



## **RCTC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

The RCTC Foundation offers a variety of scholarships to incoming, returning, and graduating and transferring RCTC 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 education. Especially in difficult times, a scholarship can make all the difference.

### **MANY STUDENTS LEAVE RCTC LESS IN DEBT THANKS TO AN RCTC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP!**

- The RCTC Foundation offers scholarships for RCTC students only
- More than 300 students will receive scholarships this year
- Scholarships range from \$200 to FULL TUITION with \$1,000 being the most common award
- Your chances of getting a higher score on your application increase *if you follow the directions and have written, thoughtful and articulate statements or essays*

### **SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA INCLUDES:**

- Financial Need
- Demographics
- Geographic Area
- Major
- GPA
- Community Service/Volunteer Work
- Extracurricular Involvement (Band, sports, clubs, etc.)
- An essay response to a question
- Plans after graduation

### **WHAT REVIEWERS LOOK FOR IN YOUR APPLICATION:**

- Criteria met
- Extra effort on statements and essays
- Grammar and punctuation
- Responses that do not include slang, abbreviations, or casual tones
- Personal effort
- Completeness of answers
- A letter of recommendation (*if required by the specific scholarship*)

# HOW TO APPLY

THE ONLINE PORTAL FOR APPLICATIONS IS OPEN OCTOBER 20- NOVEMBER 13

## APPLY ONLINE:

- The link to our online application and information on how to apply is posted on our website at: [www.rctc.edu/apply-for-scholarships](http://www.rctc.edu/apply-for-scholarships)

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY:

- **Time:** Set aside at least one hour to allow yourself time to apply to the best of your ability.
- **Email Address:** All registered RCTC students will have easy access when using their star ID or RCTC email address. If you are not registered at RCTC, consider doing so before applying for scholarships. *If you are not registered at RCTC but would like to continue, please use an email address that you check frequently.*
- **Transcript:** You will need to upload a copy of your most recent transcript with your name blacked out. You can get this information from your high school or through your eservices account. If you do not have one, contact your advisor.
- **Financials:** If applicable, you will need to enter your financial need, financial aid or FAFSA amounts when prompted.

## ASSISTANCE:

- If you need assistance, please contact the Foundation Office at 507-281-7771 or [foundation@rctc.edu](mailto:foundation@rctc.edu)

# TIPS & EXAMPLES

## THE APPLICATION

The application consists of 6 parts:

- General Information
- Academic Information
- Financial Information
- Extracurricular Activities, Community Service, Work Experience
- Essay Questions
- Qualification Questions

Below is information and tips/examples on each of the six parts within the application.

### 1. General Information

- This is where you fill in your personal information
- Use your RCTC email address Ex: [firstname.lastname@my.rctc.edu](mailto:firstname.lastname@my.rctc.edu) (If you do not have an RCTC email address, please use an email address that you check frequently.)

## 2. Academic Information

### *Academic Status:*

- Incoming – First year (includes transfer) students just beginning at RCTC. PSEO students who have graduated high school and are attending RCTC are included.
- Returning – Second year students continuing their education at RCTC or students returning to RCTC after an absence.
- Graduating and Transferring– Students graduating from RCTC and pursuing further education at a four-year institution.

## 3. Financial Information

- Explain your financial need for a scholarship
  - Financial need is the difference between the cost of attending college and all the financial resources you have available to pay for college.

## 4. Extracurricular Activities, Community Service and Work Experience

- Tell us about any extracurricular activities you participate in, any volunteering or community service work you do, any clubs or organizations you are part of...we want to hear about it all!

### EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEERING OR COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| ▪ Mentoring or tutoring  | ▪ Red Cross (blood drives, emergency prep, etc.) | ▪ Adopt a Grandparent /Homebound Elderly Companion (i.e. rake leaves, shovel snow) |
| ▪ Nursing Homes  | ▪ United Way                                     | ▪ Humane Society/Animal Shelters/Zoo   |
| ▪ Hospitals or Hospice   | ▪ Big Brothers/Big Sisters                       | ▪ Future Farmers of America  |
| ▪ Volunteer Fire Department /Ambulance Service                                 | ▪ Boy or Girl Scout activities                   |  |
| ▪ 4-H  | ▪ Environmental Projects / Adopt-a-Highway       |  |
| ▪ Volunteer for special Events (for example: ringing bells for Salvation Army) |  |  |

- Tell us about your work experience/history – past or current employment

## 5. Essay Questions: DO NOT COPY THE EXAMPLES BELOW WORD FOR WORD. WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR AUTHENTIC STORY!

Our reviewers also score on the effort that you put into your application, not based on essay answers alone. Essay questions are not as intimidating as you think they are. Most questions only require a paragraph of 500 words or less.

***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.***

- **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?
- If applicable, list any other higher education institutions you have attended and include the total number of credits you earned and your GPA at the institution.

<b>EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT AS TO WHY YOU ARE PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION</b>	
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
<p>I believe education is power, and I would love to gather as much knowledge as I can. I would love to be a role model for my children and others.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>To better myself and to have the opportunity for a good future.</p> <p>I am pursuing higher education because I do not want the average job where I only know the basics.</p>

- **What are your 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 in the workforce?
- 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? (i.e. pursue additional degrees, open your own business, secure a job with a specific employer)
- How did you acquire your interest 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?

<b>EXAMPLES OF A PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR FUTURE EDUCATION PLANS</b>	
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
<p>I would like to pursue an associate degree in nursing, and eventually move on to a bachelor's degree. 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.</p>	<p>Continue to a four-year school.</p>

Attend RCTC for two years then transfer to University of Minnesota to finish my bachelor's degree. After I finish my bachelor's degree in science, I plan to apply to medical school.	I plan on taking all the required courses for this program besides which ever ones did not transfer from previous colleges. If I am lucky, I will graduate someday.
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• **What are your 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 contributing to the community at large?

EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR FUTURE CAREER PLANS	
DO	DON'T
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 where they could both be put to good use and someday open my own business.	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.
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.	My goal is to work in a variety of large construction projects anywhere in the world.

- **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 help you achieve your goals and ensure your success?
  - Why should the Foundation Selection Committee invest in you by giving you a scholarship?

<b>EXAMPLE OF PERSONAL STATEMENT TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU DESERVE A SCHOLARSHIP</b>	
<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
<p>I believe that I deserve a scholarship because I work very hard to uphold an exceptional GPA and I 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 to future generations of students.</p> <p>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 Foundation would make it possible for me to continue my education at Winona State University 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.</p>	<p>I want to get the best education for a lower rate, and RCTC feels like the best option I have.</p> <p>I need it and I would really appreciate any type of help that I can get.</p>

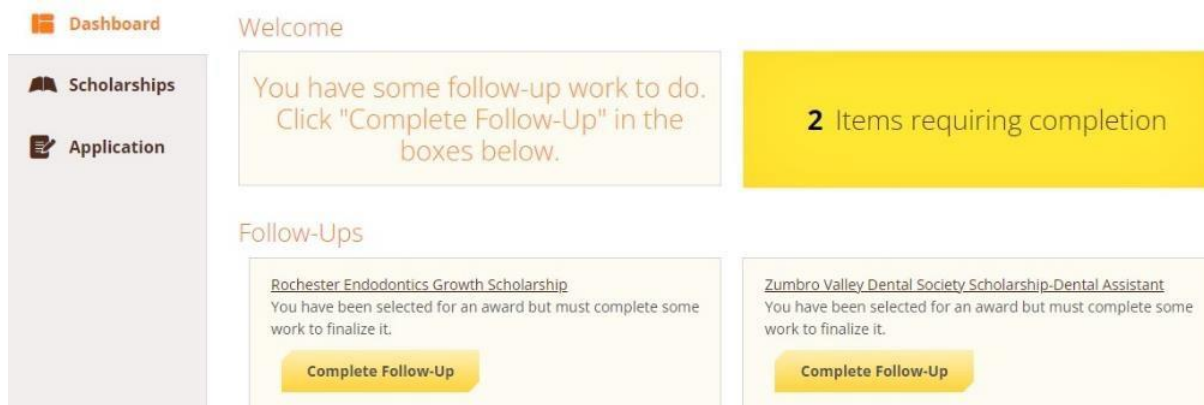
- **Is there anything else you would like the scholarship review committee to consider?**  
Are there any factors or experiences that influenced your personal growth?

