



Pathway to Advanced Studies Award

Criteria for Consideration

A candidate:

- will have earned an Associate's Degree from RVCC and graduated with an overall GPA of 3.0 or better;
- has overcome extraordinary personal and economic obstacles to complete his or her associate's degree at RVCC;
- continues to be burdened by economic disadvantages, lack of family support or other personal challenges;
- has submitted applications to four-year, accredited institutions and is committed to enrolling at one of the institutions within ten (10) months of graduating from RVCC; and
- pledges to "pay it forward" in the future, when and if the recipient is able to help someone else pursue his or her dream to earn a college education.

The candidate's family income and net worth are major considerations in the selection process. The *Pathway to Advanced Studies Award* is intended **to offset the amount a candidate would need to borrow after personal and/or family contribution, grants, and other forms of financial aid to attain a four-year degree.** While the cost of tuition, room and board, and fees may vary, the maximum amount of the *Pathway to Advanced Studies Award* is \$15,000. Candidates, whose families have minimal net worth and whose incomes are at or below the poverty level, according to the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund's formula for household size and gross income, will be given preference in the award selection process.

Application Requirements

All candidates for the *Pathway to Advanced Studies Award* must:

- Complete this standard application provided by the RVCC Foundation;
- Provide 1.) FAFSA documentation; 2.) an adjusted gross income as reported by the IRS 1040 form; or 3.) a signed family report of income to demonstrate financial need;
- Submit a full resume that provides information about employment, internships, club activity and more, and other information the candidate deems appropriate;
- Information about their current employment, i.e., where you work, how many hours a week;
- Provide a personal budget for next year that includes anticipated monthly expenses and revenue, other scholarship support, and other financial aid;
- Submit an essay of a minimum of 500 words, describing their financial circumstances and obstacles they have overcome; their academic goals; their personal and professional aspirations; and a well-conceived plan to secure the resources they need to complete their bachelor's degree;
- Provide a list of the colleges and/or universities to which they have applied; and
- Submit two recommendations from RVCC faculty or administrators.

(Over)

Award and Requirements of Recipients of the *Pathway to Advanced Studies Award*

An award of up to \$15,000 per year, (up to \$7,500 per semester) for up to two years, will be made to an eligible student graduating from Raritan Valley Community College. The maximum amount of the award will increase in \$1,000 increments, based on cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), as determined by changes in the estate and gift tax laws. The amount of each installment will change accordingly.

Funding for the second semester of each academic year and for the second year is not automatic. The recipient must send the RVCC Foundation a mid-year report at the end of the first semester and a final report at the end of the second semester, describing his or her academic performance and reporting his or her GPA. The RVCC Foundation will review the student's mid-year academic performance to determine if the individual is to receive the second installment of the award to complete the first academic year, and then review an end-of-year report to determine if the student is to receive renewed funding for the second year of studies. PASA recipients are expected to complete their baccalaureate within three years to benefit from the funding, unless there is a compelling reason for an extension.

1. Name of Candidate: _____
RVCC Student ID#: _____ GPA: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

2. Degree earned at RVCC: _____

3. Personal Budget (Attach)

4. 500-word Essay (Attach)

5. List of Colleges and Universities to which you have applied. (Attach)

6. Two Recommendations (Attach)

Certification: I certify that the information on this report and information attached are accurate and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I authorize Raritan Valley Community College to release my academic, financial or other necessary information requested by the donor. I also agree to the terms of the agreement and understand the requirements to receive funding.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURN THIS FORM BY April 30, 2018 TO:

RONNIE WEYL, RVCC FOUNDATION, PO BOX 3300, SOMERVILLE, NJ 08876 - 908-526-1200 X 8349