training while receiving the TASSP award or the equivalent of four years of ROTC training if the institution awards ROTC credit for prior service in any branch of the U.S. Armed Services or the Texas Army National Guard, Texas Air National Guard, Texas State Guard, United States Coast Guard, United States Merchant Marine, or another undergraduate officer commissioning program.

How can legislators submit to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board their student selection?

Formal appointments must be made by the Governor, Lt. Governor, a legislator, or their designee through an online process approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at <https://www1.theccb.state.tx.us/apps/tassp/>.

How does a student complete their school-initiated TASSP application after being appointed by a legislator?

Students must complete their TASSP applications online by logging onto [HHLOANS.com](https://www.hhloans.com). The TASSP application can only be completed after the college has reviewed and certified that the student meets all program eligibility requirements.

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

Interested students may contact the Governor, Lt. Governor, or a legislator for more information. Each elected official may set up additional requirements for their selection process and may use any application process the elected official 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 and typing in their home address under Who Represents Me?: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>.