



### **FAQs** *Frequently Asked Questions*

**When is the application deadline?** June 3, 2011 is the deadline for the 2011-2012 application process. In general, the deadline is the first Friday in June every year.

**When can I turn in the application?** The Foundation accepts completed applications in the spring semester. Awards are NOT issued on a first come/first served basis. We encourage you to review your application several times before turning it in.

**How much are the scholarships?** Scholarship amounts vary, starting at \$500 per semester generally.

**Are scholarships awarded only to certain students?** In 2010-2011, the Foundation awarded 205 scholarships from 370 applicants. Eligible applicants meet the following guidelines:

- Be a current RRCC student or eligible for RRCC admission.
- Be a U.S. Citizen.
- Be a Colorado resident. (Physician Assistant students are exempt from this requirement.)
- Minimum enrollment of six credit hours in the fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters.
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. (This minimum is a preference for many awards.)

The RRCC Foundation offers a wide variety of scholarships based on both need and merit. Requirements, criteria and eligibility preferences are designated by donors for scholarship awards, including, but not limited to: program, population, merit, geographic and other criteria.

**What are my chances of being selected to receive a scholarship?** Approximately 50% of applicants receive scholarships. The process is competitive. An applicant's grades, academic and professional goals, financial need, community/volunteer service and special circumstances are all evaluated in the awarding process.

**Can I receive more than one scholarship in an academic year?** In completing the RRCC Foundation Scholarship Application, you may be considered for more than one award, if eligibility requirements are met.

**I received a scholarship last year. Can I apply again this year?** Students are encouraged to apply every year. Most scholarships only apply for two semesters and do not continue into the next academic year.

**Will my scholarship apply to tuition at another college?** The scholarships are designated for current RRCC students and will not transfer to or apply at other colleges.

**When will I know the results of the process?** On or around August 1<sup>st</sup>, the RRCC Foundation sends response letters to all applicants regarding award status.

**More questions? Contact Foundation staff at [scholarships@rrcc.edu](mailto:scholarships@rrcc.edu) or 303-914-6308**

### **General Information About the Application Process:**

The Red Rocks Community College Foundation, supported through generous community donations, offers a wide variety of scholarships based on both need and merit. By completing the Scholarship Application, applicants will be considered for all scholarship awards administered through the Foundation. Completion of the application does not guarantee a scholarship award. Program policies are provided on the scholarship application.

Scholarship awards apply to the fall and spring semesters in one academic year and typically do not continue to a second year. The application process begins the spring semester prior to the academic year the scholarship will disburse and apply. The deadline for submitting applications is the first Friday in June. All applicants are notified through the mail regarding their award status in the summer. As an example of the timeline: The scholarship process starts in the spring 2011 semester; the deadline is June 3, 2011; a response letter is received in early August; if awarded, the first portion of the award will apply to the fall 2011 semester and the second portion of the award will apply to the spring 2012 semester. **Students are encouraged to apply each year.** Previous year applications are not evaluated in combination with the current year application.

Complete applications are evaluated by volunteer readers in late June. The Foundation Scholarship application process **is competitive**. An applicant's grades, academic and professional goals, financial need, community service, and special circumstances are all evaluated in the awarding process. Many deserving students do not receive scholarship awards. To increase your opportunity of receiving a scholarship, it is important to be certain that your application reflects your career plan and clearly represents you.

### **Completing the Scholarship Application and Attachments**

The Scholarship Application consists of four parts: Personal Information; Personal Statement; Academic Record; and Letter of Recommendation. The application is your method of communicating with the volunteers who evaluate you. Be certain that your application is an accurate reflection your situation, achievements, and goals.

#### **Personal Information**

Please type or write answers clearly in the spaces provided. If you are unsure about any of the questions, contact Foundation staff at [scholarships@rrcc.edu](mailto:scholarships@rrcc.edu) or 303-914-6308.

