



# **Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association Criminal Justice Scholarship Program**

## **PURPOSE OF AWARD**

The Tampa Bay Area Police Chiefs Association is seeking to enhance higher education opportunities among qualified candidates. It is our desire that, through this financial scholarship, twelve (12) students might be afforded the opportunity to have higher educational opportunities. Twelve (12) \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Each Agency can submit recommendations which need to be signed off by the agency head/designee. (Agencies with **1-25** fulltime officers can submit up to **4** recommendations, Agencies with **26-50** fulltime officers can submit up to **6** recommendations, Agencies with **51-75** fulltime officers can submit up to **8** recommendations, and Agencies with **more than 76** fulltime officers can submit up to **10** recommendations). If an active member is a retiree or not part of an agency you may submit **1** recommendation. Otherwise, you will need to forward it through your agency.

## **METHOD OF SELECTION**

1. All scholarship applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee.
2. Selection of recipients will be at the sole discretion of the TBACPA Scholarship Committee.

## **CRITERIA FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS**

1. Immediate family (*child, stepchild, or spouse*) to anyone serving in a law enforcement agency will be considered. Immediate family of Association Board Members are **ineligible** to apply.
2. Applicant must be currently enrolled in an accredited college level program or have been accepted for the 2026/2027 academic year. (Must provide documentation)
3. Applicant may only be enrolled in undergraduate studies with one exception for active law enforcement that are applying for a master's level degree.

4. Applicant must be a United States Citizen, and a resident of the State of Florida.
5. Applicant must be of good character and must be endorsed by an Active TBACPA member who is in good standing. Each agency in the TBACPA region will be allowed to submit applications for consideration based on the number of full-time law enforcement officers at their respected agency. All applications submitted to the Scholarship Committee must be approved by the Agency Head or designee which is indicated on the bottom of the application. If you are a member of the organization and retired law enforcement, you may sign as the Agency Head. If you are sponsored by a corporate member the member may sign off as the Agency Head.
6. A current high school/college transcript and picture must be submitted with the application.
7. Applicant must attend or plan to attend an accredited college or university.
8. High School applicants must have a letter of acceptance to an accredited college or university with application prior to date of award.

**All guidelines must be followed, or application will not be accepted. Incomplete applications will not be considered. All areas must be filled out completely and legible.**

Completed applications must be **RECEIVED by April 30, 2026**. Late submissions will not be considered.

Agency heads/designee will accept applications and forward them to the Scholarship Committee Chairman. Agency heads should also review all applications to ensure that they have met eligibility requirements. If the application is from a retiree or other member not associated to a department the application can be mailed directly to listed contact.

All recipients may be showcased at the Annual Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Foundation Gala in September 2026. The Foundation is a non-profit group that provides the funding to allow these generous opportunities, and the gala is one of the major fund-raising events.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Major Jeffrey Peak, President  
Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association

**Send completed applications:**

Kayla Irwin (KIrwin@pascosheriff.org)  
c/o Pasco Sheriff's Office  
8661 Citizens Drive  
New Port Richey, Florida 34654  
Phone 727-277-7261