



ARNOLD AIR SOCIETY AND SILVER WINGS
9012 Haywood Ave.
Lorton VA 22079
An Independent Non-Profit Service Organization
Since 1947



28 October 2024

ACTION MEMORANDUM FOR ALL AAS SQUADRON COMMANDERS AND SW CHAPTER PRESIDENTS: FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION TO ALL MEMBERS

SUBJECT: AAS-SW Academic Scholarships 2024-2025 (SUSP: 2 Dec 24)

1. The AAS-SW Executive Management Center is accepting nominations for **ten (10) academic scholarships** totaling upwards of **\$45,000**.

- **Two \$10,000 scholarships**
- **Two \$5000 scholarships**
- **Six \$2500 scholarships (increase in \$500 over last year)**

2. **ELIGIBILITY.** Non-graduating AS200, AS300, and AS400 AAS-SW cadets may apply. Silver Wings civilian sophomores, juniors, and non-graduating seniors may apply. "Non-graduating" is defined as a student graduating on 31 December 2024 or later. A student graduating before 31 December 2024 may not apply.

3. **APPLICATION.** Fully compliant applications must be received by the AAS/SW Executive Management Center at mgmt.center@arnold-air.org by **midnight Eastern time on Monday, 2 Dec 2024. Late submissions will not be accepted.**

4. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.** Full details on the application and selection process are attached. The same information is also available on the Arnold Air Society-Silver Wings website at <https://aas-sw.org/grants-and-internships/>.

5. We wish you the best of luck on the application process. Fly, Fight and Win!

JIMMY R. CANLAS
Brigadier General, USAF (Retired)
Executive Director

ATCH:

1. Application Procedures
2. Scholarship Application Tips
3. Financial Info Form

ATTACHMENT 1 – APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. The AAS-SW Executive Management Center is accepting applications for our 2024-2025 Academic Scholarship Program. A total of ten (10) scholarships will be awarded with amounts outlined below:

- **Two \$10,000 scholarships**
- **Two \$5000 scholarships**
- **Six \$2500 scholarships**

2. **DONORS.** Scholarships are made possible by the generosity of the following donors.

- **The Airlift Tanker Association**
- **USAA**
- **The Air & Space Forces Association**
- **The George and Vicki Muellner Trust**
- **The Arnold Air Society-Silver Wings Education Fund**
- **The Arnold Air Society-Silver Wings Board of Trustees**

3. **ELIGIBILITY.** Non-graduating AS200, AS300, and AS400 AAS-SW cadets may apply. Silver Wings civilian sophomores, juniors, and non-graduating seniors may apply. “Non-graduating” is defined as a student graduating on 31 December 2024 or later. A student graduating before 31 December 2024 may not apply.

4. **APPLICATION.** Fully compliant applications must be received by the AAS/SW Executive Management Center at mgmt.center@arnold-air.org by **midnight Eastern time on Monday, 2 Dec 2024.**

*****PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS AND THE ATTACHMENTS ENTIRELY*****

NOTE 1: Scholarship recipients agree to provide a photo of themselves either individually or during the award presentation.

NOTE 2: Scholarship recipients agree to provide a note of thanks to the appropriate sponsor via email upon request.

NOTE 3: Applicants agree to release their essay to the Airlift/Tanker Quarterly if selected by the selection board for publication. In addition, applicants release their photo and thank you note for publication in the Airlift/Tanker Quarterly or AFA magazine.

NOTE 4: It is imperative that the applicant’s name (last name, first name) be clearly included on the scholarship application, the financial aid form, and the essay. Not including these three components will render your application ineligible.

NOTE 5: Scholarship payments will be reduced by the cost of a NATCON registration; NATCON attendance is desired and funds will be used elsewhere if a student does not elect to attend.

Financial Need: Applicants must demonstrate financial need. The selection committee will rely on the information provided in the application.

Grade Point Average: Applicants must have a minimum 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 or equivalent scale.

