RCCD Scholarships
RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE
2020-2021

Financial Aid Reminders

- It's not too late to apply for the 19/20 FAFSA or Dream Application
- For need-based scholarships in 20/21, students must complete the 19/20 FAFSA or Dream Application
- Cal-Grant deadline to submit FAFSA or Dream Application is March 2, 2020 for 2020-2021 academic year
Important Dates

- Scholarship application available: 10/21/19
- Friday, January 10, 2020, 5:00 pm. – Scholarship Deadline
- Mid-May 2020 - Scholarship Award Notification
- If offered a scholarship, you will be notified of Dates for the Scholarship award ceremonies
- Disbursement Dates: Same as Financial Aid

Information on the Scholarship webpage:

- Who Can Apply for Scholarships
  - Enrollment Status
- How to Prepare to Apply
  - Student Email Active
  - Unofficial Transcripts
  - Recommendations
- How to Apply
  - Link to Application Site
- How to Get Help
  - FAQs
- What Happens After I Apply
  - Selection Process
  - Notification and Recognition
  - Accepting and Disbursement
  - Scholarships and SAP
  - Thank You Letters
  - Alternates

Thank You Letters

Alternates
Application Process

- Click on “RCCD Scholarships” (orange box on left) on the RCC college home page or on “Scholarship Information” on the financial aid page
- Read all the information regarding applying for RCCD Foundation Scholarships
- Think about who you may ask for a recommendation (at least one is required)

Application Process

- Click on the link and create an account on the scholarship website:
  - Enter your RCC student email, create a password (write it down)
  - You will receive an email to your student email address to confirm your identity
- First log-in: Select “Sign Up”; Subsequent log-ins: Select “Sign In”
- Complete General Scholarship Application, Answer all questions accurately
Application Process

- **Imported items**
  - Home college, Name
  - Program of Study (Major), High School info, GPA, etc.

- You will be automatically matched to scholarships for which you meet the criteria: Called “Auto-Match” scholarships, no further action required

Application Process

- You will be prompted to apply for other scholarships: Called “Apply-To” scholarships, further action is required

- For some “Apply-To” Scholarships, other documents may be required:
  - Unofficial transcripts
  - Military discharge papers (DD214)
  - Special essays or explanations
  - Creative writing sample

- Have all possible required documents saved and ready to upload

- Submit General Application ASAP to see Apply-To Scholarships you are matched to
Scholarship Essay Questionnaire

- Important part of the application
- Four Essay Questions
- Be aware of punctuation, grammar and spelling
- Carefully think about each question; write a first draft and revise
- May be typed directly into the application, or...
- Better: Save to your desktop or device then cut and paste into the application

Essay Questions:

- Please briefly introduce yourself to the scholarship reviewing committee (150 words, appx. 10 lines)

- What are your career goals and your educational plan to meet these goals? Tell us about why you have selected your current major and career goal and any life experiences which may have influenced this decision. Also tell us about your anticipated role in society after your career goal has been achieved (200 words, appx. 15 lines)

- Do you have any activities, volunteerism, interests or responsibilities that you are involved with? Tell us about any accomplishments or achievements that you are proud of (200 words, appx. 15 lines)

- Have you had any challenges or life-changing experiences you would like the scholarship committee or donor to know about? What have you learned from these experiences? Also, tell us about any unusual circumstances which may affect your current financial situation (250 words, appx. 18 lines)
Tips for Essay Questions

Introduction:
- Personal story, tell about you, favorite quote, what guides you. Give examples of personal qualities

Career Goals/ Education Plan:
- Possible formula: Past, Present and Future of your education and career goals
- Explain why you chose your major and career goal
- Talk about academic history, goals, successes

Volunteer/ Activities:
- Anything you participate in; Past or present; Creates an image of well-rounded person

Challenges:
- Explain any circumstances regarding your financial situation, especially if it has changed
- Negative circumstances can be mentioned briefly, but state how you have overcome them and what you have learned from them; Turn a negative into a positive
Recommendations

- One is required, can request at least three
- Good sources: Instructors, Counselors, Employers, Community leaders, etc.
- Best sources:
  - Instructor of your major for which you have done excellent work
  - Employer if you are currently working in your chosen field
- Poor sources: Friends, relatives, other students

- You will need their correct email address
- You will not see the recommendation, but you can tell if it is submitted
- You can send a reminder email
- Ask for recommendations early
- Recommendation provider will complete a questionnaire in the system-no upload of letters
- Optional: Provide a copy of your essay or a resume listing extracurricular activities, accomplishments, etc.
Scholarship Site Screens

- Sign up page:
  - Enter your RCC student email address
  - Create a password, follow the directions, write it down
  - Log-in help
  - Use “Sign In” for later log-ins

- You will receive an email to confirm your identity (check your spam)
- Click on the link provided
• Once you confirm your identity, log in using your student email and password

• General Scholarship Application
• Fill in your information (asterisk=required)
• Answer questions
- Some questions are fill in, some are buttons, some are multi-select/check boxes.
- Some provide help if you place the cursor on the question.

