



Thank you for your support

USC Viterbi | USC Dornsife



Acknowledgements

Since 2014, the USC Provost has offered the Provost's Pre-College Summer Scholarship for Military High School Students. In partnership with the Provost and the deans from the **Viterbi** School of Engineering and the **Dornsife** College of Letters, Arts and Sciences full-ride scholarships, including transportation to USC from any state or US military base, were provided to eligible high school students from military families.

There were a total of 28 military scholarships awarded in **2014**, 22 military scholarships awarded in **2015**, 18 military scholarships awarded in **2016**, 18 military scholarships awarded in **2017**, 30 military scholarships awarded in **2018**, 30 military scholarships will be awarded in **2019**.

Without the support from our partners and funding from the schools, this scholarship opportunity would not be possible.

Additionally, we would like to thank all the members of the selection committee. Your time, efforts, and thoughtful and thorough reviews of the scholarship applications are appreciated.

USC Summer Programs

seeks to enhance, motivate, and inspire students to achieve higher academic, social, and ethical standards. The program is based on the following core values, which Scholars are expected to exemplify: a commitment to the value of education and developing community. The program offers students the chance to preview “freshman year” on a college campus and exposure to professionals in their field of interest.

Since **1997**, the University of Southern California Summer High School Program has offered a tradition of excellence to outstanding high school students through a unique summer academic program. Accepted students balance academic and campus life as they prepare for college in one of the nation’s top global research universities. Students enroll in one of over **25** courses in fields such as: architecture, business, engineering and information technology, global studies, journalism, pre-health & science, pre-law, performing arts, and writing and critical thinking.

Each course bears **3 units** of undergraduate elective credit transferrable to any university they attend. These courses are designed to be more interactive, engaging, and challenging than accelerated high school classes or the broad introductory courses offered by other summer pre-collegiate programs.

Honoring our military by educating their children:

The USC Summer Programs exemplifies USC’s long-standing support to those who have served their country. Having maintained a decades-long relationship with the ROTC, USC is developing new disciplines focusing on veteran issues and creating fields of study to help the student-veteran succeed either on the university campus or on a military base through delivery of exceptionally high quality, interactive online graduate degrees.

2014-2018 Military Scholars:

116
SCHOLARS

37%
Male



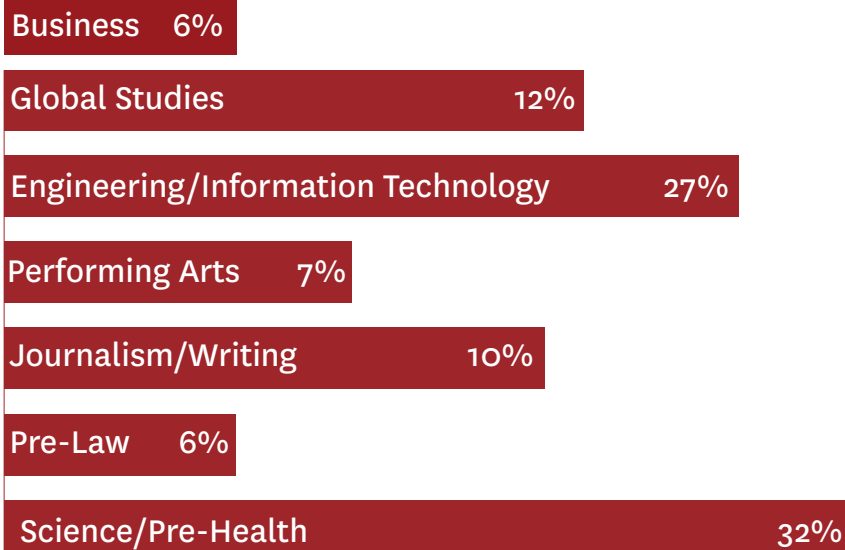
63%
Female

Son or Daughter of a service member in:

54 Army
26 Navy
22 Air Force
10 Marine Corps
3 Multiple Branches
1 Coast Guard

60 Active
41 Veteran
15 Both

Areas of Study:



