TIPS AND SAMPLE APPLICATION
For RCTC Foundation Scholarships

The Rochester Community and Technical College Foundation offers a variety of scholarships to incoming, returning, and graduating students. All scholarships offered through the RCTC Foundation are made possible by generous donors supporting the effort to provide scholarship and program support to students who might not otherwise have the resources to pursue higher education. Most RCTC students juggle multiple responsibilities -- balancing work, family and career preparation. Especially in difficult times, a scholarship can make all the difference.

Many students leave RCTC less in debt, thanks to a Foundation scholarship!
- More than 230 students receive scholarships each year, some more than one!
- Awards start at $100 and range as high as $3,000 with $1,000 being the most common award.
- Your chances of receiving an award increase if you follow the directions and have written, thoughtful and articulate statements or essays.

The online application for the 2016/2017 academic year will be open 11/15/15 – 03/04/16.

Scholarships For
- Incoming – first year (includes transfer) students just beginning at RCTC
- Returning – second year students continuing their education at RCTC
- Graduating – students graduating from RCTC and pursuing further education

Scholarship Criteria
The Foundation offers a variety of scholarships with diverse criteria which may be based on:
- Financial Need
- Student Achievement
- Student Demographics
- Demographic Area
- Community Service/Volunteer Work
- Extracurricular Involvement
- Major

A listing of all the available scholarships and their criteria can be found on the RCTC Foundation website.
NOTE: Check to see if the criteria mentions a required essay or letter of recommendation.

HOW TO APPLY
- Web portal for applications opens November 15, 2015: www.rctc.edu/foundation/scholarships/apply/
- Deadline to apply is March 4, 2016 for 2016/2017 academic year
WHAT COUNTS

- Criteria met
- Extra effort on statements and essays
- Grammar and punctuation
- Don’t use slang, abbreviations, or casual tones
- Personal effort
- Completeness of answers
- Ask for letters of recommendation (This is not necessary for some scholarships, but will give you the extra edge.)

- **It is a good idea to complete the essay questions in Word, spell and grammar check your answers, then copy and paste your essay from Word to the appropriate section.**

TIPS

Your application should include such items as extracurricular activities while in high school or college; honors, prizes, scholarships; offices held; athletic record; community service, civic engagement; etc. The activities list provides you the opportunity to enumerate accomplishments, achievements, or contributions that you feel tells the reader something significant about you.

You will be asked to write a statement of purpose for several areas of the application. Each statement of purpose should describe your academic life and plans, as well as your personal goals and beliefs. Your statement of purpose should produce a picture of you as a person, a student, a potential scholarship winner, and (looking into the future) a former scholarship recipient. Each statement should grab the interest of the reader and make him or her want to meet you. Your explanation will provide the scholarship selection committee with their first impression of you, and may be the aspect of your application that wins you a scholarship. Show them who you are and make your first impression an excellent one!

**Future Educational Plans:**

Write a statement of purpose explaining your future **educational** plans. Consider the questions below to help you formulate your statement.

- What are your specific goals for your study and/or your future goals and aspirations?
- Why you are pursuing your current course of academic study and explain how your degree will help you excel in your chosen field.
- What do you plan to do after graduation?
- How did you acquire your interest and why and why does that interest matter to you? What do you plan to do with your interest? What is the connection between your academic life and the rest of the world?

**EXAMPLES OF A PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR FUTURE EDUCATION PLANS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO</th>
<th>DON'T</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would like to pursue an associate degree in nursing, and eventually move onto a bachelor degree in that field as well. I want to become a nurse to help others around me that can’t help themselves. I feel it is very important to be in the health related fields for those who need medical attention.</td>
<td>Continue on in a four year school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend RCTC for two years then transfer to University of Minnesota year to finish my bachelor’s degree. After I finish my bachelor’s degree in science, I plan to get into medical school.</td>
<td>I plan on taking all the required courses for this program besides which ever ones did not transfer from previous colleges. If I do as well as I know I will, it will be a serious option for me to go on for an RN degree in the future.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Future Career Plans:
Write a statement of purpose explaining your future career plans. Demonstrate a clear career path (not just “I hope...”), such as to teach, to mentor, to work with young people, to serve your community, etc. Consider the questions below to help you formulate your statement.

- How will your current academic course of study contribute to your immediate or long range career plans?
- What is the importance of your academic course of study in today’s society?
- Is there an academic or industry contribution you aspire to make during your career?
- In the future, how do you see yourself as a creator contributing to the community at large?

**EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR FUTURE CAREER PLANS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DO</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>After I receive a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and Psychology, I plan to use the education I get from both majors and work for a business that they could both be put to good use and hopefully someday open my own.</td>
<td>I’m not quite sure other than that I want to either work in one of the fields of film or video games. To make it a bit clearer the job I would like in either field is to create the idea as my own.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After I’ve completed my degree program, I will become licensed to teach Social Sciences to middle or high school students. I would like to do this for a while, then return to school to get my Master’s degree and possibly teach at the 2 year college level.</td>
<td>My goal is to work in a variety of large construction projects anywhere in the world and continue to pursue higher levels of education.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Briefly explain why you are a good candidate for an RCTC Scholarship:
Write a statement of purpose explaining why you deserve an RCTC Scholarship. Consider the questions below to help you formulate your statement.

