

CHARLES W. RILEY FIREFIGHTER AND AMBULANCE AND RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Conditions of Award
Academic Year 2026-2027



Eligibility Requirements:

- o **You may not falsify or conceal a material fact in connection with your application. If you do, you may be subject to criminal prosecution;**
- o You must be a Maryland resident. If you are a dependent student, your parent must also be a Maryland resident.
- o Actively engaged as a career firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member in an organized fire department or ambulance or rescue squad in the State; or
- o Actively engaged as a volunteer firefighter or ambulance rescue squad member in an organized fire department or ambulance or rescue squad in the State
- o You must either be accepted for admission or enroll at an institution in Maryland each semester as a:
 - o Full-time (12+ credits per semester) or part-time (6-11 credits per semester) undergraduate
 - o Audited courses cannot be used to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time or part-time status.
- o You must enroll as a degree-seeking student in an eligible major leading to employment in an eligible field.
- o You must maintain the satisfactory academic progress standards of your institution.
- o You may receive other State scholarship awards with this award. However, the total dollar amount of all State awards may not exceed your cost of attendance, as determined by your school's financial aid office, or \$28,000, whichever is less.

If you fail to meet any of these eligibility requirements, your award will be canceled.

As a condition of receiving a Maryland State scholarship or grant, you pledge to remain drug free for the full term of the award. Unlawful use of drugs and alcohol may endanger your enrollment in a Maryland college, as well as your Maryland financial aid award.

NOTE: If you fail to remain eligible for the award, you must still fulfill the obligation of the promissory note.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance must be notified in writing of any address and/or telephone number changes.

Award Amount: The annual award shall be at least 50% of the student's actual annual tuition and mandatory fees at an eligible institution, but may not exceed the annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student at the four-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland University College and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate for courses credited toward a degree in fire service technology, emergency medical technology, fire service management, or public safety administration with a minor or concentration in fire service technology or fire service management. You are required to inform our office if your award is for the incorrect number of credits/incorrect institution type.

Overawards: Please be aware that if the institution you are attending notifies OSFA that you are receiving other financial assistance that causes you to exceed your financial need for the award or exceed the cost of attendance at the institution (e.g.: private scholarships; Veteran's Benefits; athletic scholarships), your State financial aid may be reduced or cancelled.

(Over, please)

To Renew Your Award:

- o You may receive this award for up to five years total. You must:
 - o Continue to meet the eligibility requirements as outlined above;
 - o Maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
 - o Maintain the satisfactory academic progress standards of your institution.

The award will be cancelled if the recipient fails to meet and maintain each eligibility requirement. A recipient who is academically ineligible will forfeit the award, and must reapply as an initial applicant in a subsequent award year and meet and maintain each eligibility requirement. A student transferring from one institution to another may continue to receive the award as long as the student meets all of the scholarship eligibility requirements.

Note: Awards are subject to the availability of funds.

Payment to Your Institution:

At the beginning of each semester, your institution will be asked to certify that you meet the requirements of the award. When the institution completes the certification and returns it to OSFA, your award will be processed for payment. Payment to the institution will be made approximately four weeks after the institution completes the certification. Contact your institution's financial aid office if you have questions about the payment status of your award.

Service Obligation:

- o You must sign and return a promissory note agreeing to begin fulfillment of the service obligation as a career or volunteer firefighter or ambulance or rescue squad member for which your award was received within one year of completing your degree (the degree for which you received the award, not a subsequent degree).
- o The service obligation begins after completion of your degree program, and cannot be fulfilled prior to completion. If you do not complete your degree, you will be obligated to repay the grant.
- o If you hold this scholarship with any other award requiring a service obligation, you must perform your service in consecutive years.
- o If you do not meet your service obligation, your scholarship must be repaid with interest.