

## Frequently Asked Questions

To help you learn more about the application process, we invite you to review a list of questions frequently asked by students. Still have a question? Email us at [scholarships@berkshirecc.edu](mailto:scholarships@berkshirecc.edu) or give the BCC Foundation office a call at 236-2185. The office is open M-F from 8AM to 4PM. You can also visit the office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Field Administration Building, Room 232.

### Who is eligible to apply for scholarships?

Scholarships are available to all BCC students who have maintained a 2.75 cumulative grade point average. This includes current students who will be returning to BCC in the fall and graduating students who will be moving on to a four-year school.

New/incoming students are also eligible to apply for scholarships once they have applied to BCC and have been accepted. There is no GPA requirement for students entering BCC.

### How do I apply for scholarships?

You need to access and complete our online scholarship application. We do not distribute paper applications; we will only accept the online scholarship applications. By submitting this application, you will have an opportunity to be considered for all possible BCC Foundation scholarships.

Our online application system requires you to: (1) submit a general application, (2) submit a 300-500-word essay, and (3) obtain a faculty/professional reference. In some cases, after you submit your general application, you will be invited to apply for additional opportunities by answering additional questions.

### Can I apply for more than one scholarship?

Your one general application is all you need to be considered for BCC Foundation Scholarships. You can visit the BCC Financial Aid web-page (there is a link from our scholarships page) to browse additional ways to help pay for college including links to outside scholarship opportunities.

### When is the scholarship application filling period?

Scholarship applications are accepted between February 2, 2015 and March 2, 2015 for returning students and transfer/graduating students. New/incoming students or current BCC students who have earned 12 or less credits, have until April 17, 2015 to complete their applications.

Do not wait until the last minute to complete and submit your application because once you do submit you may be matched up to scholarships that may require answering an additional short essay.

**How do I obtain a MyBCC ID and password?**

Current students should use their active MyBCC login credentials. New/incoming students must first apply for admission and be accepted to BCC. Contact the Admissions office at [admissions@berkshirecc.edu](mailto:admissions@berkshirecc.edu) or 236-1630 if you have not been issued a MyBCC login.

**Are international students eligible for scholarships?**

Yes. International students can apply for scholarships using our online application.

**Do I need to submit my FASFA?**

No, but it would be wise to do so. You will not be considered for need-based scholarships unless your FASFA is complete. In most cases we are working off of your FAFSA from last year.

**Can I use my friend as my reference on the application?**

You need to select a faculty member, employer, co-worker, volunteer supervisor or someone similar who knows you well and can attest to the quality of your academic or professional work, your attitude and your work ethic. Keep in mind that you should also choose someone you are sure will complete the reference by the deadline.

**Does the number of classes I'm taking affect my eligibility for a scholarship?**

Yes. All scholarships, unless otherwise noted, require that you take a minimum of six credits per semester. If awarded a scholarship, the funds you receive will also be proportionate to the credits you plan to take in the 2015-16 year.

**What is the value of the average scholarship?**

The dollar values of our scholarship awards vary and are listed with each scholarship in the online directory. They range from \$250 to full tuition and fees. BCC Foundation Scholarships can be used to pay tuition, fees and books. Last year the average award was \$1,500.

**I already graduated from BCC but I am coming back to take courses that can be used toward my bachelor's degree. Can I apply for scholarships?**

You must be enrolled or accepted into a degree or certificate program at BCC in order to be eligible to apply.

**I got a scholarship last year. Do I have to apply again?**

Yes. A new scholarship application is used to evaluate you for scholarships each year. BCC students may be awarded scholarships toward 69 attempted credits. This typically translates into no more than three years for a full-time student or possibly five or six years for a part-time student. Please note that the awards are proportionate to the amount of enrolled credits in any given year.

**When will recipients be notified?**

Current BCC students will be notified the first week of May. You will need to monitor your MyBCC email to see if you have been awarded a scholarship. If you are awarded

a scholarship, a congratulatory email will be sent to you stating the name and amount of the scholarship. You will also be invited to attend Awards Night at BCC on May 28<sup>th</sup> which begins at 7 PM.

New/incoming students will be notified the last week of May. You will need to monitor your MyBCC email to see if you have been awarded a scholarship.

**How do I thank the donor of my scholarship?**

As a scholarship recipient, you're required to send a thank-you letter to the donor(s) of your scholarship before your funds are disbursed or put on your account. If you are awarded a scholarship, you will receive instructions for submitting a thank-you letter, which will be forwarded to the donor(s) or sponsor(s) of your scholarship. For tips on writing a thank-you letter, visit the link on the left side of the scholarships page.

**How do I get my scholarship money?**

If you are returning to BCC for the 2015-16 academic year, your scholarship will be put on your student account towards tuition, fees, and/or books. If you are graduating and transferring to another institution, you will notify us about your transfer school and we will forward the funds there. Most scholarships for students at BCC are good for one year and can be applied to the Summer '15, Fall '15 and Spring '16 semesters.

**Still have questions?** Visit the BCC Foundation Office: F232 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Field Administration Building, call us M-F from 8AM-4PM at 236-2185 or email [scholarships@berkshirecc.edu](mailto:scholarships@berkshirecc.edu).