- How would receiving a scholarship would help you achieve your goals and ensure your success?
- How will an award from the College enable you to take your part in changing the world?
- Why should the Scholarship Selection Committee invest in you?

**EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU DESERVE A SCHOLARSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DO</strong></th>
<th><strong>DON’T</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I believe that I deserve a scholarship because I work very hard to uphold an exceptional GPA and am a driven, goal-oriented student looking to make a difference in the world. I would be a good investment because I am determined to succeed and plan to impart knowledge on future generations of students.</td>
<td>I want to get the best education for a lower rate, and RCTC feels like the best option I have.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I currently hold three jobs to support my college education as well as living arrangements and have faced many challenges balancing work, school and volunteering. Receiving a scholarship from RCTC would make it possible for me to continue my education at Winona State University in order to gain knowledge and develop the skills I need to provide support and advocacy to people in crisis and help them overcome obstacles in their lives. A scholarship would also provide me with the opportunity to reduce work hours so that I can focus on academic success.</td>
<td>I need the money because my family isn't going to be able to pay for college without a little help. I would really appreciate any type of help that I can get.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Why are you choosing to pursue higher education?**

Write a statement of purpose explaining why you are choosing to pursue higher education. Consider the questions below to help you formulate your statement.

- How does pursuing higher education benefit you personally?
- How does higher education benefit your community?
- Why is higher education important to society?

Please list any other higher education institutions you have attended and include the total number of credits you earned and your GPA at the institution.

| EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION |
|---|---|
| **DO** | **DON'T** |
| I believe education is the power, and I would love to gather as much knowledge as I can. I would love to be a good example of my future children and others, of someone who is successful through education. | To better myself and to have the opportunity for a good future. |
| The personal value of obtaining a college degree extends through an entire lifetime. College graduates are more likely to find gainful employment, have stable families, and be active and productive citizens. They are also less likely to commit serious crimes, less likely to place high demands on the public health care system, and less likely to be enrolled in welfare assistance programs. | I am pursuing a higher education because I do not want the average job where I only know the basics. |

**Is there anything else you would like the scholarship review committee to consider?**

- Are there any factors or experiences that influenced your personal growth?
- Is there an issue or cause about which you feel strongly or has helped make you who you are?

| EXAMPLE OF OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER |
|---|---|
| **DO** | **DON'T** |
| I currently work full time and go to school full time. While my job hasn't affected my academic performance, it has been stressful to balance work and school. If awarded a scholarship, it would allow me to work fewer hours and concentrate more on school. | I am honest, driven, hardworking and caring. All of which is needed in the nursing profession |
| Being the first in my family to earn a college degree would mean a lot to them. I would be able to provide for them and support them financially in the future. By granting me an RCTC scholarship, it will greatly lift my financial burden, therefore I could focus more on school work. | I would like to receive this because I want to increase my knowledge and I will put it to good use. |
EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES AND/OR COMMUNITY SERVICE

- School or peer mentoring
- Church activities
- Nursing Homes
- Hospitals
- Hospice
- Volunteer Fire Department/Ambulance Service
- Preventative Drug, Alcohol, Violence, Abuse Programs
- Key Club
- Red Cross (blood drives, emergency preparedness, etc.)
- United Way
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Scout activities
- Environmental Projects / Adopt-a-Highway
- Adopt a Grandparent/Homebound Elderly Companion
- Human Society/Animal Shelters/Zoo
- Food Banks
- DECA
- FFA
- 4-H
- Fundraising for non-profit organizations
- Greeter at Festival of Trees
- Volunteer at Salvation Army ringing bell for red kettle season
- Rake leaves (or shovel snow) for an elderly or disabled neighbor
- Babysit or walk dogs to help a friend or neighbor

KEEP IN MIND

- If transcripts or letters of recommendation are required, they must be sent to the Foundation Office by the deadline.
- The Scholarship application portal closes on March 4, 2016.
- Scholarship recipients are selected and notified in early April.
- Recipients are recognized at Scholarship Night in late April
- Scholarship funds are disbursed the following academic year

PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH

Other sources for a private scholarship search.

