



Bass Military Scholars Program

“Family, Academics, Service”



History

- Established in 2018 through a \$25M gift from the Lee and Ramona Bass Foundation.
- **Initially** a \$25,000 scholarship per year for honorably discharged veterans to attend:
 - Law School
 - Medical School
 - Nursing School
 - Owen Graduate School of Management
 - Peabody College for Education and Human Development
- Used in conjunction with GI Bill, Yellow Ribbon Program, other school financial support





Bass Military Scholars

Mission

Under the direction of Vanderbilt University leadership and in coordination with university faculty, as well as the Lee and Ramona Bass Foundation, the Bass Military Scholars Program recruits, selects, and supports the success of up to 40 military and Coast Guard veterans pursuing excellence in graduate studies while serving as **mentors and role models** to the Vanderbilt student body and greater Vanderbilt community. Alumni will serve and support the program in its service to distinguished veterans who join the ranks of Bass Scholars in the years ahead.



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Current Scholar Demographics (34 scholars)

By School:

- Law: 4
- Medicine: 2
- Nursing: 4
- Business: 22
- Education: 2



By Service:

- **Army: 25**
- Navy: 4
- Air Force: 3
- Marines: 2
- Coast Guard: 0



By Rank:

- Officer: 27
- **Enlisted: 7**

Commission Source:

- Academies: 10
- ROTC: 16
- OCS: 1

By Gender:

- Male: 26
- Female: 8



Logan Burchett

MBA Candidate, Owen Graduate School of Management (Vanderbilt)

- Education: United States Naval Academy
- Experience: Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Officer (2015-2023)
- Post-MBA career: Investment Banking Associate with Wells Fargo Securities.

“Transitioning from the military can be a daunting task – having a supportive network of fellow veterans to help navigate that process is massively valuable.”



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What Bass Scholars Receive



- \$30,000 per academic year
- Networking and mentorship opportunities with alumni in competitive industries
- Supportive veteran network to assist with the transition process



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What Bass Scholars Give



- Minimum of two meaningful service activities per semester.
- Service activities designed to foster military-civilian exchanges and expose the greater Vanderbilt community to military values, character, and mission focus.



How Connected to ROTC



- Classroom instruction
- 1:1 mentorship



How Connected to ROTC



- Branch Discussions
- Leader development
- PT



How Connected to Athletics



Educate



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How Connected to Athletics Inspire



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How Connected to Athletics

Team Build



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How Connected to Athletics



Honor



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Application and Review Process

How to apply

The application is separate from the school's admissions application. You must complete both to be considered.

Requirements:

- **Apply to your school and program of interest.**
- **Complete the Bass Military Scholars Program application.**
- Submit a resume highlighting your military and community service experiences.
- Provide a letter of recommendation from a military leader or recent employer who knows you well.
- Submit copies of transcript(s).
- Upload personal statement video (3 minutes or less)
- Provide Member 4 copy of DD214 or National Guard equivalent. If on active duty, submit short memorandum from commander with details of military transition.



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Application Timeline

- 1 Aug 24-15 Feb 25: Recruiting for AY2025-2026
- 16-28 Feb 25: Screen applicants to top ~30
- TBD Mar 25: Final coordination with school admissions
- TBD Mar 25: Selection Committee selects +/- 14 new scholars, +/- 15 alternates
- April-July 25: Scholars commit to Vanderbilt
- Aug 25: Vanderbilt welcomes AY2025-2026 scholars



What Have We Learned?

- Veteran-students often stay in proximity to last duty station or return to Home of Record
- Our best recruiters are our scholars and alumni
- Transitioning Service Members are often unclear as to what comes next
- **We are fighting a perception battle**
- We have an information gap
- Service activities are a “gift”



Why is this relevant for you?

- WWII: 16.1 mil of 140 mil served (11.5%)
- GWOT: 3.3 mil of 333 mil served (<1%)
- 200,000 new veterans every year
- this program can be replicated
- these scholars serve as messengers
- "the three buckets"
 - government
 - business
 - non-profits



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Questions

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