

## 1. Who is eligible for Ridgewater College Foundation Scholarships?

Ridgewater College students who:

- a. Have completed the Admissions process for Ridgewater College;
- b. Are enrolled (next semester) in a minimum of 6 credits
- c. Are in good academic standing (cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher, 67% completion rate of credit load and not on academic warning, suspension or probation)
- d. Are not a Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) student for the next semester

There are a few exceptions: Heritage Bank and Pioneer Heritage Insurance scholarships are available to students who attend other colleges besides Ridgewater College. Students not attending Ridgewater can apply for these scholarships with a paper application.

## 2. How do I apply for scholarships?

The entire application process takes place online using Academic Works software; a link is provided on the Ridgewater College website at [www.ridgewater.edu/scholarships](http://www.ridgewater.edu/scholarships). You should review our “**Scholarship Application User Guide**” provided on the website for help in completing your online application.

## 3. Do I have to be admitted to Ridgewater before I can apply for scholarships?

Yes. (This is new requirement this year). You should allow a minimum of 3 business days for your application for admission to be processed.

## 4. Why won't the Star ID and Password log me into the scholarship system?

You must complete the entire admissions process at Ridgewater before your StarID will be authenticated by our system.

## 5. How many Foundation scholarships can I apply for?

As many as the system matches you to. Using the answers you provide on the application, our system will automatically match you to each and every scholarship where you have met all of the required criteria.

## 6. How do I know which scholarships are available and which ones I should apply for?

You can review the List of Available Scholarships each semester from the [www.ridgewater.edu/scholarships](http://www.ridgewater.edu/scholarships) website to learn what opportunities are available. These are also listed in Academic Works. You do not need to pick which scholarships to apply for; the system does that for you automatically, though you will not see which scholarships you are matched to.

## 7. What are my chances of getting a scholarship?

In general, approximately 300-400 students out of the approximately 1000+ students who apply each year will receive a scholarship from the Foundation. Your odds depend on both the number of applicants and the dollars available.

## 8. When is the application deadline?

Our deadlines are 11:59 p.m. on **October 15** and **April 15** each year.

**9. What tips or suggestions do you have for me as I complete the application form?**

- a. Read the **Scholarship Application User Guide** before doing the online application.
- b. Fill in each section of the application form completely, honestly, thoughtfully and accurately. Answer all of the questions! Do not “stretch the truth” - we will be able to confirm such things as your completed credits, enrolled major, cumulative GPA, etc. before reviewing your application. If you provide false or misleading info, you may be disqualified from consideration for scholarships.
- c. Always use proper spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization. Failure to do so may disqualify you from consideration for scholarships. Incomplete and/or poorly written applications will not be considered.
- d. Provide thorough, detailed and thoughtful answers to each of the essay questions. Be sure to answer/include all of the elements that are required for each question. [TIP: Consider preparing your essay answers in a word processing program so that they can be spell-checked and easily copied and pasted into your application]. Answers that are only 1-2 sentences may disqualify you from consideration for scholarships.
- e. Make sure your current name and any other prior names that you have had, as well as your student ID, are on any documents that you upload/attach to your application (such as a transcript).

**10. I don't know what to put in the GPA box since I don't have a GPA here at Ridgewater yet.**

If you have never attended any college before Ridgewater and you don't yet have a college GPA, put 0.0 for your College GPA. If you have attended other colleges before Ridgewater, you will need to indicate your cumulative GPA from your prior colleges on the application.

**11. Can I use the GPA from last semester or do I need to use my cumulative GPA?**

Wherever we ask for GPA, we are referring to a cumulative GPA that summarizes all semesters. If you use a current semester GPA because it is higher than your cumulative one, we will catch it and change it on your application when we confirm GPAs off your transcript. BE HONEST and use your cumulative GPA.