Most Represented Areas:

In the United States:

California
Virginia
Texas
North Carolina
Kentucky



Outside of the United States:

Germany
Japan
South Korea



The Impact

Receiving the military scholarship to attend USC was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will forever be grateful for. Spending a summer at a top-tier university was something I never would have experienced without the financial support of the scholar's program. The Introduction to Neuroscience course I took had a greater impact on my intellectual development than most of my high school classes combined. For the first time, I got to study in an environment where I felt that those around me truly shared my passion and excitement for learning. Students came from around the world, many speaking three languages or more, transforming my time in Los Angeles into a cultural immersion experience. I marveled at these foreign students' abilities to switch from one language to the next mid-sentence. The concentration of diversity and intelligence opened my eyes to the vast array of global opportunities.

I learned more than I thought possible in such a short time. Every day, I left class fascinated by the complexity of the human brain and astounded by how much medical science has been able to decrypt. I would call my mom, bursting with new information that I feared I would forget unless I shared it. We visited a Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging lab and learned about the intricate processes of synaptic clefts. I gained an appreciation for the devastating consequences of slight dopamine imbalances and, through this, began to understand my grandfather's Parkinson's disease. Engaging in stimulating discussions with other intellectually-minded teenagers gave me a taste of what it would be like to attend an academically-rigorous university. The atmosphere and academic challenges of my summer changed me as a thinker and person forever.

Interacting with other military scholars allowed me to bond with peers who understood the struggle of moving frequently throughout high school. Sharing our moving experiences and the various places we had each been stationed gave me a greater appreciation for the fact that I was not alone. It was amazing to see the similarities in our histories and the world became smaller in my eyes. The companionship, education, and experience I received at USC is something I think every hard-working student deserves. I want other students in my situation to have this opportunity. I know the generosity of the scholarship program will make this life-changing experience possible for others, as they did for me.

- Katie Snodgrass '16

The Impact (Continued)

Life changing: two simple, yet powerful words. Being awarded a scholarship to attend such an amazing university was something I never thought would happen. What I received from USC was priceless. When my parents received the news I was selected, I was away representing the youth from Ramstein AFB at a national conference. My parents decided not to inform me until I arrived home because they wanted to see the look on my face. You see, my parents give me everything they can, they support me 100%, study with me, engage in my activities, and much more; I couldn't imagine my world without them in it. As I pulled up from conference, I was still sitting on the bus when I looked out my window and saw my younger siblings holding a sign that read, "Welcome home; next stop USC!" My mom had tears running down her face, she looked at me with pure pride; I looked back at her and smiled. We did it; all of our hard work was paying off.

I mention how much my parents support me for a very important reason, as many people may know serving our country is a very proud commitment, but one will never become rich. My parents would have loved to send me away to college for a month to see what I thought, to experience a different world; but financially that just wasn't in the cards. The scholarship that USC was able to offer changed me. I learned that I can take care of myself, I can succeed in college, I will have to work very hard, but the end result will be worth it. Before USC I struggled back and forth on what I wanted to become; after USC it became very clear that I want to become a lawyer. They taught me valuable study tools, real case experience, how to argue with respect, etc. As I returned home, my view of the world had changed. In one month at USC I grew up; I learned what I wanted to become and was handed the tools to get there.

Not only did USC offer an excellent education and college experience, they also shared California culture with us. Being able to attend a wide variety of activities with my fellow classmates helped us bond. It was an eye opening view of the entire college experience. Learning to balance fun with hard work: hanging out with new friends and then later reading cases and studying with the same people. I not only learned a ton of new knowledge, I gained a lifetime of friends who have the same goals as me: to succeed!

Walking back into my high school doors with two AP classes on my schedule did not intimidate me; I am ready, I will succeed. Thank you USC, thank you to all who donated to this wonderful scholarship opportunity. It was only a month; but it was life changing!