Nominations by the Detachment Commander: Each AFROTC Detachment Commander may nominate one (1) member of the AAS Squadron from each eligible academic class and one (1) member of the SW Chapter from each eligible academic class to the AAS/SW Executive Management Center (EMC).

NOTE: This means a Detachment Commander may nominate as many as six individuals (3 x Cadets (AS 200 through 400) and 3 x SW (Sophomore through Senior).

Submission: Nominations and essays must be emailed to the AAS/SW EMC NLT **midnight Eastern time on Monday, 2 December 2024 at mgmt.center@arnold-air.org**. Applications require Detachment Commander action so students must plan accordingly to meet this deadline.

Selection: The EMC will distribute the application packages to the Scholarship Committee, which will select the top candidates to receive scholarships. Applicants may expect results in January.

Application Process: There are two submittal elements required to apply:

- A typed Application Form including a typed Financial Need Form*
- An essay and bibliography*

* PLEASE ENSURE STUDENT NAMES ARE ON THE APPLICATION, ESSAY, AND FINANCIAL AID FORMS (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME)

Judging Criteria: Applicant packages will be reviewed and evaluated according to the following allocation of 100 points:

80 POINTS – Essay and bibliography allocated as follows:

- (40 Points) Content and strength of supporting arguments/statements
- (25 Points) Originality of thought/argument
- (10 Points) Conformation with accepted English composition and bibliographic standards (this includes grammar, punctuation, grammatical structures, etc.; please see note below)
- (5 Points) Conformance with formatting instructions

NOTE: MUST USE MLS, APA, OR CHICAGO STYLES; PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING LINK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION <https://owl.purdue.edu>

20 POINTS – Scholarship Application

- (10 Points) Demonstration of Leadership and Service
- (10 Points) Demonstration of Financial Need

Presentation of Awards: The AAS/SW Executive Director will notify Detachment Commanders of the winning entries. Arrangements will be made to ensure Commanders may present scholarships to recipients during a leadership lab or other suitable venue.

The full registration amount for the National Conclave will be withheld from each scholarship to help defray student expenses associated with attending the Conclave. If a student does not choose to attend the Conclave, funds will be used for other purposes.

ELEMENT ONE: THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

NOTE: THIS APPLICATION MUST BE TYPED AS A WORD DOCUMENT ATTACHED TO THE EMAIL SUBMISSION ALONG WITH THE ESSAY. SCANNED HANDWRITTEN SUBMISSIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE. THIS ELEMENT HAS THREE MANDATORY SECTIONS AND ONE OPTIONAL SECTION.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION (NO POINT VALUE)

FULL NAME:

PERMANENT EMAIL ADDRESS (NOT COLLEGE/EDU ADDRESS)

ADDRESS OF RECORD (NOT ADDRESS AT SCHOOL):

TELEPHONE (Best # to reach you):

DET COMMANDER NAME/RANK:

DET CC EMAIL ADDRESS (PLEASE CONFIRM THIS AS WE OFTEN HAVE ERRORS)

DET COMMANDER PHONE:

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY:

CADET (IF AAS) Level: 200 300 400

GRADE (IF SILVER WINGS) Level: Sophomore Junior Senior

AFROTC SCHOLARSHIP Level: N/A PARTIAL FULL

AAS/SW SQUADRON OR CHAPTER NAME:

ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE:

COLLEGE MAJOR:

CUMULATIVE GPA/SCALE:

IS ENGLISH A SECOND LANGUAGE FOR YOU: YES NO

SECTION 2 – DEMONSTRATION OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE: (10 points)

Please list in bullet format the AAS/SW leadership positions held:

Please list in bullet format other campus and community involvement:

Please list in bullet format any awards and recognition received in college:

SECTION 3 – FINANCIAL NEED: (10 points)

Please complete the attached Financial Need Form (typed) and include it as an attachment to your submission (ensure your name (LAST NAME, FIRST NAME) is on this form and that it is completed in full)

Applicant Signature

I have reviewed the information being submitted.