## 6. Qualification Questions

We're going to ask you some questions that may not seem relevant. Answer them to the best of your ability. Eligibility for a scholarship may depend on it.

## COMPLETING THE APPLICATION PROCESS

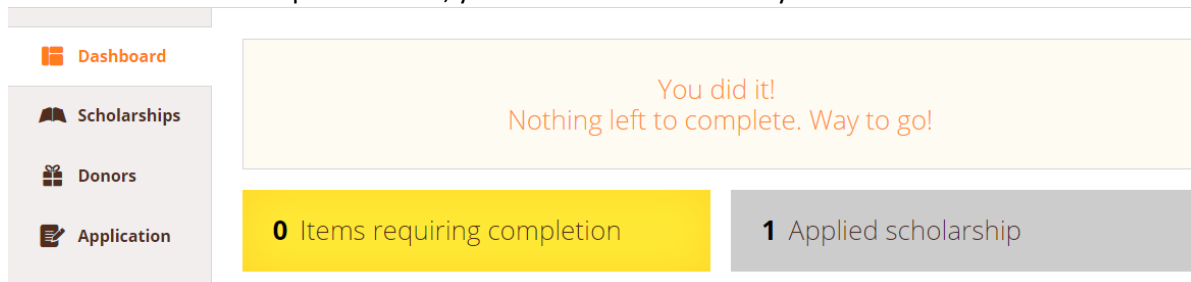
When you are finished with the application, hit the submit button. If you have any follow-up work to do (some scholarships require extra work) you will see this screen on your dashboard:



The screenshot shows a dashboard with a sidebar on the left containing 'Dashboard', 'Scholarships', and 'Application'. The main content area is titled 'Welcome' and contains a message: 'You have some follow-up work to do. Click "Complete Follow-Up" in the boxes below.' To the right of this message is a yellow box with the text '2 Items requiring completion'. Below the welcome message is a section titled 'Follow-Ups' with two items. The first item is 'Rochester Endodontics Growth Scholarship' with the text 'You have been selected for an award but must complete some work to finalize it.' and a yellow 'Complete Follow-Up' button. The second item is 'Zumbro Valley Dental Society Scholarship-Dental Assistant' with the text 'You have been selected for an award but must complete some work to finalize it.' and a yellow 'Complete Follow-Up' button.

Complete the follow-up work if you want to apply for those specific scholarships.

If there is no follow-up work to do, you will see this screen on your dashboard:



The screenshot shows a dashboard with a sidebar on the left containing 'Dashboard', 'Scholarships', 'Donors', and 'Application'. The main content area contains a message: 'You did it! Nothing left to complete. Way to go!'. Below this message are two boxes: a yellow box on the left with the text '0 Items requiring completion' and a grey box on the right with the text '1 Applied scholarship'.

Congratulations! You are all done. You just applied for scholarships through the RCTC Foundation!

### KEEP IN MIND

- If transcripts or letters of recommendation are required, they must be uploaded with your application. Applications are not complete without them.
- Recipients are required to attend the annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony.
- Scholarship funds are disbursed to student accounts for the following academic year. We do not pay students directly for scholarships.

### NEED ADDITIONAL HELP? CONTACT THE RCTC FOUNDATION

- Phone (507) 281-7771
- E-mail [foundation@rctc.edu](mailto:foundation@rctc.edu)
- Stop by the Foundation Office in Heintz Center, Room H1301