NOVA | **Northern Virginia Community College**

Financial Aid: Scholarships at NOVA

What is a scholarship?

A scholarship is a type of financial aid that does not need to be repaid. Scholarships are competitive, have various requirements, and can be based on financial need and/or merit. You may apply for scholarships offered to NOVA students through the NOVA Foundation and/or apply for external scholarships.

How do I apply for NOVA scholarships?

Apply for scholarships online at: www.nvcc.edu/financialaid > Scholarships

You must be admitted to NOVA **before** trying to apply for NOVA scholarships.

1) **At https://nvcc.academicworks.com click "Sign Up".**
2) Enter your **VCCS student email address** and create a password. If you do not have access to your VCCS student email because you have not yet enrolled in courses at NOVA, please email the Scholarship Coordinator, Darryl Shell at dshell@nvcc.edu for assistance.
3) Log in to your VCCS email and click on the provided link to confirm your account.
4) Begin completing the **General Application** after clicking on the link in your VCCS email. If you need to log in again after clicking on the link that was sent to your VCCS email, click "Sign In" at https://nvcc.academicworks.com and enter the VCCS email and password you created.
5) Complete the General Application to be considered for "auto match" scholarships.
6) **After submitting the General Application** you should see a notice indicating that your General Application was successfully submitted and you may be presented with additional recommended scholarship opportunities for which you may possibly be eligible. **Apply for those scholarships individually by clicking on the "Apply" button and following the prompts for each one.**
7) If you are selected as a scholarship recipient you will be notified via your VCCS student email within about two months after the scholarship deadline and the award will be posted on your myNOVA account under View Financial Aid.

Applications are typically accepted early in the spring semester and early in the summer semester for the upcoming academic year. Applications are usually accepted early in the fall semester for the current academic year. One general scholarship application can be submitted online to apply for multiple NOVA scholarships.

How can I apply for other types of financial aid?

Scholarships are just one type of aid. To be considered for grants, loans, and work-study opportunities, we strongly encourage you to apply for federal student aid by completing the following steps:

1) Students (and parents of dependent students) create an account (FSA ID).
2) Complete the FAFSA at https://studentaid.gov with NOVA's school code (003727); reapply each year.
3) Check your myNOVA To Do List and promptly submit requested items to the Student Support Center by creating a case and securely uploading the documents.

Will receiving a scholarship affect my eligibility for other types of aid?

More often than not, receiving a scholarship does not affect other offered awards. However, a student's aid package cannot exceed the estimated cost of attendance, and the amount of need-based aid cannot exceed the amount of demonstrated need when a scholarship is received. Awards will be adjusted in accordance with applicable policies only as necessary and always in the best interest of the student.

Questions? Contact the Financial Aid Office or call the Support Center at 1-855-323-3199.

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Community College

Financial Aid: External Scholarship Guidelines

If you were offered a scholarship from an outside source and wish to have the award applied toward your NOVA account, please note the following guidelines:

1. Carefully read the scholarship letter from the sponsoring organization or donor to learn the requirements for your scholarship and make a copy of the scholarship letter for your records.

2. Mail the scholarship letter to the Scholarship Coordinator at the address provided below or create a case and upload it to the Student Support Center at least six weeks before the semester begins to ensure receipt of the letter prior to the payment deadline.

   Students must pay their tuition bills in full or show adequate financial aid and scholarships to cover their total bills by the payment deadline each semester.

3. Complete the admission process for NOVA, select a major via Virtual Advising (if you did not do so when applying for admission), and register for classes.

   Scholarships cannot be processed until you are admitted to NOVA, and some scholarship donors require NOVA to bill them after students register for classes.

4. **Make sure the scholarship sponsor sends all scholarship checks to:**

   Scholarship Coordinator College
   Financial Aid Office, Box 135
   8333 Little River Turnpike
   Annandale, VA 22003-3743

   Scholarship checks must be received at least one week before classes begin or you must pay any remaining tuition balance out-of-pocket. *As long as you remain eligible, you will be reimbursed for any scholarship amounts that are received after your bill is paid.*

   When a scholarship check is received and processed, it will be posted on your myNOVA account under "View Financial Aid."

Where can I find external scholarships?

☐ Your High School – Check with the Counseling Office or College Center at your high school.
☐ Your Employer – Employers may offer tuition assistance for their employees and their children.
☐ Religious Organizations – Religious groups often provide scholarships for their members.
☐ Other Local Clubs and Organizations – Rotary Clubs, fraternal orders, women's clubs, and other non-profit organizations may offer scholarships to members of the community.
☐ State Department of Education – Contact your State Department of Education about scholarships and grants for state residents.
   o **Virginia residents should visit: www.schev.edu > Tuition & Aid > Financial Aid**
☐ Free Scholarship Websites – www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com & www.finaid.org

Remember: 1) Report all external scholarships to NOVA's Financial Aid Office.
2) Never pay for financial aid or a scholarship search. Help is available for FREE!