

Frequently Asked Scholarship Questions

Richland Community College | One College Park | Decatur, Illinois 62521



1. Question

Where can I access a list of scholarships?

Answer

A complete listing of scholarships is available from Richland Community College Foundation at www.Richland.edu/foundation. Click on "Foundation Scholarships" to view the list and updated criteria. Currently, 103 scholarships are available through the Foundation.

2. Question

What types of expenses does a scholarship cover?

Answer

Scholarships may cover tuition, fees and books, depending on the individual scholarship, and are usually awarded only for the fall and spring semesters. Specific scholarship information is available online at www.Richland.edu/foundation.

3. Question

Will a scholarship application be considered if it is not fully completed?

Answer

No. All information must be completed on the application to be eligible. The requested information enables the Selection Committee to make award decisions. Specifically, the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) score must be included on the application. An EFC score is provided to the applicant after completing and submitting the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) questionnaire online at www.FAFSA.gov. If there are any questions about completing the FAFSA form, please contact the Financial Aid Office at Richland Community College at (217) 875-7211, Ext. 274.

4. Question

May a scholarship be awarded even if the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is high?

Answer

All applications will be considered based on individual circumstances. It is always wise to apply.

5. Question

When should students apply for scholarships, and how do they apply?

Answer

Generally, applications for the fall semester should be submitted by the second week of April for students graduating from high school in May, and by the second week of June for all other students. Applications for the spring semester should be submitted by the second week of November. Please consult the website www.Richland.edu/foundation for updated deadline dates and links to download scholarship applications. Applications are also available in the Foundation Office, Room N104.

6. Question

Should my scholarship application be denied, is it necessary or helpful to reapply?

Answer

If a scholarship is not granted for one semester, students are encouraged to reapply for the next semester.

7. Question

Could more than one scholarship be awarded to a student?

Answer

If there is an unusual or extenuating circumstance, an additional scholarship might be permitted.

Frequently Asked Scholarship Questions (continued)

8. Question

How many credit hours should I be enrolled in to be considered for a Foundation Scholarship?

Answer

Many Foundation scholarships are awarded to both part-time and full-time students. Six credit hours are needed to be considered a part-time student, whereas 12 credit hours are needed to be considered a full-time student. Because some scholarships are available only to full-time students, please refer to the individual scholarship for details.

9. Question

How long does it take to receive notification of the award of a scholarship?

Answer

After each fall and spring deadline (please see Answer 5), the Scholarship Selection Committee meets to select recipients. The committee may meet multiple times to determine all awards. For the fall semester, award and decline letters are generally sent by July 15. For the spring semester, letters are sent by January 5.

10. Question

Who is a Trustees Scholar?

Answer

Trustees Scholars are recipients of the Trustees Scholarship, which was established in 2001 by the College Board of Trustees. The scholarship provides free tuition for two years at Richland so long as the recipient maintains a minimum GPA of 3.25 and is enrolled in and completes at least 12 credit hours of 100-level or above courses each semester. Applicants must be a current high school senior with a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or a 4.375 GPA on a 5.0 scale and be enrolled at Richland Community College the semester immediately following high school graduation. On average, 65 students are awarded and accept the Trustees Scholarship each year.

11. Question

Could a graduating high school senior accept a Trustees Scholarship and use it at another community college if Richland does not offer the course curriculum he or she desires?

Answer

No. The Trustees Scholarship is only awarded to students attending Richland Community College. It is not a transferable scholarship.

12. Question

Who is a Scherer Scholar?

Answer

Incoming freshmen who are selected as Trustees Scholars for the fall semester are eligible for the Scherer Scholarship. This scholarship provides free tuition for two years at Richland and \$2,500 per semester to transfer students at a public four-year college in the State of Illinois. The same criteria as the Trustees Scholarship are needed to retain the scholarship. To apply, high school seniors should submit an application by June 1st for consideration for the fall semester. A committee comprised of Richland administrators and faculty selects the recipients of the Scherer Scholarship. In recent years, the committee has awarded an average of 25 Scherer Scholarships per year.

13. Question

Can a student with either a Trustee or Scherer Scholarship drop a class or enroll in developmental courses and still satisfy the scholarship guidelines?

Answer

Both scholarships require that the recipient enroll in and maintain at least 12 credit hours of 100-level or above courses per semester. Neither scholarship will pay for classes below the 100-level.

Frequently Asked Scholarship Questions (continued)

14. Question

Will a Trustees Scholar or Scherer Scholar lose the scholarship if his or her cumulative GPA falls below 3.25?

Answer

In order to continue receiving scholarship benefits, a Trustees Scholar and a Scherer Scholar are required to maintain a 3.25 GPA at Richland. If the GPA minimum has not been satisfied each semester, the student will be placed on scholarship probation and could lose the scholarship if the cumulative GPA minimum has not been earned at the end of that semester.

15. Question

What happens if a Scherer Scholar, after graduating from Richland, then transfers to a private college or to a four-year public college or university outside of Illinois?

Answer

In either case, the Scherer Scholarship will no longer apply.

16. Question

What happens if after completion at Richland the Scherer Scholar enrolls in a private college or four-year institution outside of Illinois but then decides to transfer to an Illinois four-year college or university?

Answer

Because the student did not use the Scherer Scholarship immediately following his or her graduation from Richland, the student is no longer eligible for the Scherer Scholarship.