

DOUGLAS J.J. PETERS VETERANS OF THE AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ CONFLICTS (VAIC) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Conditions of Award

Academic Year 2025-2026

Eligibility Requirements:

You must be:

- A Maryland resident;

NOTE: Residents of Maryland include active members of the United States Armed Forces, their spouses and their dependent children, who are stationed in the State of Maryland or whose state of residency is Maryland.

- A veteran who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts; an active duty member of the Armed Forces who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, as defined below; a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts and served, as defined below; or a son, daughter, or spouse of:
 - A veteran or active duty member of the Armed Forces who is serving or has served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts, as defined below; or
 - A member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces or Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts and served, as defined below.

Definition: Uniform Services Members of the United States who served in Afghanistan, or contiguous air space as defined in federal regulations, on or after October 24, 2001; or in Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal regulations, on or after March 19, 2003.

- You must accept your award within six weeks of the date of your notification or your award **will be canceled**.
- You must enroll at an institution in Maryland each semester as a degree-seeking:
 - Full-time (12+ credits per semester) or part-time (6-11 credits per semester) undergraduate; or
 - Enroll in a 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program at an eligible Maryland institution.
 - Audited courses cannot be used to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time or part-time status.
- If you choose to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or file for Maryland State Aid through the MHEC One-App, the application must be completed by March 1 of each year.
- The maximum amount of the VAIC Scholarship award may not exceed 50% of the annual tuition and mandatory fees and room & board of a resident undergraduate 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. **Actual annual award amounts may vary based on funding.**
- The total dollar amount of all State scholarship awards may not exceed your cost of attendance, as determined by your school's financial aid office. **The total amount of financial assistance that you receive, including State aid and Veterans' Educational Benefits, may not exceed your cost of attendance, as determined by your institution.**

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

Renewal Requirements:

- You must continue to meet Maryland residency requirements.
- If you choose to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year, it must be completed by March 1st of each year
- You must continue to meet eligibility requirements as outlined above.
- You must maintain at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale.
- The award is renewable for up to four (4) years of full-time attendance or eight (8) years of part-time attendance.

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 requests the funds from us, your award will be processed for payment.

Payment to the institution will be made approximately eight 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.

For More Information: If you have questions, contact us at osfamail.mhec@maryland.gov.