



National Military Intelligence Foundation

2026 NMIF Merit Scholarship Overview

Are you an undergraduate sophomore, junior, or senior, or a master's student at an accredited U.S.-based college or university? Are you actively in pursuit of a career in the U.S. intelligence, defense, and national security community? **Apply today for an NMIF Merit Scholarship** through our new and improved Google Form-based application! The application process will be open until **11:59 PM on June 6th, 2026**.

Should you have any questions along the way, please email us at: NMIFMeritScholarships@gmail.com.

Please read the following instructions carefully prior to starting the online application form. This document provides an overview of the materials you will need on hand for the application, eligibility requirements, and evaluation criteria. The NMIF has launched a new Google Form for the 2026 NMIF Scholarship Application. This form will allow applicants to begin the application, submit an in-progress application, and then return back later to edit entries prior to formal submission. Applicants must make **any desired edits to application by the submission date and time, 11:59 PM on June 6th**. Edits will not be allowed after this date. This application will also provide you with an email notification once submitted – to receive this notification, you **will need to opt in to receive a copy of your responses** at the end of the application form.

Required Materials:

Before you begin, be sure to gather the following materials:

- Resume
- Unofficial Transcript - **Note:** Unofficial is fine; please ensure it clearly shows coursework, grades, and GPA; For upcoming semester, ensure there is documentation on what classes you are enrolled in so that we can verify full-time status at the time of evaluation, which occurs in June/July timeframe
- One recommendation letter - **Note:** Your recommender can provide one of two ways:
 - Provide to you for inclusion in your electronic submission.
 - Email directly to NMIF **by 11:59 PM on June 6th, 2026** via NMIFMeritScholarships@gmail.com.
- Student Summary (2-3 sentence biography)
- Headshot

- Responses to three essays, no more than 4,500 characters each – **Note:** It is highly recommended that you type up essay responses in a local document first, then copy and paste the essay responses into the application form.
 - **Essay 1:** Why are you interested in a career in intelligence, national security, military intelligence, and/or a relevant career field in support of the intelligence or military community? Please focus on your own personal values and professional goals, and how these align with the intelligence, defense, and/or national security communities.
 - **Essay 2:** What role(s) are you pursuing for a career in intelligence, national security, military intelligence, and/or a relevant career field in support of the intelligence or military community? Please articulate concise examples of how your academic coursework and relevant experience have provided you with a unique tool-belt of skills to solve unique, complex problems in this field.
 - **Essay 3:** The NMIF Scholarship is an investment in future leaders in the intelligence, national security, and defense field. Beyond easing financial debt, what difference do you believe an NMIF Scholarship would make in your educational, professional, and/or personal development toward a career in intelligence, defense, or national security?

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for the NMIF Scholarship, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- **Citizenship:** U.S. Citizenship requirement
- **Class Standing:** Undergraduate Sophomore, Junior, or Senior; Graduate students.
 - **Note:** Graduating seniors/grad students are eligible to apply to this scholarship
- **Status:** Full-time student (Undergrad: 12 or more credits; Grad: 9 or more credits).
 - **Note:** If your university considers a different full time credit minimum than what is specified above, please provide documentation showing this along with your application in the additional attachment section (at the end). This could include a registrar letter, screenshot of webpage specifying full-time requirements, etc.
- **Public Posting:** Consent to NMIF's ability to post your name, photo, and summary publicly via our website, social media, and NMIF Night of Heroes Gala programming (you will find this in a disclaimers & certification section at the end of the application)
- **Financial Need:** Complete the section describing the amount of current debt and total anticipated debt incurred by graduation.

Summary of the Evaluation Process:

- **Application Process:** Students apply via the new Google Form.
 - Application is accessible via: <https://forms.gle/dBenUKQdrxddmtXc6>
 - This form will allow applicants to begin the application, submit an in-progress application, and then return back later to edit entries prior to formal submission. **To save entries and return back later, you must hit the “submit” button at the button.** Ensure to put in an accessible email in the beginning of the form, so that you receive the email notification with a link to your application for later access and edits, if desired.
 - Applicants must make **any desired edits to application by the submission date and time, which is 11:59 PM on June 6th.** Edits will not be allowed after this date. Whatever entries are in the system on June 6th 11:59 PM will be treated as final; do not edit your application after June 6th.
 - This application will also provide an email notification once submitted – to receive this notification with a copy of your application embedded, you **will need to opt in to receive a copy of your responses** at the end of the application form.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** Students will be evaluated regarding the following...
 - **Completeness of application package**
 - **Academic Excellence and Rigor**
 - **Relevant Course of Study/Major:** Pursuing areas of study relevant to intelligence, national security, military intelligence, and/or related subjects (e.g., intelligence studies, intelligence analysis, homeland security, cybersecurity, security studies, global security studies, international affairs, etc.).
 - **Relevant experience in the intelligence, national security, or defense field**
 - **Commitment to pursue a career in intelligence, national security, military intelligence, and related career fields:** Each applicant shall include descriptions of activities, course work, experiences, internships, prior military service, etc. that provide tangible evidence of career aspirations aligning with intelligence, national security, and other related disciplines (i.e., homeland security, security studies, military intelligence, etc.). Each applicant shall put thought into articulating how they would apply current knowledge/experience to practical challenges faced in a career in these fields.
 - **Clear articulation of your values and goals, and their alignment with the intelligence, defense, and/or national security communities**
 - **Clear articulation of your unique experiences and skills, and applications of such experiences to solve unique, complex problems in this field**
 - **Clear and concise writing skills**
 - **Financial need**
- **Use of Award:** Awards may be applied to Fall Semester/Fall Quarter 2026 or Spring

Semester/Spring Quarter 2027. If a senior graduating May 2026 is selected as a recipient, the award can be provided to the student's university financial aid office or official loan provider toward the student's remaining balance or accrued student debt. The award funds will be sent only to the student's university or loan provider; NMIF cannot send funds to the student directly.

- **Scholarship Awards made by the NMIF shall be made solely at its discretion, all decisions are final and are not subject to outside adjudication.**

What to Expect Throughout the Process:

- NMIF accepts applications until *June 6th*.
- NMIF evaluates applications from *June 6th-late July*.
- Final scholarship recipients will be selected and notified in *September*. ***EVERY applicant will be contacted via email*** regarding the results of this process – both those receiving scholarships and those not selected this year.
- Scholarship checks will be sent to your university or loan provider in *October*, once all applicable information is gathered from each recipient as for where to send the check.
- Each final scholarship recipient will receive an invitation to attend the in-person ***NMIF Night of Heroes Intelligence Awards Gala*** held in *November*. The exact date is TBD, but this event typically occurs the week before Thanksgiving. At this event, the scholarship recipients formally receive their scholarship certificate amongst professionals and peers from the intelligence and defense communities.
- Please note that NMIF is run by fully volunteer individuals, and therefore, the exact timing of notification to all applicants and the date scholarship checks are sent may vary.

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