Scholarship Policy

SAME Savannah Post · Adopted by the Board of Directors August 17, 2026 · Issued August 18, 2026

1. Purpose

The Savannah Post, Society of American Military Engineers (SAME), awards scholarships under two separate tracks, Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) and Vocational-Technical training. The purpose of these scholarships is to encourage and assist qualified students who wish to pursue either a college education in STEM or related degrees, or vocational-technical training for entry into construction, industrial, power sector, and technology industries, so that they, in turn, might further the goals and exemplify the ideals of the Society of American Military Engineers.

As part of the scholarship program, the Post encourages open communication between the recipient and the Post Board of Directors. Recipients are expected to be honest and transparent regarding their education, enrollment status, and academic progress, and to maintain reliable follow-through in communication as they progress through their program.

2. Award structure and amounts

STEM TRACK

STEM scholarships are awarded to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) or a related field for entry into an architectural, engineering, environmental, or construction career. STEM scholarships are annually recurring awards of $2,500 per academic year, up to a lifetime maximum of $12,500 per recipient.

Disbursement follows enrollment. A recipient enrolled in both primary terms (Fall and Spring) of an academic year receives the full $2,500 for that year. A recipient enrolled in only one primary term of an academic year receives $1,250 for that year. The Post does not pay a full annual award for a partial year of enrollment.

The $12,500 lifetime maximum is a single envelope per recipient and may be used across undergraduate and graduate study in any combination. Graduate enrollment is a continuation of the same envelope, not a separate award, and funding is not cut off at completion of the bachelor's degree so long as unused balance remains and the recipient continues in a qualifying STEM program. A recipient may hold only one SAME Savannah Post multi-year STEM scholarship envelope. This limit applies to Savannah Post awards only and does not restrict a recipient from receiving scholarships from other SAME Posts, from SAME National, or from any other source. Re-application after a discontinuation draws only the unused balance of that envelope and is not a new award (see Section 7).

VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL TRACK

Vocational-Technical scholarships are awarded to students pursuing a vocational-technical school trade degree or certificate for entry into construction, industrial, power sector, and technology industries, at $2,500 per academic year. A one-year program is funded up to a maximum of $2,500

total. A two-year program is funded up to a maximum of $5,000 total. Funding ends at completion of the credential if that occurs before the maximum is reached.

The same enrollment rule applies as under the STEM track: a recipient enrolled in only one primary term of an academic year receives $1,250 for that year. Programs measured in terms other than academic years (for example, clock-hour or quarter programs) are funded at the equivalent annual rate as determined by the Scholarship Chair and confirmed by the Treasurer.

3. Eligibility Requirements

Award year: this policy funds enrollment for the [APPLICATION AWARD YEAR] and, for recurring recipients, each subsequent recertified academic year until the applicable lifetime maximum in Section 2 is reached. The award year is a variable set each cycle; it is not hardcoded into the eligibility criteria.

1. An eligible individual must be a high school senior or a current college undergraduate or graduate student, consistent with the track applied for. Graduate standing qualifies only under the STEM track; a vocational-technical applicant must be pursuing a sub-baccalaureate credential and is not a graduate student.

2. An eligible individual must have a minimum of a B average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) at the time of application, whether college or high school. Higher grade point averages will garner greater preference.

3. An eligible individual must be:

- **a.** accepted by or attending an accredited college or university for the applicable award year pursuing a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math (STEM) for entry into an architectural, engineering, environmental, or construction career, OR
- **b.** accepted by or attending an accredited vocational-technical school for the applicable award year pursuing a degree or certificate for entry into the construction, industrial, power sector, or technology industries.

4. An eligible individual must be:

- **a.** an active student member of SAME (student membership is free of charge), OR
- **b.** a dependent of either an SAME Savannah Post member, a member of a Savannah Post SAME annual sponsor firm, or an employee of the Corps of Engineers, OR
- **c.** sponsored by an active member of the SAME Savannah Post, OR
- **d.** an applicant with none of the affiliations in 4.a through 4.c who requests assignment of a Post sponsor. The Post assigns a sponsor under Section 9.

