

# OVERVIEW: TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

APRIL 2021

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 state representative may appoint one student to receive a conditional TASSP. A maximum of 185 students may be appointed annually.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION

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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.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR RECEIPT OF INITIAL AWARD

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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;
  - After graduation, enter into 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

Students must be enrolled in a college or university in the fall 2021/spring 2022 academic year in order to be nominated for a TASSP award during the current nomination cycle.

- (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;
  - (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)

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**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 Coordinating Board;
- ✓ 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

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### **How much will each selected student receive through TASSP?**

The TASSP award amount for the 2021-2022 academic year is estimated at a maximum of \$10,000 but is subject to change based on available funding. In no case will the award exceed the student's cost of attendance less the total amount to be paid to the student for being under contract with one of the branches of the armed service so United States and other financial assistance. A student may continue to receive a TASSP if the student meets continuing eligibility requirements and has not earned a baccalaureate degree or a cumulative total of 150 credit hours, including transferred hours. TASSP rules allow students to receive a scholarship for up to four of the six years allowed for graduation.

### **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 four years of ROTC training 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.

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

The Coordinating Board respectfully requests that legislators **make a TASSP appointment by Aug. 31, 2021** for the 2021-2022 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 **Oct. 15, 2021**.

### **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, a student may contact the Office of the Governor, Office of the Lt. Governor, Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, 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?: [capitol.texas.gov](http://capitol.texas.gov).