



Special Forces Association
4990 Doc Bennett Road
Fayetteville, NC 28306
<https://www.specialforceassociation.org>
(910) 485-5433

February 17, 2025

SFA Scholarship Fund Policy and Guidelines

The following is the official policy of the Special Forces Association for the application, acceptance, evaluation and award of post-secondary financial aid scholarships and awards to members, dependents and grandchildren of SFA members in good standing.

This policy is effective March 1, 2025, and supersedes all previous SFA scholarship policies.

1. **PURPOSE:** The Special Forces Association (SFA) Scholarship Fund is designed to provide financial aid in the form of one time graduate and undergraduate scholarships and technical/vocational school financial awards to members, dependents and grandchildren of eligible members in good standing of the SFA.
2. **SCOPE:** this policy applies to all members within the association.
 - a. The Special Projects Officer oversees and is responsible for the administration of this policy and reports directly to the SFA National Board of Officers (NBO) with recommendations for the awarding of any scholarships.
 - b. The Special Projects Officer shall seek and appoint members to the Scholarship Committee NLT March 1st of each year. The Committee will evaluate each applicant's submittals and rank them according to a strictly merit-based scoring system. Financial need may be considered to break a merit-based tie, but nepotism or sponsor favoritism will not be a factor.
 - c. The Scholarship Committee will make a recommendation to the NBO of the highest scoring applicants who should receive scholarships or awards in each category. Final approval of scholarships and awards rest solely with the NBO.
 - d. Scholarship monies will be paid directly to the financial aid office of the institution where the applicant has been accepted, earmarked as tuition.
3. **CATEGORIES AND AMOUNTS OF AWARDS:** SFA will establish a 2025 scholarship fund of \$55,000 and will award a total of twenty (20) scholarships and awards, as follows:
 - a. Fifteen (15) graduate and undergraduate scholarships of \$3,000 each, for a total of \$45,000, as a separate line item. Three (3) of these will initially be reserved for graduate level applications. If there are less than three qualified graduate level awards, the unused funds will revert for use as undergraduate awards.
 - b. Five (5) technical/vocational school financial awards of \$2,000 each, for a total of \$10,000, as a separate line item. If there are less than five qualified, technical/vocational awards, the unused funds will be transferred to the line item above for use as undergraduate awards.
4. **APPLICATION PROCESS:**
 - a. **Notification:** Not later than March 1st of each year, the Scholarship Committee shall post, 1.) On the SFA website, 2.) In the spring issue of The Drop and 3.) In an email to each chapter president, an announcement of the eligibility, time period, documentation, and procedures required for submitting scholarship applications for the current year, with detailed instructions for completing applications.
 - b. **Eligibility:** Applicants must be an SFA member in good standing, or the dependent or grandchild of an SFA member in good standing, or of a deceased member who was in good standing at the time of death. Applicants must have already been accepted by, or be in attendance at, the accredited college, university, junior college, or technical/vocational school at which the scholarship will be applied.
 - c. **Application Timeline:** SFA scholarship applications will be accepted from April 1st to May 15th. All required documentation, as listed below, must be submitted electronically in a single PDF document, entitled "SFA Scholarship Application for (last name, first name), (year)". Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be accepted or considered. Submission of an application does not constitute approval. Final ruling on recommendations shall

be made by the Scholarship Committee NLT June 15th and awardees shall be notified electronically NLT July 1st. Award certificates shall be sent to winners promptly.

5. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: There is no separate application form for SFA scholarships, but applicant must submit all of the following seven documents for applications to be considered complete and eligible:

a. A **Sponsor Letter** from the SFA member stating his full name, member number and relationship to the applicant. Member must be in good standing to be a sponsor.

b. A copy of the **Acceptance Letter** from the school where the applicant is or will be enrolled.

c. A **Personal Letter** from the applicant that includes the following:

- i. The applicant's full contact information (name, address, telephone number and email address).
- ii. The applicant's educational and career plans and aspirations.
- iii. Planned courses of study, and why this particular school was chosen.

d. Copies of the most recent **Transcript and SAT, ACT, or GRE test scores**, as appropriate. (Taking these tests multiple times to achieve higher scores is encouraged).

e. A **Summary of Activities and Achievements** in the following areas:

- i. **Academic Honors and Awards.** (Honor Roll, National Honor Society, AP and Honors classes, or other evidence of scholastic achievement).
- ii. **Athletic Participation and Awards.** (Sport and years played, team and individual honors or awards received: Captain, MVP, Most Improved, State Champions, etc.).
- iii. **Extracurricular Activities.** (Music, drama, language, social or tech clubs).
- iv. **Non-school Activities.** (Work, volunteer, church, service programs). If a gap year has been taken, explain why.

f. An **Evaluation Letter** from the applicant's Guidance Counselor, Principal or equivalent that describes and evaluates specific actions, characteristics or qualities that illustrate why the applicant should receive the award. NOTE: General reference letters from friends or high-ranking acquaintances or officials are not considered sufficient and may invalidate the application.

g. **Essays** A separate response of 200 to 400 words is required for each of the two following topics:

- i. Discuss what you feel is one of the most pressing issues in America today, and what should be done to address it.
- ii. Discuss why the Special Forces motto, "De Oppresso Liber" ("To Free the Oppressed"), is important to them personally, to their community, nationally and globally.

6. SUBMITTAL: The items listed above must be consolidated into one PDF file in the order listed and submitted to the SFA Scholarship Committee. Applications will only be accepted online through the SFA website at: scholarships@sfanbo.org

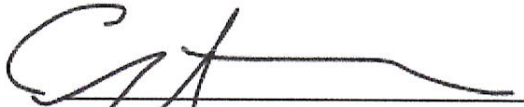
7. EVALUATION AND AWARD:

a. Applications will be evaluated by the Scholarship Committee on an equal, objective basis according to the following weighted scale, and ranked by total score:

1.	Sponsor Letter	0%
2.	Acceptance Letter	0%
3.	Personal Letter	15%
4.	Academics (Transcripts, SAT, ACT, GRE)	30%
5.	Activities and Achievements	25%
6.	Evaluation Letter	10%
7.	Essays	<u>20%</u>
		100%

- b. The Scholarship Committee shall render a report to the NBO for approval, listing the scores of all applicants and identifying those recommended to receive scholarships and awards. In the event of ties or very close scores, applicants with higher financial needs will also be identified as tiebreakers.
- c. Upon NBO approval of the Scholarship Committee's recommendation, awardees will be notified by the Chairman via email and a certificate of award will be sent via USPS mail. Other applicants who did not receive an award will also be notified, with the recommendation that they should apply again in the following year.
- d. The SFA Treasurer shall send the appropriate award money to the Financial aid office of each awardee's designated school with a letter directing that the funds be applied to that student's tuition for the coming year.

APPROVED



Christopher Wilkerson, President, SFA

Date – 01Mar 2025



Garon Strong, SFA Special Projects Officer

Date 1 MAR 2025