5. An individual must provide a completed application package: the application form with written reflections, two letters of recommendation, transcript, SAT/ACT for STEM applicants, acceptance letter from the college or vocational-technical school or notice to the Scholarship Chair if not yet available, headshot, and short bio.

4. Enrollment continuity and deferment

a. Continuous enrollment required. A recurring award is contingent on continuous enrollment in the qualifying program. "Continuous" means enrollment in consecutive primary terms (Fall and Spring); summer terms are not required and are not separately funded.

b. Unapproved gap. A recipient who fails to enroll in a required consecutive primary term without an approved deferment is discontinued. A discontinued recipient may re-apply for the unused balance of their envelope under Section 7.

c. Deferment (approved pause). A recipient may request a deferment for documented medical, military service, financial hardship, or comparable cause. An approved deferment pauses the award, preserves the unused balance, and does not count against the lifetime maximum. Deferments are granted for up to one academic year. If a deferment longer than one academic year is required, then the recipient must re-apply for the unused balance of their envelope under Section 7. The Scholarship Chair reviews requests and recommends to the Board; the Board approves deferments. A recipient on approved deferment who does not return to eligible enrollment within the deferment window is discontinued.

d. Final term. A recipient in the final term of their program who is enrolled less than full time solely because only a partial term remains is not treated as a gap and remains eligible for that year's payment, subject to the reduced-year rule in Section 6(c).

e. Undergraduate-to-graduate transition. Completing a bachelor's degree and continuing into a qualifying STEM graduate program does not end the award while unused balance remains in the envelope. A recipient who moves directly from a Spring bachelor's completion to a Fall graduate start has no gap, because summer is not a required term. A recipient who pauses before graduate enrollment may hold the remaining balance by approved deferment under subsection (c) if they enroll in a qualifying graduate program within twelve (12) months; otherwise the pause is treated as an unapproved gap under subsection (b) and the balance is recoverable only by re-application under Section 7.

5. Recertification (Revalidation) Requirements

For recurring scholarships, recipients must be revalidated once each year, at the conclusion of the Spring semester, to confirm continued eligibility for the following award year. There is one recertification per year and one payment per year; the award is not recertified or paid by semester. All requirements below must be met to maintain the award.

1. Maintain study in a STEM or related degree field; or a vocational-technical school trade degree in the construction, industrial, power sector, and technology industries. A change of major that leaves the qualifying field must be reported to the Scholarship Chair and ends eligibility.

2. Maintain a C+/B- average (2.5 on a 4.0 scale) in courses.

3. Submit an official or unofficial transcript once each year, by the conclusion of the Spring semester, covering the academic year just completed.

4. Attend at least one SAME monthly meeting or event during the funded period and provide proof of attendance to the SAME Savannah Scholarship Chair. Proof may be the Continuing Education

letter available at the meeting registration table, a photo of the recipient at the event, or in-person check-in with a member of the Savannah Post Board.

5. Maintain student membership within SAME. If not currently a member, the recipient must enroll as a student member of the Savannah Post. This is a free membership.

6. Disbursement and timing

a. One payment per year. Each recurring award is paid once per academic year, following completion of the annual recertification in Section 5. There is no separate mid-year payment and no separate mid-year recertification.

b. Initial award. A first-year recipient receives payment on confirmation of eligibility. First-year recipients are required to attend the SAME Savannah Post Annual Program Review (APR) to be recognized and to receive their initial check when the award year aligns with the APR cycle. A recipient whose award begins off-cycle receives the initial payment on confirmation of eligibility and is recognized at the next scheduled APR or Post event designated by the Board.

c. Reduced-year award. A recipient who will be enrolled in only one primary term of a given academic year receives $1,250 for that year rather than $2,500. This includes a recipient beginning mid-year (a Spring start) and a recipient completing their program after a single final term.

d. Prior-year reconciliation. Payment is made against the recipient's stated enrollment plan for the coming year. At each annual recertification the Scholarship Chair confirms the recipient's actual enrollment for the year just funded. If the recipient was paid the full annual award but was enrolled in only one primary term, the $1,250 difference is deducted from the following year's payment. The Post does not seek repayment from a recipient. Where no subsequent payment remains against which to offset, the difference is written off and the envelope is closed.