– Chandler Jackson '15

The Impact (Continued)

The opportunity granted to me this past summer has given me more than three college credits, it gave me experience, cherishable relationships, and changed my perspective for my future. Prior to the program, I did not have a plan for after senior year. However, the program presented me with the experience that would ease my stress for the future and offer some clarification of where I would see myself in the years to come. For I had never been on a college campus nonetheless one of the most rigorous private schools in California, and I will never be able to thank Sonny Hayes and those who were the reason behind this being an opportunity to students enough. When I was granted with the scholarship, I was excited to take the Psychology course taught by Leslie Berntsen—who was phenomenal—she made her students welcomed and opened my eyes to other fields of Neuroscience, Sociology, and Anthropology. I am now looking to minor in psychology and take a course in anthropology on top of my history major, without this course I would have never known these were passions of mine. That is the overall lesson I took from this program, to find a passion of yours and to pursue it by any means. The class then became easy, communicating with my teacher became easy, forming meaningful relationships with other students became easy because we were all motivated and determined to achieve our goals. The atmosphere on the university inspires the students within it, which is why I hope potential scholars will be able to experience the summer I had. They need to be inspired, they need to form relationships, and they need to see the potential that this program sees in them, in themselves.

– Alexis Thiel '15

USC Summer programs has made a big impact on my life in several ways. First it gave me a taste of what college will be like, the diversity I will find, the classes, professors I will encounter and the grand scope of being a part of something bigger than myself. These new emotions and experiences gave me a more cosmopolitan view of education, and even though all of the scholars who came had different backgrounds, we all came together and made great friends and learned so much. This program also made me realize what kind of career I may be interested in and if I can be successful in it. From opportunities to explore LA, make new friends and learn about a great college, my own personal perspective of college has changed quite a lot and has made me realize I can achieve far greater things than I ever thought possible.

– Aydan Huevo '15

The Impact (Continued)

Sprawled on the ground, I was half-laughing and half-crying as the small robot that I built and coded refused to find the path of electrical tape it was supposed to follow. Instead, the robot proceeded to turn doughnuts after bumping the table leg that was serving as an obstacle, while my friend and fellow engineering student filmed the entire spectacle. In that moment, as I lay on the common room floor of my dorm at the University of Southern California, I realized that I was meant to be an engineer. Despite the rough night of coding a stubborn robot, I could not give up on my efforts to find a solution, and I loved every minute. From my epiphany on the common room floor to my interactions with other students, the sum total of my weeks at USC was the most meaningful intellectual experience of my life.

As I initially sat on the plane destined for LAX and USC, I wondered if my decision to choose engineering as my selected course of study was the right one. Despite my doubts about my choice, I was enrolled in Discover Engineering, a class that promised a preview of studying engineering in college, and there was nothing I could do to change it. However, any remaining doubts about engineering were finally quelled the third week of class, when we began the aforementioned project to create search-and-rescue robots that could be used in case of an earthquake. I found the application of engineering to this problem to be an amazing exercise, because we were creating a solution that could actually save lives. With my robot fully functioning, the idea that I could be a part of an advancement with the potential to save lives triggered a new passion in me.

However, my intellectual experience at USC was not limited to the academic work that I tackled. Because I had the opportunity to attend the program on a military child scholarship, I met people whose lives differed distinctly from my own; yet, we were able to learn together and collaborate to solve real world problems. From Turkey to Canada, Ohio to the Bay Area, working with peers from different cultures, upbringings, and perspectives enhanced the experience. Although the title of the course was Discover Engineering, my experience this past summer was so much more than that. Not only did I have the opportunity to immerse myself in the fascinating world of engineering and solidify my future educational path, I also discovered new friends, new mentors, a new place, and a new part of myself. Though I miss my days at USC, I am enthusiastic to see what my future may hold.

– Kylie Weaver '15

The Impact (Continued)

It was a huge honor to be selected as a USC military scholar for the summer of 2014. I had the opportunity to participate in the four-week summer program at USC which I never would have been able to attend without a scholarship. It is a great feeling knowing that USC truly cares about servicemen/women and their families, and I could not think of a school more committed to helping members of the military with research and outreach programs.

