



WMA

Scholarship Procedures Starting Fall 2026 School Year

WMA Memorial Scholarships from \$500 up to \$5,000 are awarded based on the number of applicants and the specific scholarship requirements. Additional scholarships of various amounts may also be given. The purpose is to award grants to qualified applicants sponsored by WMA MEMBERS in good standing. These grants may be used at any accredited college, university, or college-level trade school. The WMA Scholarship Committee administers the numerous scholarships that can be awarded.



There is no maximum amount an applicant can receive over the lifetime of their academic career. These grants may be used at any accredited college, university, or college-level trade school. WMA members may sponsor an unlimited number of applicants per academic school year. WMA members are encouraged to self-sponsor themselves.

ELIGIBILITY

1. To qualify for review, the applicant must provide proof of one of the following criteria:

- a. Have served, or are serving in the United States Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve **OR**
- b. Be a direct descendant by blood (*three generations, i.e., child, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, aunt, uncle*), legal adoption, or stepchild of a Marine on active duty, or who has served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, Regular or Reserve, **OR**
- c. Be a sibling, legal adoption, or stepchild of a Marine on active duty, or who has served honorably in the United States Marine Corps, Regular or Reserve, **OR**
- d. Be a spouse of a Marine **OR**
- e. Have completed two (2) years in the Marine Corps JROTC program **OR**
- f. Successfully completed the Young Marines Program; **AND**
- g. Be sponsored by a current WMA member in good standing. The Director of Membership provides an official roster that verifies the sponsor's membership status.

❖ **PROOF OF MILITARY SERVICE.** If eligibility is based on one's own service, a copy of their Discharge Certificate, DD214 (redact SSN), a copy of their military ID card (both sides), Veterans Administration (VA) verification letter, or a letter on command letterhead from the Commanding Officer or Administrative Officer is required to verify eligibility.

❖ **PROOF OF RELATIONSHIP TO A U.S. MARINE.** If eligibility is based on the relationship with a Marine, please submit evidence of the relationship. Documents required as proof include a copy of the Discharge Certificate or DD214, a VA verification letter, marriage certificates, birth certificates, adoption documents, or military dependent ID (both sides), or a letter on Command stationery. **NOTE:** DD214 confirms service but not relationship. **PLEASE REDACT ANY SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS.**

❖ **USMC JROTC STATUS.** If eligibility is based on completing two years of JROTC participation, a Senior Military Instructor (SMI) must submit a letter attesting to the applicant's status. The second letter of recommendation is still required.

❖ **YOUNG MARINES PROGRAM.** The Unit Commander must submit a letter attesting to the applicant's status in the program. The second letter of recommendation is still required.

2. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY:

- a. Must have maintained a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and not weighted.

- b. Send one official transcript directly from the school to the Scholarship Chairperson at scholarship@womenmarines.org. (See Note 2)
- c. Letter of acceptance for the following year from the applicant's school of choice. If acceptance is not received by the application submission deadline, the grant decision will be postponed until acceptance is provided. Some schools may issue acceptance letters later in the school year.

3. COLLEGE STUDENTS ONLY:

- a. A minimum college GPA = 3.0. Pass/fail grades are not accepted.
- b. All first-year students (freshmen) must submit: (See Note 2)
 - i. Official final high school transcript may be sent from the high school to the Scholarship Chairperson at scholarship@womenmarines.org.
 - ii. Send one copy of the current official college transcripts directly from the college to the Scholarship Chairperson at scholarship@womenmarines.org.
- c. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-year students will be evaluated on current official transcripts sent from the school directly to the Scholarship Chairperson at scholarship@womenmarines.org.
- d. Master/PhD applicants are required to submit official undergraduate transcripts sent directly from the school/college to the Scholarship Chairperson at scholarship@womenmarines.org.
- e. Current college and active-duty personnel applicants must be full-time students (12 credit hours) to be eligible for a WMA Scholarship. Master's/PhD applicants are required to take at least six (6) credit hours each semester.

NOTE 1: For those applicants who have completed their first enlistment or have been out of the education pipeline for over 10 years, they are not required to submit an official high school transcript.

NOTE 2: Transcripts sent via Parchment are accepted, or schools may submit transcripts electronically directly to scholarship@womenmarines.org. *(Request your transcripts early and do not wait until the last minute to meet the application deadline.)*

NOTE 3: If an applicant needs a WMA member sponsor, notify the Scholarship Chair no later than (NLT) 01 March. Requests after this date will not be accommodated. The Chair will try to locate a WMA sponsor for you for the current scholarship year only.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application period extends exclusively from **1 February through 31 March**. Applications and all supporting documents, including official transcripts, postmarked after the deadline of 31 March, will not be considered.

