

## 1 Who should I contact with questions about Ridgewater's scholarships?

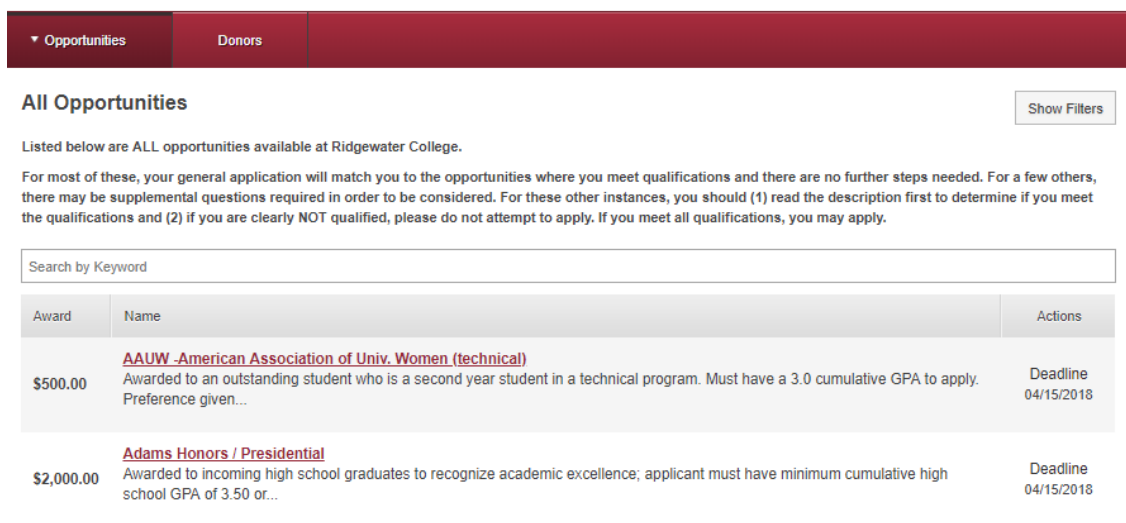
Full scholarship program info is found at: [www.ridgewater.edu/scholarships](http://www.ridgewater.edu/scholarships). You may also call the Foundation office at 320-222-6095 or email your questions to: [foundation@ridgewater.edu](mailto:foundation@ridgewater.edu)

## 2 Where do I find the scholarship application form?

We use the Academic Works scholarship system which is 100% online. The online General Application can be accessed at: <https://ridgewater.academicworks.com/>. The application form is only available during active application sessions (Feb 15 - April 15 for Fall scholarships and Sept. 1 - Oct. 15 for Spring scholarships). One application works for all our scholarships.

## 3 I clicked on a scholarship but the system won't let me apply for it.

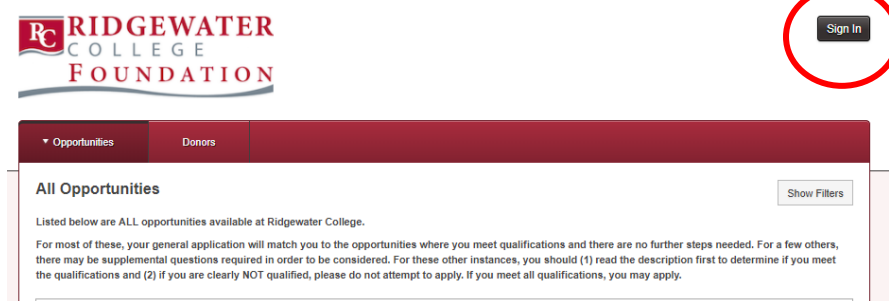
The "All Opportunities" page is for **viewing information on scholarships only**. A filter is available to narrow down the list of scholarship opportunities.



Award	Name	Actions
\$500.00	<u>AAUW - American Association of Univ. Women (technical)</u> Awarded to an outstanding student who is a second year student in a technical program. Must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA to apply. Preference given...	Deadline 04/15/2018
\$2,000.00	<u>Adams Honors / Presidential</u> Awarded to incoming high school graduates to recognize academic excellence; applicant must have minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.50 or...	Deadline 04/15/2018

## 4 How do I actually apply for scholarships?

Click the SIGN IN button on the All Opportunities page to begin your General Application. You will need your StarID and password on the next screen to sign in for the first time.



