



2026-27 Veterans Business Council Scholarship Program Guidelines

The Veterans Business Council of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce is offering a 2026 - 2027 **Veterans Business Council Scholarship Program**. Under the Program, an award amount of up to \$5,000 in scholarships is available to be awarded to a veteran or service member that resides in, attends college or trade school in, or works in Saratoga County, New York. Actual available funds are based on fundraising initiatives of the VBC and partial scholarships may be awarded to multiple recipients.

Available Scholarships:

For each recipient, up to \$2,500 may be awarded for the Fall 2026 semester and the remaining award amount, up to \$2,500, may be provided for the Spring 2027 semester. The scholarships can be paid either directly to the recipient(s) or the institution. Scholarship funding amounts are commensurate with the actual costs of the college, trade school or certificate program and may not exceed the actual costs of the program per course/semester. **The committee may award partial funding based on available monies to distribute.**

Program Guidelines & Priorities:

- * Seeks United States Veterans, Active Duty, National Guard, and Reservists with current orders or an honorable discharge from the United States Military that reside, work, or attend college or trade schools within Saratoga County.
- * Applicants must provide proof of:
 - Residency in Saratoga County, New York, **or**
 - Employment in Saratoga County New York, **or**
 - Acceptance/attendance at a college within Saratoga County, New York, **or**
 - Acceptance/attendance at a trade school within Saratoga County, New York, **or**
 - Acceptance/attendance for a certificate program (must also meet residency or employment requirements noted above)
- * Applicants must provide proof of acceptance/enrollment before the scholarship is paid.
- * Applicants must submit current orders or a DD-214 showing an honorable discharge.
- * Letters of recommendation can be submitted but are not required.
- * Applicants must attend an interview with the selection committee. In certain cases, this may be done remotely/virtually.
- * Applicants awarded the scholarship must currently have and maintain a G.P.A. above 2.5 and must provide a general FERPA release for verification. Trade school/certificate candidates must show satisfactory progress toward completion of the program/certificate.
- * Scholarship funds for the Spring semester will not be paid until enrollment and GPA is verified. **Verification must be received on or before January 15th for scholarship funds to be paid out for the spring semester. The Spring installment will not be paid if verification is not received by this date.**
- * Applications and all supporting materials must be postmarked (or confirmed receipt via email) on or before **July 31, 2026**. Late applications are not accepted.

Email one copy of a completed typed application package to gdixon@saratoga.org or mail to:

Veterans Business Council Scholarship Committee c/o
Saratoga County Foundation
21 Congress Street, Suite 202
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

The applications will be reviewed, and recipients selected by a committee consisting of Veteran volunteers from the Veterans Business Council. Any questions can be sent to Greg Dixon at gdixon@saratoga.org.

VBC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2026-27

Please type your answers.								
1.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Last Name:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">First Name:</td> </tr> </table>	Last Name:	First Name:					
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4.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Date of Birth:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Month:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Day:</td> <td style="width: 45%;">Year:</td> </tr> </table>	Date of Birth:	Month:	Day:	Year:			
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5.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Army <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Army Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force Reserve <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Army National Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Air National Guard <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Army <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> Coast Guard <input type="checkbox"/>	Army Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Marine Corps Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Navy Reserve <input type="checkbox"/> Air Force Reserve <input type="checkbox"/>	Army National Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Air National Guard <input type="checkbox"/>				
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6.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">A. List any military honors, awards and membership activities during military service:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B. List your hobbies, outside interests, and volunteer activities and organizations:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> </tr> </table>	A. List any military honors, awards and membership activities during military service:		B. List your hobbies, outside interests, and volunteer activities and organizations:				
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7.	Active <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran <input type="checkbox"/>							
8.	Are you the first person in your family to go to college or trade school: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>							
9.	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">If you have decided on what college, trade school, or certificate program you will attend/pursue, please list name and location:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>If not, list your top 3 alternative choices with locations:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 40px;"></td> </tr> </table>	If you have decided on what college, trade school, or certificate program you will attend/pursue, please list name and location:		If not, list your top 3 alternative choices with locations:				
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10.	Provide details on the duration of the program of study and level (e.g. 2-year certificate, 1-year trade school, 4-year undergraduate, etc.):							
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Essay

13. On a separate sheet please write an essay (250 - 500 words) answering the questions below. The essay must be typed:

Describe how you feel your military service has prepared you to be a successful student and how a degree, or trade school or certification completion, can further your career and success in life.

STATEMENT OF ACCURACY FOR APPLICANTS

I hereby affirm that all the above stated information provided by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also consent that if chosen as a scholarship winner my picture may be taken and used to promote the Veterans Business Council scholarship program, the Saratoga County Foundation, and the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce. (Winner may waive photo due to unusual or compelling circumstances.)

I hereby understand that if chosen as a scholarship winner I must be present at any potential awards ceremony or reception to receive my scholarship award.

I hereby understand I will not submit this application without all required attachments and supporting information. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet eligibility criteria will not be considered for this scholarship.

By submitting this form, you acknowledge the sharing of personal information with the Saratoga County Veterans Business Council selection committee involved in the scholarship process. Please enter your signature to indicate you understand and acknowledge this condition.

Signature of scholarship applicant: _____ **Date:** _____

Checklist

- Application
- Essay
- Current Orders or DD-214 (SSN redacted)
- Letters of Recommendation (Optional)
- Proof of Residency, Employment, or Acceptance/Attendance

EMAIL YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO: gdixon@saratoga.org

Or MAIL TO:

Veterans Business Council Scholarship Committee c/o
Saratoga County Foundation
21 Congress Street, Suite 202
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

REMINDER:

The deadline for this application to be received by July 31, 2026.