

## **I. Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP)**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program is administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

### **PURPOSE/INTENT**

Created by the Texas Legislature, the *Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program* (TASSP) is available to encourage students to become members of the Texas Army National Guard, the Texas Air National Guard or the Texas State Guard through participation in the 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 or a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States.

### **SELECTION/APPOINTMENT**

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.

### **SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT**

The current annual scholarship maximum is up to \$15,000 at a Public or Private Institution. The TASSP maximum amount is determined and announced annually by the THECB.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION**

**\*\*\*\*To be eligible, students must meet specific scholarship requirements and be nominated by a Texas senator or representative.**

Each legislator may nominate one student, and the governor and lieutenant governor may separately appoint two. Students seeking a nomination can find their legislative representatives [online](#), but a nomination may come from any legislator.

**A student** 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);
- ✓High school GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
- ✓College readiness score on the SAT (1070) or ACT (23);
- ✓Ranked in the top one-third of senior class.

#### **ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

- Be registered with the Selective Service or be exempt
- Be appointed by a state representative or state senator or by the Governor or Lieutenant Governor (Each member of the Legislature may make one appointment; the Governor and Lt. Governor may each appoint two students).
- Enroll in an eligible Texas institution and an eligible ROTC program
- Agree to complete four years of ROTC training
- Graduate no later than six years after enrollment date, and enter into a four-year commitment with the Guard Service or contract to serve as a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services
- Meet the satisfactory academic requirements set by the institution
- Agree to repay the scholarship if the requirements are not met

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 while enrolled in the institution, as certified by the institution;
- ✓Enter into a written agreement with the Texas Higher Education 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 Texas Higher Education 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 or 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, or a 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

### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

- ✓ Student is responsible for seeking an appointment for TASSP by a Texas senator, representative, the lieutenant governor, or governor.
- ✓ Each legislator may have a different application process.
- ✓ If selected, the student will receive a Notice of Selection email.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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

The TASSP award amount 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. 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 allows students to receive a scholarship for up to four of the six years allowed for graduation.

#### ***How can interested students get more information to be considered for a TASSP?***

To be considered for a scholarship, a student should 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. 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. Students may locate a legislator by visiting site below and typing in their home address under ***Who Represents Me?*** at <https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Visit the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at: <https://www.highered.texas.gov> or your local Texas Senator or Representative.