

Air Force Materials and Manufacturing Alumni Association (AFMMAA)

2024 Merit Scholarship Program Description

PURPOSE

The Air Force Materials and Manufacturing Alumni Association (AFMMAA) established this merit scholarship program for the purpose of providing financial assistance to selected high-achievement, educationally oriented sons, daughters, and grandchildren of current AFRL/RX government employees and military members (“AFRL/RX” in this document, refers to AFRL/RX as well as its predecessor organizations).

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Two types of merit scholarships are offered, equally weighted when considering the application:

- ***Chief Scientist’s Scholarship.*** Intended for recipients interested in the pursuit of careers in fields related to the AFRL/RX mission—materials science, processing science, manufacturing, systems support and the STEM-related sciences.
- ***Alumni Association Scholarship.*** Intended for recipients interested in what might be regarded as a non-technical area. This second category recognizes that for the USAF to function at its fullest strength, it requires well-educated professionals in a variety of fields—not just scientists or engineers, but accountants, program managers, contracting specialists, pilots, astronauts, doctors, nurses and more.

ELIGIBILITY

Any natural or adopted child or grandchild of a current AFRL/RX government (civilian or military) employee is eligible to apply for either of the two types of scholarships. The primary focus of the awards is to assist recent high school graduates about to enter their first year of an accredited two- or four-year college or university program. The general award criteria listed below will apply to all applicants.

AWARD CRITERIA

(See *Merit Scholarship Application* for specific details)

- Submission of an essay that describes personal educational goals and career aspirations, as described in more detail in the instructions for the *Merit Scholarship Program Application*.

- Submission of two academic/character letters of recommendation.
- Evidence of academic achievement, as measured by grades, test scores and special recognition/awards, including documented evidence of pending graduation with a minimum equivalent GPA of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0.
- Evidence of involvement in extracurricular activities and/or community service.
- Statement of intent to follow an approved course of study that will lead ultimately to an academic degree or equivalent on its completion, including an indication of intended career goals beyond college.
- Evidence of acceptance as a full-time student (to be enrolled in the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours) in an accredited two- or four-year college or university.

SELECTION PROCESS

Applicant submissions will be evaluated by a selection committee chaired by an AFMMAA member named by the Executive Board. The selection committee chair will identify remaining committee members, who will also be members of the AFMMAA and whose collective experience (including that as a prior employee of AFRL/RX) will generally be representative of the technical, organizational and functional diversity of AFRL/RX.

Using the evaluation criteria listed above, the selection committee will review the submitted applications and select those it judges to be qualified for a scholarship award. The selected candidates will be listed in priority order of assessed merit, as determined by a vote of the committee members, and the list submitted to the Executive Board for its consideration. The Executive Board will make the final selection of recipients, based on the selection committee's recommendations and the availability of funds.

There are many factors involved in the selection process conducted by the committee, but as a starting point, each member reviews all the applications and independently scores each of five categories that are a component of a points system. These scores are used as a framework to guide the overall discussion that in turn leads to a ranking of the submissions that are considered to meet the requirements for an award. As an indicator of the committee's view of the relative importance of the numerically rated categories, the maximum score assigned to each is as follows:

- Essay 30
- Character/academic references 25
- Academic performance evidence 25
- Extracurricular activities 15
- Interest and intent beyond degree 5

AWARD PROCESS

The AFMMAA Board, on behalf of the Association, will inform the applicants of the results of the evaluation. Scholarship awards will be made directly to the academic institution that the recipient will be attending, for application to tuition fees and general fees that the recipient will be incurring. The board may later give formal recognition of the awards at a suitable AFRL/XR event, and the names of awardees may be published on the AFMMAA web site.

Depending on the availability of funds, scholarships in the amount of up to \$1000 may be awarded in each of the scholarship categories, typically in August.

Any award won, but unclaimed by the end of the calendar year indicated as the basis for the award application, is subject to forfeiture. Forfeiture does not prejudice future application for an award.

AWARD APPLICATION FORM

Applicants must complete an AFMMAA *Merit Scholarship Program Application*. This is available from the AFMMAA scholarship committee or may be downloaded from the AFMMAA website:

afmmaa.org/scholarships

2024 SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR AND PRIMARY CONTACT

- Charles Ward - scholarships@afmmaa.org