My experience at the summer program was unforgettable, and it made a huge impact on who I am today. The chance to experience college life was unquestionably valuable for me as a rising senior; I learned not only what to expect from college, but what I should look for during my college search. The course I took, Exploring Entrepreneurship, was extremely engaging and it opened me up to the possibility of studying business or finance in college. Also, the college level environment taught me skills that I will apply beyond business classes, such as cooperating with my peers and presenting in front of a group. Overall, the scholarship put me in an intellectually stimulating environment where I had the opportunity to think about my future, become more independent, and have the most enjoyable month of my life.

I would encourage every military child to apply for the scholarship, and I have already recommended it to several people. It truly is an unparalleled opportunity for any student, because of the wide array of courses offered. Whether he or she is a guitarist or a journalist, I am confident that a military child would gain a whole lot from the USC summer program. The environment is one where high school students can have an extremely enjoyable experience while learning a lot about themselves in a college setting.

– Ryland Mortlock '14
USC BS Business Administration '19

Being selected as a scholar-from beginning to end-was an honor that I was grateful to receive. Attending the USC summer program was a great experience that I was happy to have shared with amazing people I was sad to have said goodbye to. Upon resuming my daily life, the impact of the program remained fresh. Going through my school days, I am constantly reminded of how incredible the college experience was and everything I learned there. Remembering how awesome the four weeks were, I remind my friends constantly about how awesome college will be, which helps push us to excel in school so we can get into our dream college, mine being USC. Along with this experience, the challenging classes I am enrolled in now have helped guide me towards a more specific path for the future. Never too confident in what I hoped to major in, my enjoyment of the engineering class I enrolled in made me more confident in deciding to major in the field of engineering. As it did with me the opportunity to attend the summer program at USC can help guide students towards the right direction. This assists students by allowing them to experience college life and aid them in deciding whether the major they are considering is truly what they are passionate about or if they should pursue other interests. Overall, I am really glad to have had this opportunity and believe that many others would be as well.

– Mario Blanco '14
USC BS Aerospace Engineering '20

The Impact (Continued)

My summer at USC was most definitely the experience of a lifetime. Not only was it a collegiate academic adventure, it was also an opportunity to meet a diverse group of students, study my artistic craft in an intense environment, and explore an amazing array of potential career fields. None of which would have been possible without the Provost's Military Scholarship.

Living in a military community, my world is always changing. Friends come and go, parents leave on deployments, and bases open and close. My acceptance into the Trojan Family provided me a friendly, dependable, and supportive network of friends, peers, educators, and mentors who will remain forever part of my life.

I found that the USC community is overflowing with bright scholars, brilliant professors and creative mentors. As a student of the School of the Dramatic Arts, I worked on my craft in a very intense environment among the most gifted of my peers. This challenged me to continue with my training and confirmed my desire to be a musical theatre major. The opportunity to work with professors who maintain connections with the "business" allowed me to weigh my options about applying to drama schools on either the East or West Coast.

Living in Europe makes visiting American universities a challenge, few military families have the resources to pay for college tuition and travel prior to high school graduation. As a recipient of Provost's Military Scholarship, I was given the opportunity to overcome that challenge and study firsthand at the university level. What I have learned has enhanced my appreciation of my choice of career and will most certainly prepare me for the choices ahead as I transition from high school to college. USC's support of higher education for military families is a true gift.

– Audrey Daly '14
USC BA Theatre '19

The Impact (Continued)