After signing in, the General Application will open and you can begin completing it. (Step by step application instructions are found in our "Scholarship Application User Guide.")

- 5 My Star ID and Password aren't working for the scholarship system. What should I do?**  
Retry entering the StarID and PW, making sure you are typing them in accurately. If that doesn't work, go to Star ID Self Service at <https://starid.minnstate.edu/> and change your password. If that also doesn't work, contact us.
- 6 How do I choose the scholarships I want to apply for?**  
You cannot choose the scholarships; the system uses your application data to match you to appropriate opportunities.
- 7 How do I know which scholarships I've been matched to?**  
You won't know. The system keeps that information private, for Administrators and reviewers only.
- 8 I am not a straight-A student. Why should I bother applying for a scholarship?**  
Scholarships are awarded based on multiple qualifications, not solely on academics. For certain technical program areas especially, we often have more awards than we do applicants.
- 9 I don't qualify for any financial aid except loans. Should I even bother applying?**  
Yes, you should apply. Very few of our scholarships are based on financial need as the main qualifier; most are based on academics and other factors.
- 10 What are my chances of getting a scholarship?**  
In general, approximately 300-350 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.
- 11 I applied last semester but didn't get anything. What did I do wrong?**  
One reason is the amount of available funding: There is not enough money to give an award to every deserving student. The second most common reason is lack of effort by the applicant. Reviewers are quick to notice poor grammar, poor spelling, lack of punctuation or capitalization, and short 2-or 3-sentence answers to essays. These are obvious indicators that a student did not spend much time on the application as compared to others who did. Another reason is a student made an error in a critical area of the application (such as major/program).
- 12 What can I do to increase my odds of receiving a scholarship?**
- Use proper spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization. Get help on this if needed.
  - Provide thorough, detailed and thoughtful 300+ word answers to each of the essay questions. Be sure to answer/include all of the elements that are required for each question.
  - Answer all of the questions and double check before submitting.
  - Do not "stretch the truth". If you provide false or misleading info, you may be disqualified from consideration for scholarships.
- 13 I submitted the online application in the past. Do I have to start over from scratch?**  
No, your application information from previous sessions will carry forward to the current session as a draft. You just need to login, update the application, and resubmit it for the current session.

**14 Do I need to get a letter of recommendation?**

Letters of recommendation are optional. You will get extra points in the scoring process for including a recommendation but you will not be disqualified from consideration if you do not include one.

**15 How do I request a letter of recommendation?**

There is a spot on the online General Application to type in the recommender's email address and send a recommendation request. Be sure to type in the email address **accurately!** The request goes out electronically via email and provides the recommender with a link for submitting the response.

**16 How does the recommender attach the recommendation letter to my application?**

The recommender should click the link provided in the email, making sure to also click the Recommender Tab before typing and submitting their recommendation.

**17 How do I know if the recommendation has been submitted?**

The student can view the status of the recommendation in their application. Drafted means the recommendation has been returned/submitted. Students cannot open or view the recommendations; they remain confidential for administrators and reviewers only.

**18 When and how are students notified of their application status?**

Awarded students will be sent a notice *via their Ridgewater College email* approximately 4-6 weeks following the application deadline. Notifications to nonawarded students will be sent 6-8 weeks after the application deadline. Students may also log in to their application at any time to check their dashboard for award status changes.

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

Awarded students must complete the acceptance requirements as explained in the award letter before the award is approved. Scholarships are applied to the student account (viewable on the Financial Aid screen in Eservices) toward tuition and fees for the coming semester.

**20 I have scholarships coming from other entities that will be sent to the college. What do I do about these?**

Please review the instructions and information that you received or contact the source to determine what you need to do to receive the funds. Find out what is the timeline, what you need to do, where the check will be sent and when. This is your responsibility. Regardless of when your other scholarships come in, you are responsible for paying your bill at the college on time.

**21 How/where might I find other scholarships?**

There are probably thousands of scholarship opportunities available from other sources but it is up to you to research, find and pursue them. The Foundation maintains a list of known regional opportunities, which is available upon request. We also send out periodic scholarship alerts via Ridgewater email to notify students of new local /regional scholarship opportunities as they arise.