A completely new application package must be submitted each time an applicant applies. Previous submissions and incomplete applications will not be considered, and the applicant will not be notified when the package is received.

Applications will be accepted from students living outside the continental United States (OCONUS) who will be attending an OCONUS college. To compare GPA/Test Scores with those of U.S. schools, the transcripts from those high schools must include a grading key and any test scores the applicant has received. Test scores must include information that can be interpreted to understand the results. An acceptance letter from the college is still required.

For application status (qualified/disqualified only), the Scholarship Chairperson will respond to one email per applicant at scholarship@womenmarines.org. Subject line should read **STATUS OF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR (NAME OF APPLICANT)**. **No telephone calls, postcards, letters, or multiple inquiries. No exceptions. Emails from parents, grandparents, or sponsors will not be answered. Applicant's email address only.**

Applicants should not wait until 31 March to send their applications, as the weather may affect postmark dates. Use certified mail for proof of delivery. Applications with unclear or missing postmarks received after the deadline will not be considered. You can ask the Post Office to hand-cancel your stamp as confirmation. Ensure correct postage is used.

Mail applications to Scholarship, c/o Dorothy Stover-Kendrick, 6005 Widmer Road, Shawnee, KS 66216

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Recipients will receive an email notification before 01 June and must confirm receipt and submit a thank-you note as instructed. Non-select applicants will be notified by official email.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

Once selected, successful applicants will have their checks mailed directly to their chosen university after providing proof of enrollment in the designated school or university, typically in August or September.

ESSAY SUBMISSIONS:

All applicants must complete the following two statements, with a maximum of two pages per statement. Each essay should be on a separate sheet of paper. Do not use bullet points; the Committee will evaluate the applicant's written communication skills.

1. Tell us about the Marine you are related to when applying for this scholarship. (This could be your WMA sponsor if related, your mother, grandmother, father, grandfather, brother or sister, aunt, or uncle, for example.) If self-sponsored, e.g., WMA member, JROTC, or Young Marines, write about yourself.
2. Tell us about your goals after college.

WMA SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

- ☐ **COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM.** The application must be typed. Handwritten applications will not be accepted. The application form can be downloaded at <https://www.womenmarines.org/scholarships>.
- ☐ **ESSAY SUBMISSION.** Include the two statements, a minimum of one page per statement, and a maximum of two pages per statement. Each statement is on a separate page. "Tell Us" Essays about your Marine descendant and your goals after college.
- ☐ **PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY.** Check eligibility requirements for acceptable documents. **NOTE:** DD214 confirms service but not relationship.
- ☐ **TWO PROFESSIONAL LETTERS OF REFERENCE.** (Letters from relatives are not acceptable.) Letters must be written within the **last 12 months, dated, and signed**, and attest to the applicant's character, attitude, leadership ability, and scholastic participation. High school students must include two letters from school personnel on official letterhead, signed and dated, and in sealed envelopes. **DO NOT SEND** copies of personal accolades. Other acceptable letters of reference may come from employers, military personnel, or anyone who can attest to your ability to succeed. Request your letters of reference/recommendation early on. Do not wait until the last minute.
- ☐ **COPY OF TRANSCRIPTS.** All high school and college transcripts should be transmitted electronically to the Scholarship Chair at scholarship@womenmarines.org. Parchment transcripts are acceptable. Applicants who have completed their first enlistment or have been out of the education pipeline for over 10 years are not required to submit an official high school transcript. Students residing outside the continental United States (OCONUS) who are attending an OCONUS college should submit transcripts and any available test scores, along with a grading key to facilitate comparison with U.S. schools. It is recommended that transcripts be requested well in advance rather than close to deadlines.
- ☐ **LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.** A letter of acceptance for the following year from the applicant's school of choice. Funds will not be released until proof of acceptance/enrollment is received.

- ❑ **BE ENROLLED FULL-TIME.** All applicants must be enrolled as full-time students (12 credit hours) to be eligible for a WMA Scholarship. Master's/PhD applicants are required to take at least six (6) credit hours each semester. Copies of course schedules are acceptable.

NOTE: *All applications must be completed as stated in these procedures to be considered qualified. Incomplete packages will not be considered. **Pay attention to the details.** You will be responsible for notifying your WMA sponsor as to whether you were selected or not.*

IF UNSURE OF WHERE YOU ARE ATTENDING COLLEGE, THIS INFORMATION MUST BE PROVIDED WHEN NOTIFIED OF SELECTION. STUDENT/COLLEGE ID MUST BE PROVIDED AT THE SAME TIME.

REFER TO THE WMA WEBSITE FOR UPDATES under WMA PROGRAMS at
<https://www.womenmarines.org/scholarships>