Detachment Commander

SECTION FOUR – OPTIONAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER COMMENTS

The PAS may use this page to provide a recommendation or further information on the candidate as part of this application. The page does not need to be shared with the student applicant and is optional.

ELEMENT TWO: THE ESSAY

General Guidance: Acronyms must be spelled out on the first use after which the acronym may be used. The essay must provide a statement of the topic and supporting information substantiated by a formal bibliography.

NOTE: PLEASE USE MLS, APA, OR CHICAGO STYLES; PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING LINK FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION <https://owl.purdue.edu>

Format: The paper must be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. The font for all text will be Times New Roman, 12 points.

Bibliography: A variety of source materials and citations are recommended, e.g., pure “Wikipedia” and “Air Force Fact Sheets” citations as source material are not acceptable.

NOTE 1: THE BIBLIOGRAPHY IS IN ADDITION TO THE 3-PAGE ESSAY LIMITATION

NOTE 2: **//IMPORTANT//NEW FOR 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAYS**

For the essay, original analysis and thought is most important. If AI is used, ALL AI data used in the essay MUST be cited. Follow the guidance below:

- When a generative artificial intelligence (AI) model is used in the drafting an essay, the use of AI must be disclosed in the methods section and cited.
- AI cannot be named as an author on an essay.
- When AI is cited in the essay, the author must employ the APA citation format, which includes specifying in the methods section how, when, and to what extent AI was used. Students are required to upload the full output of the AI as supplemental material. This will not count against the page count.
- Students are responsible for the accuracy of any information in their article. Students must verify any information and citations provided to them by an AI tool. Students may use but must disclose AI tools for specific purposes such as editing.
- Students may use AI, but are not required to disclose its use, for source identification, language translation, grammar checking & source citation formatting

Essay Requirements: Applicants will write a 3-page essay on one of the following five topics:

- Describe air mobility's role in Great Power Competition with China. Does it provide a distinct advantage or does it represent a vulnerability in our operations? Justify and defend your position.
- Aeromedical evacuation (AE) is a core mission set for Air Mobility. What are some of the challenges executing the AE mission in an anti-access/area-denial scenario?
- The Space Force has been partnering with industry to launch military payloads on commercial rockets. Is this a tenable practice, or does the DoD need to grow its own organic launch capabilities?
- What jobs and responsibilities are best suited to Government Civilians and Contractors versus uniformed military in the Department of the Air Force and why? Justify and defend your position. NOTE: It is critically important that students selecting this topic familiarize themselves thoroughly with the scope of civilian career fields in the Air and Space Force, so they can properly draw conclusions about the need for civilian support to military operations.
- How does Emotional Intelligence influence effective leadership? What role does it play in fostering team collaboration, decision-making, and conflict resolution?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Compliance Checklist: The following is a brief checklist for students and detachment to use to help ensure a compliant application and avoid administrative disqualification. It does not need to be submitted with the application and is primarily for internal detachment use.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- ___ Applicant is an active member of AAS or SW in good standing (i.e., dues paid)
- ___ AAS Squadron or SW Chapter is in good standing
- ___ Applicant has a GPA of 2.5 or above
- ___ Applicant is an AS 200, 300, or 400 Cadet or a Silver Wings sophomore, junior, or non-graduating senior (Graduates 31 December 2023 or later)

APPLICATION PACKAGE ELEMENTS

- ___ Essay (reference detailed requirements & guidelines in package)
- ___ Maximum 3 pages plus Bibliography
- ___ Topic (one of six options)

ATTACHMENT 2: HOW TO SUBMIT A WINNING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

This document is intended as a TOOL for AAS/SW members in submitting an application for AAS/SW Scholarships. The information is provided in the POSITIVE and represents judges' collective feedback comments from the last several years.

• What does a “winner” look like?