- Type (recommended: cut and paste) your answers to the essay questions.
- Complete all edits and revisions before submitting; Updates/corrections can be made up to the deadline.
- Enter email address of the person from whom you requested a recommendation
- One is required, request more for back-up
- Be sure email is current and accurate; Correct spelling, etc.

- Read certification
- Sign by typing name
- Enter date, use format as shown
- You can still update until deadline even after submitting
- Subsequent log-in screen (your Home page or Dashboard)
- Click on Update in “General Application” to view and change application information.
- Matched Apply-To Scholarships are in the “Current” section.
- SUBMITTED means no more action from you is required; DRAFTED means you have not completed applying.
- Click on “Opportunities” then select “Recommended” for a list of scholarships you may also be eligible for; Further action is required.

- List of recommended scholarship opportunities
- Click on “Apply” to enter each scholarship listing
- After Clicking on “Apply,” answer extra questions, etc. required to finish applying for recommended scholarships.
- If the scholarship requires any extra information or documents, it will be listed here and give an option to upload.

- List of All scholarships - alphabetical by name of scholarship
- Can use “Search” and enter a keyword
- Can use “Next” button or drop-down menu for pages
- Click on “References” to see if Scholarship Recommendation has been submitted

- Example of a Recommendation that has been submitted
- If it has not been submitted, the status will be “Requested”
- You will have the option to send a reminder email
Example of the email that is sent to the person from whom you request a recommendation

Re-cap & getting started

- Read all scholarship info on our website
- Think about who you should ask for a recommendation; get their correct email address
- Complete a list of your volunteer, community and club activities, awards, etc.
- Scan copies of other possible documents
- Sign-up/create a scholarship account on the scholarship website
Application Submission

Submit a COMPLETE application before January 10, 2020

- Scholarship General Application - All questions answered, all edits done
- At least one Recommendation-via email per your request
- Complete possible actions for “Apply-To” Scholarships: Extra questions, Unofficial transcripts, Special essays, Creative writing sample, DD214, etc.
- Don't forget to SUBMIT!

What Happens Next?

- Applications go through a review/scoring process:
  - RCCD Scholarship Committees (MVC, NC, RCC)
  - Faculty and Department Staff
- If you are selected as a recipient, you will receive an “Offer” email from the scholarship application system
- You must log-in and accept the award; then you will be given more information as a recipient
What Happens Next?

- You can check your status by logging in:
  - "Submitted" = Application done; no further action
  - "Drafted" = You have not properly completed the application process
  - "In Review" = In applicant pool; review in progress
  - "Finalist" = You are one of the final students to be reviewed
  - "Not Selected" = You were not selected as a recipient
  - "Offered" = You have been selected as a recipient
  - "Accepted" = You have accepted the scholarship offer
- Award ceremonies: Late May and early June
- You are HIGHLY ENCOURAGED to attend the scholarship award ceremonies. If unable due to circumstances beyond your control, please contact the SFS office at your college so that we can let the donor know why you are not in attendance

What Happens Next?

- Scholarships are disbursed during Fall 2020 and Spring 2021.
- Transfer scholarships are sent to the transfer university in Fall 2020; enter or email your transfer school info
- If you are awarded a scholarship and you have a change in your situation such as transfer plans or number of units, contact the financial aid office at your home college
- One more time: DEADLINE! On or before Friday, January 10, 2020, Appx 5:00 pm
External Scholarships

- These are Scholarships from sources outside RCCD
- Listed under the “External Scholarships” tab
- Use free internet search sites
- Beware of Scams:
  - Don’t pay money to get money
  - Nobody can “guarantee” a scholarship
  - Legitimate foundations do not charge application fees
  - Never give credit card numbers
  - Beware if they offer to do all the work or that you can’t get the info anywhere else
  - If you are suspicious or it sounds too good to be true, it probably is a scam

To view a list of External Scholarships, click on “Opportunities” then select “External”
To view requirements and apply for the scholarships listed, click on the name of the scholarship or “Visit”

You will be directed to the scholarship opportunity website

The rest is up to you

We do not endorse any external scholarships; Information only

Questions?