**12. I don't remember what my high school GPA was and I have no way of getting my high school transcript. What should I put on the application?**

A copy of your high school transcript with GPA information may be obtained from the Ridgewater College registration office/front desk. If it is not available, you will need to estimate your high school cumulative GPA as best you can, based on the following scale:

A average = 4.0                      B average = 3.0                      C average = 2.0

**13. I did not graduate from high school but I got a GED. What do I put on the application for GPA?**

You will need to put 0.0 in the GPA box. There is an option for you to choose “GED” on the application. And, for the “what High School did you graduate from” question, make sure you select GED.

**14. If I applied for a Ridgewater Foundation scholarship in the past, do I still need to provide a letter of recommendation again this semester?**

Yes, your scholarship application is closed out each semester and you will need to update all of your information appropriately each time you apply.

**15. Who should I ask to provide a letter of recommendation for me?**

A current instructor, advisor, counselor, employer, supervisor or another person who knows you well should be willing to provide a letter of recommendation for you. (Recommendations from family members,

roommates, friends or neighbors are discouraged). Note that some of our scholarships require that you obtain a recommendation from an instructor in your program or other specific person.

**16. What format does the recommendation letter need to be in?**

In the Academic Works system, you will be prompted to provide an e-mail address for the person you are asking to provide your recommendation. [You should contact your reference(s) first to ask them if they are willing to provide a recommendation for you. Ask early and give them time to consider the request]. After entering your recommender's email address in the system; they will be sent an email with instructions and a link which allows them to login and complete a recommendation within the system. [They are also given the option to upload a recommendation letter as well].

**17. How many letters of recommendation do I need to submit?**

**One** letter of recommendation is all that is required. The maximum the system will accept is two; if you request more than two, the system will only keep the 2 most recent ones received.

**18. How will I know if my recommender has completed the recommendation for me?**

You will be able to see on the references section of your application the status of your recommendations. However, you will be unable to open or view

**19. Will I still be considered for a scholarship if I don't include a letter of recommendation?**

No. You will be disqualified from consideration because you did not follow the directions.

**20. What does "non-traditional student" mean?**

A "non-traditional student" is someone who has been away from a college setting for 5 or more years at any point in time.

**21. When and how will recipients be notified of their application status?**

All communication will be sent to your Ridgewater College e-mail account (or to the preferred alternate email address provided on your application form). E-mail notifications will be sent approximately 4-5 weeks following the application deadline.

**22. How and when will I receive my scholarship funds, if I receive an award?**

Ridgewater College Foundation scholarship awards are applied directly to the student's account at Ridgewater College for tuition, fees and books for the semester they are awarded.

**23. Will a scholarship affect my other sources of financial aid?**

Scholarships will not affect a student's grants, but they may reduce the amount of loans and/or work study that a student can receive. The Ridgewater College Foundation is required to report all scholarship awards to the Financial Aid office so that all sources of financial aid for a student are coordinated. A student's combined financial aid (grants, loans) and scholarship awards cannot exceed the annual estimated cost of attendance.

**24. Are Ridgewater College Foundation scholarships the only scholarships that are available to me?**

No. There are hundreds of other scholarship opportunities available from other sources that you may research and pursue. The Foundation maintains a list of known regional opportunities; please contact the Foundation to request that list. You should also watch your Ridgewater email for scholarship alerts, which the Foundation sends out periodically to notify students of outside scholarship opportunities as they arise.

**25. If I received a certain scholarship last semester, am I prohibited from applying for and receiving that scholarship again?**

Maybe. There are a few scholarships that you cannot receive more than once. But you may apply and re-apply for all Ridgewater College Foundation scholarships as long as you are a current student here returning for the next semester.

RIDGewater COLLEGE FOUNDATION

[www.ridgewater.edu/scholarships](http://www.ridgewater.edu/scholarships)

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Willmar Campus – Student Services Building – Room A145

Hutch Campus – Student Services Office 118 – Monday & Wednesday 8:30-4:00

Hutch Campus – Student Services Trio Suite - Friday 10-2