

Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFM) Scholarship Program



Program Overview

Military Tuition Assistance currently pays 100 percent of tuition (up to \$250/semester hour and \$166/quarter hour – up to \$4,500 annually) in pursuit of approved degree programs.

AAFM recognizes Airmen serving the ICBM mission may have financial costs which exceed Tuition Assistance (TA) reimbursement levels. These costs may include:

- Tuition costs exceeding TA limits
- Technology fees
- Textbook and eBook costs
- Exam fees
- Application fees

The AAFM Scholarship Program seeks to offset these out-of-pocket costs for active duty AAFM members currently serving the ICBM mission through varying levels of direct financial assistance.

General Eligibility

AAFM scholarship applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Applicants must be:
 - Currently serving on active duty in the USAF ICBM force (operator, maintainer, security forces, facility manager, missile field communications, missile field chef, or other ICBM mission-related specialty support role).
 - Currently enrolled (or in process of enrolling) in off-duty, degree-seeking courses from an accredited college or university and has signed the DoD memorandum of understanding for the Military TA program. Note: AAFM scholarships are not awarded for vocational, technical, trade or flight schools, or other non-degree granting institutions.
- Applicants must complete online application located at the AAFM website.
- Applicants must attach a signed letter of recommendation/endorsement from their unit leadership (First Sergeant, Commander, Operations Officer etc.)
- Recipients of AAFM scholarships cannot be a family member of an officer, director, board member, selection committee member or financial contributor of the scholarship award.

Association of Air Force Missileers (AAFAM) Scholarship Program



Application Process

Application for all scholarships is accomplished on the AAFM website at www.afmissileers.org/scholarships

Web form collects the following applicant information:

- Name and rank
- Unit assigned
- Position description
- College or university enrolled
- Degree sought
- Anticipated graduation date
- Transcript of course work completed to date
- Narrative field for the applicant to describe how their academic pursuits relate to the ICBM nuclear deterrence mission
- Narrative field for the applicant to describe their personal experience in and contributions to the ICBM mission
- Narrative field for the applicant to describe and special circumstances or considerations the applicant would like to communicate to the committee
- If selected to receive a scholarship, agrees to use name, rank, duty station, and photo in award announcement by AAFM via website, social media and newsletter.
- Preferred communication protocol for award notification (email or U.S. mail)

Letters of Endorsement/Recommendation

Applicants are requested to submit signed letter(s) of endorsement/recommendation from their unit leadership (First Sergeant, Commander, Operations Officer etc.) that includes:

- Description of applicant's character and mission contributions
- Recommendation/endorsement
- Special circumstances or needs of the applicant

Up to three letters of endorsement/recommendation will be accepted.

Directly emailed endorsements/recommendations from the author/originator are preferred at scholarships@afmissileers.org

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Scholarship Selection Process

All AAFM scholarships are awarded on an objective and non-discriminatory basis

Members of the AAFM Recognition Committee will accomplish the selection process. Each Recognition Committee member will independently review and score all applications. Applications will be scored in accordance with the criteria established for each individual scholarship. The selection team will review the individual scores and finalize the award list.

Results of the selection process, including original applications and Recognition Committee scores, will be submitted to the AAFM Secretary and maintained in the AAFM archive.

- Selection process must be completed and approved by the AAFM Board by majority vote (based on presentation and motion to approve by the Recognition Committee) during the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.
- Recipients of scholarship(s) will be notified via email and/or written letter.
- Commanders of each recipient will be notified of award recipients via email or written letter.
- After notifying recipients and recipients' unit commanders, results will be made public on the AAFM website, social media and newsletter.
- Non-recipients will be notified via email or written letter (based on selected communication preference).

Scholarship Award Payment

AAFM scholarship recipients will submit evidence of financial obligation to the college or university attended for eligible expense categories (application fees, tuition, books/eBooks, technology/laboratory fees, exam fees, or other costs) not covered by the Military TA program via email.

AAFM will normally make payment(s), on the recipient's behalf, directly to the educational institution.

In cases where the scholarship recipient has already paid expenses out-of-pocket, the recipient will provide receipts to and AAFM will make payment to the recipient via check.

All correspondence should be addressed to: scholarships@afmissileers.org.

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Individual Scholarships

Colonel Charles S. Simpson Founders Scholarship

Colonel Charles S. “Charlie” Simpson (USAF, retired) is a founding member of AAFM, serving as the Executive Director for our first 25 years (1993-2018) and continues as AAFMs Director Emeritus.

Charlie graduated from the University of Miami, Florida and commissioned as an Air Force Second Lieutenant in August 1959, working as a design engineer with Pratt & Whitney Aircraft before entering active duty on 25 November 1959. Initially serving as an aircraft maintenance officer, he transitioned to Titan I maintenance duty in 1961 - including alert duty during the intense period of the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 at Mountain Home AFB, ID. His actions to generate weapons to alert status during this critical time for the nuclear deterrence mission was documented in the USAF Veterans In Blue project in 1987. Charlie later served in Minuteman II as a Missile Combat Crew Commander, Instructor/Evaluator, competing on the Blanchard Trophy winning team from Grand Forks AFB, ND in 1969, and on the 3901st SMES team at Vandenberg AFB, CA. He later served at HQ SAC developing SIOP planning factors, as the Commander 68th SMS, 44th SMW DCO and 44th CSG at Ellsworth AFB, SD. As part of GLCM deployment, Charlie led the 487th CSG at Comiso AB, Sicily as the first USAF permanent party and later commanded the 39th CSS (Incirlik AB, Turkey), 406th CSG (Zaragoza AB, Spain) and served as the Chief of Staff, 57th Air Division (Minot AFB, ND).

Colonel Simpson retired from active duty on 31 July 1989 with over 30 years of service and now serves on the board of the Breckenridge Music Festival. His pioneering vision and leadership in AAFM serve as an inspiration to preserve, educate and advocate for the legacy of all other Missileers and those who continue to serve in the ICBM nuclear deterrence mission.

Chief Master Sergeant Richard “Hawk” Hochheiser Memorial Scholarship

Named for AAFM Life Member CMSgt Richard “Hawk” Hochheiser (Greenport, NY/Baltimore, MD) who enlisted in the USAF at 17, knowing his parents were not of means to sponsor college attendance.

Hawk initially served as a System Analyst Crew Member in the Mace missile system in Okinawa and later served as an Electro-Mechanical Team (EMT) member and Tech Engineering in all variants of the Minuteman missile system culminating in an assignment in the HQ SAC/LG office where his technical expertise was regularly sought across the enterprise as the recognized technical expert in hardware and software. In his second career with TRW/Northrop Grumman, Hawk worked in Expanded Execution Program for the Operations Execution Program and was the primary software and systems engineer for the Rapid Execution and Combat Targeting (REACT) command & control system for Minuteman III.

He also served as senior technical leader NS-50 Guidance Replacement Program (GRP), Operations Ground Program, Operations Flight Program (OFP), Flight Program Constants and REACT Service Life Extension Program. His ability to capture requirements, focus development teams, serve as a calming influence during heated technical discussions and his wise counsel/mentor to junior engineers, operators and maintainers added to his status as a “missile legend”.

Although his humble attitude, personality and sense of humor never acknowledged this status, his work and influence continues to operate in the software code running at Minuteman III LFs and LCCs maintaining our national nuclear alert posture every day.