



Fort Bliss Spouses' Association (FBSA) Scholarship Checklist

Initial next to each item to verify the following are included in your application packet.
Failure to provide **ALL** necessary items will result in a disqualification of your application.

_____ A verification letter of eligibility from the applicable source as outlined in the application instructions

_____ Unofficial high school or official college/university transcripts as applicable. Transcripts are accepted with the application packet so long as it meets the application deadline. If your high school no longer has your transcripts, you may submit a letter from the school (on their letterhead) confirming they no longer retain your transcripts. ***Unofficial college transcripts or photocopies will not be accepted.**

_____ Completed scholarship application

_____ Completed volunteer verification form (Completed by the volunteer supervisor)

_____ Two sealed letters of recommendation completed by persons not related to the applicant

***These must be on the organization's professional letterhead or received in a sealed envelope with the initials of the recommender over the seal.**

_____ Completed and signed application checklist (This form)

_____ I agree to submit all completed paperwork postmarked by March 15,2024

Applicant's Signature and Date

Mail your completed application packet to:

Fort Bliss Spouses' Association
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 6365
El Paso, TX 79906



Fort Bliss Spouses' Association (FBSA) Application Directions

ELIGIBILITY

FBSA Merit Scholarships are awarded to eligible spouses and children of active-duty, retired, Gold Star families, and GS civilian employees of all ranks in and around the El Paso area who are planning to enroll in, or are enrolled in: a two-year college (resident or online), a four-year college or university (resident or online), a graduate program, or vocational school in accordance with the rules and regulations established herein.

- To be eligible for this scholarship, the applicant must meet the following conditions:

1. Sponsor is assigned to the Ft. Bliss/El Paso area
 - a. High school seniors who remain at Fort Bliss/El Paso to complete high school while the sponsor has PCS'd may apply
2. Sponsor, or high school applicant remaining in the Fort Bliss area, must reside in the local area until **01 May 2024**.
3. Eligible child dependents must not turn 23 before **the application deadline**.

- Active Duty and Retired Service Members are **NOT** eligible to apply for the FBSA scholarship.

The FBSA Merit Scholarship is merit-based and **does not** consider financial need. Eligible applicants must show excellent educational performance, outstanding character and resilience, and exemplary service to their community through participation in extracurricular activities and community service.

SCHOLARSHIP RULES AND PROCEDURES

- Scholarships are awarded in each of five categories with a minimum award of \$500.
 - High School Senior
 - College Student
 - Junior College Student
 - Graduate Student
 - Vocational/Trade School Student
- GPA Requirements:
 - Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
 - Homeschooled students must submit their transcripts with GPA; however, SAT, ACT, or GED scores can be submitted along with the applicant's transcripts in lieu of GPA.
 - SAT score must be a minimum of 950 combined points
 - ACT composite score must be a minimum of 20
 - GED score must be a minimum of 501

***If you have questions or need clarification on submitting homeschool documents, please contact the scholarship chairperson before submitting your application.**
- As a merit-based scholarship, applicants are required to volunteer a minimum of 10 hours over the course of the current school year.
- Applicants who receive a "full ride" scholarship (covering tuition, room and board, etc), ROTC
- scholarship, or who receive an appointment to attend a service academy must withdraw their application and forfeit any FBSA award.
- No applicant may receive more than two FBSA scholarships from the FBSA Scholarship Fund in their lifetime.
- An applicant may apply in **only one** scholarship category per application year.

DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES

- The completed application and all supporting documents must be **submitted together**- with the exception of official transcripts which may be mailed directly to the FBSA from the school.
- All materials must be **received by 15 March 2024** to be considered.
- Applications must be completed using a word-processing program; handwritten applications will not be accepted.

***Failure to provide all required documentation will result in the disqualification of your application.**
- Recipients of merit scholarships will be notified by **15 April 2024** and be invited to an awards ceremony (or alternative) to be presented their award in **May of 2024**.
- Scholarship awards will be mailed directly to the educational institution for deposit in the student's tuition account in accordance with the educational institution's scholarship process.
 - Intended school of choice should be disclosed no later than **31 May 2024**.
- Final disbursement of scholarship monies will be made by **02 August 2024** and must be used by **31 May 2025** or the money will be returned to the FBSA.
- Mail your completed application packet to:

Fort Bliss Spouses' Association
ATTN: Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 6365
El Paso, TX 79906

Questions concerning the FBSA scholarship program or application process can be directed to the Scholarship Committee by emailing scholarships@thefbsa.org.



Fort Bliss Spouses' Association (FBSA) Application

I. Verification Letter of Eligibility

A. Active Duty Family Member

1. DEERS form that confirms the applicant is a legal dependent of the service member OR Verification letter from unit S-1 that confirms the sponsor's assignment to Fort Bliss and states that the family member (applicant) is a legal dependent of the service member.
2. If the applicant is a high school student who has remained in the Fort Bliss/EI Paso area, the PCS'd sponsor must obtain a verification letter from the unit S-1.

B. Family Member of Retired Service Member

1. DEERS form that confirms the applicant is a legal dependent of the retired service member **and** shows the service member's retirement status.