One of greatest moments of my life was the day I found out I was selected to be a scholar in USC's Summer Program. When applying for the scholarship I didn't expect to be selected or at least I tried not to get my hopes up, which made receiving the scholarship all the more special. Receiving the scholarship felt so surreal and I couldn't believe that I was picked. I took away a lot from my time on campus and in the classrooms. Being so far away from home it really helped me to see who I was as a person on my own without being influenced by my family or friends. I loved absolutely everything about the program and strongly encourage everyone to take the chance and apply. For anyone who does apply and receives the scholarship you won't regret it I can promise you that. You are surrounded by new people from all over the country and the world and you're able to see new things that you may not be accustomed to. You also receive some of the best education in the world coming from extremely inspiring professors that know what they're talking about and who genuinely want you to succeed. If you think you won't have fun, meet new friends or learn something new that can help you in your life, you're wrong. You're bound to meet someone who has the same interest as you or something in common especially with the other scholars. I met two other scholars the very first day I walked onto the campus and I made an instant connection with both of them and we became quick friends and I will now share a friendship that will last a life time. I still find time to talk to them whenever I can. All of the staff is extremely helpful with anything you ask of them and I'm glad I got to meet a lot of them including the Residential Advisors and Professors. Going through this program was a life changing experience for me. I left having the best summer of my life and memories that I'll cherish forever. All I can say is you should at least apply because you never know what can happen and you won't regret it, I give you my word. My summer experience at USC has solidified my college choice to be USC which was always in my dreams. Every day now I wake up and put in the extra effort to make my dream come true. I have come back home from this experience and used what I have learned to excel in everything that I do. I can't wait to be a Trojan. Fight On!

–Austin Ridenour '14

The Impact (Continued)

After another typical day at work, I was going through the routine of unplugging the fan, shutting off both rows of lights, collecting the garbage, and walking to the dumpster. I took a brief hiatus waiting for my manager to come back and lock the door, and seized this opportunity to check my email. My hand was shaking as my unread mail icon hovered over the name Sonny Hayes. As embarrassing as it is, I cried as I opened it and read that I was not only accepted, but that my entire trip was paid for. My manager, and mom, came back to lock the door and was shocked by my state. While I cried on the bench, she was emphasizing her excitement with hand gestures and loud tones of voice. We both grinned at each other as we asked the question, “What happens next?”

Upon my selection as a military scholar, I was introduced to college life. Scholars were given full access to college facilities such as the libraries, track, and even coffee shops. In addition, we took a college course with college-level workloads. This opportunity gave me the chance to test my responsibility and exercise my freedom.

As I developed my individual routine, I was also welcomed into the Trojan Family. Staff members created such a positive atmosphere where we could not only ask any questions we had about college, but join in any conversation or soccer game. My RA across the hall was especially open and honest with me about the application process, studying abroad, and what it means to be a Trojan. Her advice, as well as the college seminars offered at the University, gave me guidance and reassurance in my own plans for the future. I feel so much more prepared for freshman year with the knowledge I gained this last July.

Being selected for such an opportunity meant I could gain an understanding of the college process and my goals. Neither of my parents attended college, and although they are supporting my decision, they lack the personal experience. To be surrounded by so many success stories at USC reassured my plan to pursue college.

This program represents the sense of opportunity and excitement as opening the acceptance email. The opportunities for freedom, responsibility, and confidence are embedded into the letters of USC. What “happened next” included my first taste of Ground Zero milkshakes, my first trip away from home, and my first feeling of courage to set and achieve my collegiate goals.

– Dakota Sabotka ‘14

Currently attending:

Danielle T.	2014	California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Claudia L.	2014	Georgetown University
Cedric C.	2014	North Carolina State University
Austin R.	2014	Northwestern University
Dakota S.	2014	Rochester Institute of Technology
Samantha N.	2015	Santa Fe College
Christine H.	2015	Southern Methodist University
Mariana D.	2014	St. John's University
Grace T.	2014	Troy University
David C.	2014	United States Military Academy at West Point
Caroline B.	2015	United States Naval Academy
Delaney M.	2014	University of Alabama at Montevallo
Destiny O.	2014	University of Kentucky
Kevin C.	2015	University of Pennsylvania
Mario B.	2014	University of Southern California
Audrey D.	2014	University of Southern California
Carl E.	2014	University of Southern California
Ryland M.	2014	University of Southern California
Luke S.	2014	University of Texas
Shakira W.	2014	University of Texas at San Antonio
Naomi V.	2014	Virginia Wesleyan College



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