



# TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

P.O. Box 12788 Austin, Texas 78711

Stuart W. Stedman  
CHAIR

Fred Farias III, O.D.  
VICE CHAIR

John T. Steen, Jr.  
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

Lauren C. McKenzie  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

S. Javaid Anwar  
Ricky A. Raven  
Donna N. Williams  
Welcome Wilson, Jr.

Raymund A. Paredes  
COMMISSIONER  
OF HIGHER EDUCATION

(512) 427-6101  
Fax (512) 427-6127

Web site:  
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>

TO: The Honorable Dan Patrick, Lt. Governor  
Members, Texas Senate  
Members, Texas House of Representatives

FROM: Charles W. Puls, Ed.D.  
Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Student Financial Aid Programs

DATE: July 26, 2019

SUBJECT: Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program

As previously communicated to you, the nomination period for the 2019-2020 Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program (TASSP) is currently open. You are receiving this correspondence because we have not yet received a nomination from your office.

This is to inform you that the deadline for nominations has been extended to **August 31, 2019**.

The 86th Texas Legislature increased funding for the TASSP in House Bill 1, the General Appropriations Act for 2020-21. This allows us to increase TASSP annual awards from \$4,000 to a maximum of \$10,000 per year for new and continuing students, which will greatly assist students in covering their educational costs.

If you desire to make a nomination, we request that you make your nomination as soon as possible so that deserving students can be notified of their selection in a timely manner. Delays in nomination may result in funds being received by an institution past a student's tuition payment deadline. Please ensure your nominee is aware of this potential situation. You or your designee must make a formal nomination at the following link:  
**<https://www1.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/tassp/>**.

Nominees must complete an additional application process with the institutions in which they are enrolled no later than **October 15, 2019**.

Nominees are required to enter into an agreement with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to receive an award. If the student does not meet the conditions outlined in the agreement, a student will be required to repay the award amount. Additional TASSP information is available at:  
**<http://www.hhloans.com/TASSP>**.

Please contact the External Relations Department at (512) 427-6111 or via email at [er@thecb.state.tx.us](mailto:er@thecb.state.tx.us) if you have any questions.

Thank you for your commitment to the students of Texas and for your continued support to strengthen higher education.

Attachment

# OVERVIEW: TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



JULY 2019

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

## ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION

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.

**Students must be enrolled in a college or university in the fall 2019/spring 2020 academic year in order to be nominated for a TASSP award during the current nomination cycle.**

## 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 Coordinating Board agreeing to:

- 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;
- Graduate no later than six years after the date the student first enrolls at an institution of higher education;
- No later than six months after graduation, 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
  - (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 the requirements for obtaining the award.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTINUED AWARDS (AS FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE)

---

**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

---

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

The TASSP award amount for the 2019-2020 academic year is a maximum of \$10,000. In no case will the award exceed the student's cost of attendance less the total amount to be paid to a student for being under contract with one of the branches of the armed services of the 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 **August 31, 2019** for the 2019-2020 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.thecb.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 **October 15, 2019**.

**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 students may contact the Office of the Governor, Office of the Lt. Governor, Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or a Texas State Senator or a Texas State Representative. Students may locate area legislators by visiting this link and typing in their home address under Who Represents Me?: <https://capitol.texas.gov/>.

For more information: Office of External Relations 512-427-6111 [er@theccb.state.tx.us](mailto:er@theccb.state.tx.us)