e. No acceleration; forfeiture on completion. Payment never exceeds $2,500 in a single academic year, even where unused balance remains and only one year of enrollment is left. Any balance remaining in the envelope when the recipient completes their education, meaning they finish the highest qualifying program they pursue, is forfeited, and the Post owes no lump-sum payout of that balance. This forfeiture is distinct from two other cases: a discontinuation under Section 7, where a recipient who lost eligibility but has not completed their education may re-apply for the unused balance; and an approved deferment under Section 4, which preserves the balance during a documented pause.

f. Recognition and publicity. The Post recognizes scholarship recipients publicly. By accepting an award, a recipient consents to the Post’s use of their name, headshot, and short bio in Post communications, including the Post website, newsletter, and event announcements. A recipient may withdraw that consent by written notice to the Scholarship Chair, and withdrawal does not affect the award.

7. Discontinuation, re-application, and remainder

a. Loss of award. Failure to meet the recertification requirements in Section 5, or an unapproved enrollment gap under Section 4, results in loss of the award.

b. Re-application for the remainder. A recipient who lost an award may re-apply. If reinstated, the recipient resumes the unused balance of their existing envelope only. Re-application requires submitting a current application package so the Post has up-to-date records, but it is not a new or additional scholarship and does not reset or extend the Section 2 lifetime maximum.

c. One Savannah Post envelope per applicant. The one-multi-year-award rule means one lifetime Savannah Post envelope per applicant under the STEM track. A recipient cannot hold two Savannah Post multi-year STEM envelopes. This limit does not restrict a recipient from receiving scholarships from other SAME Posts, from SAME National, or from any other source.

8. Selection Criteria and Board Ratification

General. All scholarships are awarded to the most deserving applicants based on academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and affiliation with SAME.

STEM Track

(1) For graduating high school applicants, SAT or ACT results; higher scores receive greater preference. (2) Grade point average; higher average receives greater preference. (3) Recommendation by advisor or instructor. (4) Required major in science, technology, engineering, or math (STEM) or a related degree. (5) Evidence of serious scholastic attitude, good character, leadership qualities, and well-rounded personal development. (6) Preference to students with military aspirations, as exemplified by enrollment in an Officer Training program or previous military service.

Vocational-Technical Track

(1) Grade point average; higher average receives greater preference. (2) Recommendation by advisor or instructor. (3) Required vocational-technical school trade program of study for entry into the construction, industrial, power sector, or technology industries. (4) Evidence of serious scholastic attitude, good character, leadership qualities, and well-rounded personal development. (5) Preference to students with military aspirations, as exemplified by enrollment in an Officer Training program.

a. Selection. The Scholarship Chair selects recipients under the criteria stated above.

b. Board ratification. The Scholarship Chair presents the slate of selected recipients to the Board for ratification at the next regular meeting. Ratification confirms the awards for the record and authorizes disbursement against the approved scholarship budget line. Ratification is not a re-adjudication of the Chair's selections. An award that would exceed the approved budget line requires a budget amendment under Article VII.6 of the Post Bylaws before disbursement.

c. Conflict of interest and recusal. A member of the Board who is a parent, guardian, sibling, child, spouse, or other close family member of an applicant or current recipient shall disclose the relationship to the Board and shall abstain from any vote concerning that individual's award, including ratification, deferment, and discontinuation. The disclosure and the abstention shall be recorded in the minutes. This requirement applies to decisions concerning a specific individual and does not restrict participation in votes on this policy generally.

9. Scholarship Sponsors

A sponsor is a volunteer from the Savannah Post who is a member in good standing. A recipient may qualify with a sponsor they identify under Section 3, Eligibility Requirement 4.c, or may request that the Post assign one under 4.d. The Scholarship Chair confirms the sponsor at the time of award.

The sponsor and the recipient meet, in person or virtually, at least twice per academic year. The sponsor checks on the recipient's academic progress and serves as a resource for introductions to members of the architecture-engineering industry and as a sounding board on internships and employment. Twice per academic year is a minimum; the recipient and sponsor may arrange more frequent contact.

10. Applicability

This policy states the Post's standing practice for scholarship awards and applies to all recipients, including those awarded under prior cycles. It does not reduce any recipient's total award or lifetime maximum. Payments already made are not affected.