

Scholarship Rules & Program Overview

APL U.S. Maritime Workforce Development Program

1. PROGRAM RATIONALE & OBJECTIVES

APL is establishing a premier, merit-based scholarship program to support the next generation of outstanding U.S. Merchant Mariners. The U.S. maritime industry faces a critical shortage of licensed officers, and this program is designed to remove barriers to entry and provide an outstanding avenue of support for top-tier students committed to a career in the commercial maritime sector.

While we hold tremendous respect for those who commission into active military service, this program is specifically designed to bolster the U.S. Merchant Marine workforce—providing a critical alternative track to serve U.S. National Security interests across the high seas.

This is a **merit-based** scholarship, not a need-based grant. It is designed to identify, support, and recruit the highest-performing students across the U.S. maritime academy system.

2. ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

The scholarship is open exclusively to students enrolled in licensed-track programs at the following seven federally recognized maritime academies:

- **United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA)** – Kings Point, NY
- **Cal Poly Maritime Academy** – Vallejo, CA
- **Great Lakes Maritime Academy (GLMA)** – Traverse City, MI
- **Maine Maritime Academy (MMA)** – Castine, ME
- **Massachusetts Maritime Academy (Mass Maritime)** – Buzzards Bay, MA
- **State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College** – Throggs Neck, NY
- **Texas A&M; Maritime Academy** – Galveston, TX

3. AWARD STRUCTURE & AMOUNTS

State Maritime Academies (SMA Track):

For students at the six State Maritime Academies, the scholarship offers a **\$25,000 grant for one year** paid directly to the university. This grant can be used for ANY school expenses, including

tuition, room, board, meal plans, books, library fees, and mariner fees. If the balance of payment owed by the student (e.g., after other scholarships are applied) is less than \$25,000, APL will pay the balance owed (whichever is less).

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA Track):

Because USMMA midshipmen receive tuition, room, and board at no cost, the scholarship functions as a **\$2,500 one-time grant** paid directly to the student. This provides critical support for uniform upkeep, travel, licensing fees, and personal living expenses, effectively providing "pay while in school" to allow top midshipmen to focus entirely on their academic and professional development.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following criteria at the time of application:

- **Academic Standing:** Must be a rising Junior or rising Senior in good standing.
- **License Track:** Must be enrolled in a U.S. Coast Guard unlimited tonnage or unlimited horsepower license program (Deck or Engine).
- **Merit & Leadership:** Must demonstrate outstanding academic performance, leadership within the regiment/corps, and provide a **minimum of two (2) strong faculty recommendations**.
- **Career Intent:** Must demonstrate a clear commitment to sailing commercially as a U.S. Merchant Mariner upon graduation.

5. MILITARY SERVICE EXCLUSION

This program is strictly designed to bolster the **commercial** U.S. Merchant Marine. Therefore:

- **Ineligibility:** Students who plan to commission into active military service (e.g., Navy ROTC scholarship recipients requiring active duty) are **not eligible** to apply.
- **SSO Exception:** Commissioning into the U.S. Navy Reserve's Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO) Program while sailing commercially is permitted and encouraged.

6. PROGRAM BENEFITS & EXPERIENCE

In addition to financial support, selected scholars receive:

- **Guaranteed Experience:** Scholars are guaranteed **EITHER** a cadet shipping billet aboard a modern APL vessel trading internationally **OR** a land-based internship with APL.
- **Mentorship:** Access to APL fleet officers and shoreside executives for career guidance.
- **Career Pathway:** APL will provide a strong letter of recommendation and interest for employment for students who perform well.
- **No Post-Graduation Payback:** Provided the scholar enters the commercial maritime industry, there is no financial payback or mandatory service requirement to APL. This is a true scholarship.

7. ONGOING VERIFICATION & TIMELINE

To maintain funding, scholars must provide **quarterly enrollment confirmation and official transcripts** to the APL Scholarship Committee. Students may reapply for the scholarship in subsequent years.

October 31

Application deadline for rising Juniors and rising Seniors.

Extended the Deadline for submission to 31 October

July	Review by APL Scholarship Committee.
End of August	Award notifications issued to scholars and Academy Financial Aid offices.
Fall Semester	Funds disbursed to academies (or directly to USMMA scholars).

8. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Academy Financial Aid offices are responsible for verifying the academic standing of applicants and applying disbursed funds to student accounts (for SMA students).

For program administration questions, please contact the APL Scholarship Committee at:
klaus.luhta@aplmaritime.com and **luc.saintgenies@apl.com**