#### **Personal Statement**

Many students express anxiety about writing. It is helpful to think of the personal statement as an informal letter to the volunteer reviewers and not as an essay. Use your statement to tell your story, the reasons you know you will be successful, the plan for reaching your goals and dreams.

The tips we have listed here and on the application are intended to assist you. Some of the items might not apply to you or your situation, therefore not all of the items will be included in your personal statement. Rather, the items are guidelines for you.

- Focus on your academic and career goals and how your courses at RRCC will help you meet your goals.
- Include any special challenges or obstacles you face, such as financial need, and/or family or work obligations.
- Mention any volunteer and leadership experiences you had previously and the way you hope to make a difference in your community in the future.
- Include any information from the application that you would like to further explain or to clarify.

#### Having difficulty getting started?

A variety of resources can assist you: talk to a friend; ask for help from an instructor; research award winning essays. Use a method that works for you. Sometimes a good leaping point is to make a list or outline of points you would like to include in your statement. Sometimes it is helpful to just start typing or free writing. You can edit and polish later.

#### Having difficulty deciding what to write about?

The topics are only limited by your comfort in sharing. Review the bullet points listed above and on the application. Explain why you have chosen your field of study. Talk about the steps in your plan to achieve your dreams. Indicate how Red Rocks helps you during your journey.

**Believe in yourself.** You have successes as well as struggles. Define special challenges or obstacles you face or have overcome. Articulate your ability to be successful in the career you have chosen.

#### Just a few more points...

Don't be too brief and don't over-do it.

Write clearly and concisely.

Keep it simple so that the meaning isn't lost.

Use examples, but don't write your entire autobiography.

Proofread. Proofread. Proofread.

Read your personal statement out loud to someone.

Have friends and family members read and comment on your statement.

#### **One or Two Letters of Recommendation**

Reading a letter of recommendation helps the volunteer reviewers to determine how someone else perceives your commitment to achieve your goals. We suggest that you ask for a letter of recommendation from someone who has witnessed your hard work and dedication. You should ask your reference for a letter of recommendation **a minimum of two weeks prior to the scholarship deadline in June.**

While considering who to ask for a letter of recommendation, keep in mind that your instructors will have the best opinions of your academic performance. If you are a student employee, you could also consider asking your supervisor at RRCC. Instructors and staff at RRCC are allowed to submit the letter of recommendation to the Foundation via email. When an instructor is not option, you could ask a previous teacher from any school, a current or former employer, or a supervisor from a volunteer position. References that are outside of RRCC will have to submit the letter to the Foundation through the mail or you may submit it with your application. Letters

can also be faxed to 303-914-6318. We cannot accept letters of recommendation from close friends or family members.

When asking a reference to write a letter of recommendation, you can suggest that the letter address:

- academic skills and potential
- level of motivation
- potential in chosen career path

### **Acceptable Academic Record**

As indicated on the application, applicants must submit an acceptable academic record. This requirement helps the volunteer reviewers to determine your academic achievements and potential. While there is not a minimum GPA requirement to apply for a scholarship, many of the awards have preferences regarding a student's academics.

Acceptable academic records will indicate a cumulative grade point average (GPA). In particular circumstances, there are alternatives to submitting a transcript. To help determine what type of academic record to submit, decide which of the following statements apply to you:

- I am a current RRCC student.  
You can print and submit an unofficial transcript from the Portal on the RRCC webpage.
- I am a current high school student or I recently graduated from high school.  
You can submit an unofficial transcript from your high school.
- I have some college credits from another institution.  
You can submit an unofficial transcript from your last institution.
- I am a home-schooled student.  
You can submit ACT or SAT scores, if you do not have a transcript. If you have a transcript, it should indicate your cumulative GPA.
- I am enrolling in RRCC and I do not have a transcript or other academic record.  
You can submit your ACCUPLACER assessment test scores or your GED test scores in place of a transcript.

**Need more help? Contact Foundation staff at [scholarships@rrcc.edu](mailto:scholarships@rrcc.edu) or 303-914-6308.**