- Application (20 points) - All information complete to include ALL AAS/SW, AFROTC, and campus leadership positions held, adheres to proscribed format, financial need well substantiated, bears applicant AND Detachment Commander signatures.
- Essay (80 points) - Topic is within guidelines provided, begins with a clearly stated Thesis, essay displays originality of thought and solid support for the thesis, composition adheres to good paragraph and sentence structure to ensure good flow of information presented, no grammatical or spelling errors. Clearly and authoritatively sourced with up-to-date references. Above all, INTERESTING, THOUGHT-PROVOKING and CLEARLY REFLECTING YOUR OWN INTELLECT/THOUGHTS/ANALYSIS OF THE FACTS.
- Remember: EVERY POINT COUNTS!

• Tips and Tools For the Essay:

- READ, RE-READ, STUDY the REQUIREMENTS AND DIRECTIONS! And FOLLOW!
 - Validate that your TOPIC is within guidelines. DON'T GET DISQUALIFIED FOR THAT!
- Who could validate? Cadre member, faculty resource with expertise in the topic domain
 - Have your DRAFT reviewed for: grammar, paragraph/sentence structure, good writing practices and composition, clearly stated and strongly supported thesis.
 - To get a review check out: campus Writing Center, a faculty member in the English Department
 - THIS IS NOT A BOOK REPORT! Ensure that your paper reflects your own intellect/thoughts/analysis.
- Demonstrate solid Research - Ensure Bibliography and source citations are:
 1. Current
 2. Formatted correctly
 3. Strong (e.g. Air Force Fact Sheets, Wikipedia alone are not acceptable).
 4. Include use of AI (as applicable)
- Ensure all formatting follows directions.
- Invite a Cadre member to review the final draft paper before submittal. TAKE THE REQUIREMENTS, DIRECTIONS, THE CHECKLIST, AND THIS SHEET WITH YOU AS REFERENCE.

• Tips and Tools for the Application Form

- FOLLOW THE FORMAT PROVIDED. Don't create your own format! (i.e., do NOT replace this section with a "resume")
 - Leadership Section - Give yourself credit where due. BE COMPLETE and INCLUSIVE
- AFROTC, AAS/SW, campus, community leadership!
 - Financial Need Section - Ensure all information relative to existing financial aid is correct and that your statement of need is CLEAR.
 - Signatures - two are required - yours AND Detachment Commander.
- **HINT** - make an appointment with your Det CO, provide the package with the instruction/requirements/checklist attached IN ADVANCE, cover note INVITING his/her comments, and be prepared to discuss during the meeting and prior to the signatures.

ATTACHMENT 3: Financial Information Form
Note: Fillable Version available on AAS-SW Website

Name: _____ **School:** _____

College-Related Expenses

Item	Amount per Semester		4-Year Projected Total	
	(or 2 Qtrs)	Annual Cost	(Annotate in notes if in 5-yr program)	
Tuition		\$ -	\$	-
Room and Board		\$ -	\$	-
Mandatory School Fees		\$ -	\$	-
Books / Course Supplies		\$ -	\$	-
Other:		\$ -	\$	-
Total			\$	-

Special Notes or One Time Expenses (e.g. semester abroad, natural disaster, evacuation, etc)

Scholarships & Grants

Must Include AFROTC Scholarships (Type & Dollar Value)

	Scholarship/Grant Name	Amount per Semester (or 2 Qtrs)	Start	End	Total	
					Sem.	Total Cost
1					\$	-
2					\$	-
3					\$	-
4					\$	-
5					\$	-
6					\$	-
7					\$	-
Total:					\$	-

Loans / Financial Aid (Non-Grants)

	Loan / Aid Name	Amount per Semester (or 2 Qtrs)	Start	End	Total	
					Sem.	Total Cost
1					\$	-
2					\$	-
3					\$	-
4					\$	-
Total					\$	-

Employment

	Employer	Average Hrs/Month	Start	End	Job Duties
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Other Financial Information

Please provide any other relevant financial information or extenuating circumstances for your family