- Your high school, if you are graduating this year
- You or your parents' places of employment
- Local businesses and civic organizations
- College Board's Scholarship: [www.collegeboard.com/pay](http://www.collegeboard.com/pay)
- FastWeb Scholarship Search: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Student Scholarships: [www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)

NEED ADDITIONAL HELP? - - CONTACT THE RCTC FOUNDATION

- Call (507) 281-7771
- E-mail us at [foundation@rctc.edu](mailto:foundation@rctc.edu)
- Stop by the Heintz Center, Room HC109

Like us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/RCTCFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/RCTCFoundation)
• You can find a listing of all the available scholarships and their criteria on our website
• Note whether the criteria mentions a required essay or letter of recommendation
• Choose 3 from the drop down menu that best apply to you
• You can still be considered for other scholarships for which you meet the criteria
• Contact the Foundation office for help selecting the most appropriate scholarships
**Applicant Information:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First name</strong></td>
<td>Jane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Last name</strong></td>
<td>Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RTC Stinger ID</strong></td>
<td>00123123 (if you have applied and have been accepted, you have a Stinger ID)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E-mail</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jane.smith001@mb.rclc.edu">jane.smith001@mb.rclc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cell phone</strong></td>
<td>507-555-0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Daytime phone</strong></td>
<td>507-555-0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evening phone</strong></td>
<td>507-555-0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent address street</strong></td>
<td>851 30th Ave SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent address city</strong></td>
<td>Rochester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent address county</strong></td>
<td>Olmsted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent address state</strong></td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent address zip</strong></td>
<td>55904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Permanent address country</strong></td>
<td>USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current address street</strong></td>
<td>1926 Collegeview Drive SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current address city</strong></td>
<td>Rochester</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current address county</strong></td>
<td>Olmsted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current address state</strong></td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current address zip</strong></td>
<td>55904</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current local address country</strong></td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>High school (incoming applicants only)</strong></td>
<td>Lincoln High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High school graduation year</strong></td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>High school GPA</strong></td>
<td>3.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
RCTC Enrollment Info:

Credits already earned: 12
RCTC GPA: 3.35 (example: 3.21 Enter 0.0 if you are an incoming student)
Credits currently taking: 12
Major(s): Accounting 2 plus 2 program
Planned award(s): Associate of Arts

Future educational plans:
I plan on going to St. Cloud State to get my four year degree in Business Management

Future career plans:
I want to work as a project manager in the for-profit division of a large medical institution.

Please check all items that pertain to you:

☐ Played high school softball for at least two years.
☐ You or parent(s) are a customer of Peoples Cooperative Power Association.
☐ Single custodial parent.
☒ Athletics
☐ Music
☐ Theater
☐ International student or have refugee status.
☒ Qualify for financial aid.
☐ Non-traditional Student.
☒ Participated in extra-curricular activities in high school.
☐ Family tie to Masonic Lodge.
☐ Immigrant, spouse or child of immigrant, or first generation American citizen.
☐ Have completed Nursing 1117.
☐ Pursuing a degree in social science.
☐ Will enter the field of medicine after graduation.
☐ Was a Presidential Scholar while attending RCTC.
☐ Plan to enter the field of forestry or conservation.
☐ Plan to enter the field of psychology (or related field), women's studies, or political science.
Briefly explain why you deserve an RCTC scholarship:
I am a hard-working student who is trying to gain as much knowledge as possible while attending college. I am also trying to create a better future for myself.

Do you anticipate qualifying for financial aid?
- Yes
- No

Did you receive financial aid this year?
- Yes
- No

If yes to either, please indicate the amount of aid you currently receive and/or anticipate receiving:
$ 6500.0

Do you currently have a student loan:
- Yes
- No

Will you apply for other grants or scholarships?
- Yes
- No

In High School and/or at RCTC, what extra-curricular activities did you participate in? State the length of time you were involved. Indicate any positions of leadership. Please include the staff advisor and phone number for each activity. (NOTE: Advisors may be called for reference checks.):

High School - I played volleyball in grades 9-12. I was team captain for 2 years. Coach Smith, 555-9876.

RCTC - I was on the volleyball team last year and this year. Coach Bell, 555-1212

What Honor Societies or Academic Clubs are / were you a member of?:
I was a member of my high school drama club in grades 11 & 12 and am currently a member of RCTC's drama club.

List any awards, honors or recognition you have received:
Lettered in volleyball senior year.
Please list the activities and organizations that you have been a member of or volunteered for in the community, outside of school. Include the length of time of your service and any positions of leadership you hold/held in these activities; list the activity’s advisor, including telephone number. (NOTE: Advisors may be called for reference checks.):

Volunteered at the Salvation Army store and rang the bell during the Christmas Season at the Walmart South location, painted the entry way of the Senior Center in Spring Valley, worked as a greeter at Festival of Trees for three years.

Work Experience: List the work experience you have had, beginning with your most recent position. (NOTE: Employers may be called for a reference check). Give number of hours worked per week, Dates of employment, Employer Contact Person Phone number:

Currently, I work 20-25 hours per week at Well Fargo Bank in Rochester. I have worked there since 2008. My supervisor is Jane Strain, 555-2143.

Is there anything else you would like the scholarship review committee to consider?:

I currently work to pay my everyday bills and do not have much left over to help pay for college. A scholarship would allow me to incur less student loan debt.

Please give any comments or suggestions regarding this application process:

* I have fully completed the application, and it is ready for submission.

By submitting this form you are authorizing:

1. RCTC to release your academic records (high school and/or college transcripts) to the Foundation Office and
2. review of your application and academic records by the RCTC Foundation Scholarship Committee.

I agree to the above terms

Submit Application