C. Gold Star Family Member

1. Verification of eligibility from the Survivor Outreach Services

D. Family Member of GS Civilian Employee

1. Verification from the employee's supervisor that confirms the family member is a legal dependent of the employee.

II. Transcripts

- A. All college transcripts must be official and may come directly from the school or included in the packet.
- B. Transcripts must be in a sealed envelope that is marked with the school's seal/stamp to verify the envelope has not been opened. If school is sending electronically, it must be directly from the school and sent directly to scholarships@thefbsa.org.
- C. If the applicant has been out of school for 10 years or more and the school no longer has copies of transcripts, please submit a letter from the school on official letterhead stating this.

III. Letters of Recommendation

- A. Two sealed and initialed letters of recommendation completed by persons unrelated to the applicant who will attest to the applicant's *motivation, character, and integrity*. *If the letter is on official letterhead, a sealed envelope is not required.*
- B. At least one letter should be from a teacher, mentor, or academic advisor.
- C. One letter may be from the volunteer supervisor who completes the volunteer verification.

IV. Volunteer Verification

- A. Applicants must submit a signed verification from a volunteer supervisor confirming their participation in **at least** 10 hours of community service.
- B. This form is included below and should be included with the packet submission.

APPLICATION CATEGORY

- HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR (2024 high school graduates)
- COLLEGE STUDENT (continuing students - not entering freshmen)
- JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENT
- GRADUATE STUDENT
- VOCATIONAL/TRADE SCHOOL STUDENT (this includes those enrolled in continuing education or certification courses)

ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

- ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSE DEPENDENT
- ACTIVE DUTY CHILD DEPENDENT
- *HS SENIORS: SPONSOR PCS'd Y / N
- RETIRED SERVICE MEMBER DEPENDENT
- GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBER
- GS EMPLOYEE FAMILY MEMBER

Have you ever received a scholarship from the FBSA? Y / N
If yes, what year? _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

FULL NAME: _____

FULL MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO: _____

SPONSOR'S NAME: _____ RANK: _____

SPONSOR'S UNIT: _____ UNIT LOCATION: _____

EDUCATIONAL DATA

CURRENT ENROLLMENT: NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE:

GPA (OR EQUIVALENT SCORE): _____

BEGINNING YEAR: _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION: _____

NAME OF COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY/TRADE SCHOOL YOU WILL BE ENROLLED IN DURING THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR, including summer of 2024, SCHOOL YEAR OR THE NAMES OF THE TOP 3 SCHOOLS YOU APPLIED TO:

MAJOR/FIELD: _____

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES (e.g., NHS, Math Team, Etc.) Please Choose Top 5

Activity	Year	Position Held	Awards	Hours	Weekly or Monthly?

COMMUNITY SERVICE/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (e.g., Scouts, Church, Etc.)

Activity	Year	Position Held	Awards	Hours	Weekly or Monthly?

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (e.g., Sports, Band, Clubs, Student Council, Etc.)

Activity	Year	Position Held	Awards	Hours	Weekly or Monthly?

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS (Information on References)

Reference Name	Institution Name	Department Name	Phone	Email

--	--	--	--	--

ESSAY QUESTIONS: Choose 1 of the following 2 essay questions to respond to. Please use the spaces provided to respond. Your essay should be written in MLA Format using Arial 10 point font. Essays must be a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 750 words.

Essay Question #1:

How did the pandemic impact your resilience?

Essay Question #2:

What is exemplary service and why is community service important?

ESSAY RESPONSE:

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTARY INFORMATION: Please use this page to provide any additional information or extenuating circumstances that may be pertinent to the application that should be brought to the attention of the Selection Committee.

(e.g., deployments, multiple moves during high school, being a parent, family or financial situations that have impacted working, volunteering, or participating in extracurricular activities.)

The information must be MLA Format using Arial 10 point font. Please use a maximum of 750 words.



Fort Bliss Spouses' Association (FBSA) Scholarship

VOLUNTEER VERIFICATION

This form must be endorsed by a **Volunteer Supervisor** - not a parent or guardian.

To the best of my knowledge, I hereby verify that the applicant has completed _____ volunteer community service hours as required by the FBSA Scholarship Committee.

Signature and Date

ENDORSER'S NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

EMAIL: _____

INSTITUTION/ACTIVITY NAME: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CERTIFICATION AND PERMISSION

I hereby certify that all information submitted on this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. By submitting this application, I authorize my high school/college/university to make available to the FBSA any information concerning my academic records.

I understand that all applications will be evaluated on educational achievement, related activities, and the essay submission, and that scholarships will be awarded based on merit. Submission of an application in no way guarantees that a scholarship will be awarded. I understand that my application will not be considered if it is incomplete or submitted after the **15 March 2024** deadline. Furthermore, if I accept an appointment to a service academy, I must withdraw my application for an FBSA Merit Scholarship or forfeit any FBSA Merit Scholarship I may have been selected to receive.

Please note that if you are awarded a scholarship of \$5000 or more, you must provide your social security number upon acceptance of the scholarship. This is for our 501(c)3 tax filing requirements. If you are unwilling to provide your social security number, the maximum amount you may receive is \$4999. You must initial your preference in the space provided below.

Applicant Signature and Date

Please initial one of the following choices:

Willing to provide SSN: _____ Unwilling to provide SSN: _____

Sponsor's Signature and Date

**To be eligible for consideration, applications must be postmarked by
15 March 20, 2024**