

Student Financial Assistance

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The purpose of financial aid is to supplement the resources of the student and the family. The Richmond Community College (RCC) makes every effort to insure every qualified student will have an opportunity to attend, regardless of financial ability. Students demonstrating eligibility receive a package of assistance composed of scholarships and grants and/or work-study. Application forms and additional information are available from the Financial Aid Office or any member of the Student Development staff.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FINANCIAL AID

- To be considered for financial aid at RCC, a student must:
- submit an acceptable form of need analysis such as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
 - be a U.S. citizen, national or permanent resident.
 - be enrolled or accepted for enrollment for the purpose of obtaining a degree, diploma, or certificate. A financial aid award cannot be made until a student is accepted but you do not have to wait for an acceptance letter to apply for financial aid.
 - maintain satisfactory academic progress as outlined by the College policy.
 - not owe repayments or refunds to any student aid program nor be in default on a student loan made through any postsecondary institution.

- demonstrate financial need according to the specific requirements of each aid program.
- have a valid Social Security number.
- have a high school or General Educational Development (GED) diploma, or you must pass an independently administered test approved by the U.S. Department of Education, or meet other standards established by the State that are approved by the Department.
- be registered with the Selective Service, if you are a male at least 18 years old, born after December 31, 1959, and are not currently a member of the U.S. Armed Forces.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY FOR FINANCIAL AID RECIPIENTS

The purpose of financial aid at RCC is to supplement the resources of the student and the family. The College makes every effort to insure that every student will have an opportunity to attend, regardless of financial ability. However, students have responsibility for their own education and must pursue and complete course work, which permits them to meet degree requirements within a reasonable timeframe. Successful completion of a diploma or degree requires that a student earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 (C) on all hours completed in that degree curriculum.

In compliance with appropriate Federal Regulations, RCC shall adhere to the policies stated in this section for determination of satisfactory academic progress for students receiving assistance through RCC's Financial Aid Office. This includes federal, state, and institutional aid. (See separate policy for Veteran students.) Students must be maintaining satisfactory academic progress before financial aid can be awarded. The Financial Aid Office is required to evaluate the student's entire academic record in determining the student's compliance regardless of the age of the record or whether or not aid was received. Certain special awards, i.e., academic scholarships, may require higher academic achievement than the standard policy.

Policy Statement

In order to be eligible for financial aid, students must meet the following minimum guidelines at the end of each semester:

1. **Qualitative Standard** – All financial aid recipients must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 at the end of each semester.
2. **Quantitative Standard** - Students must make progress toward their degree or diploma by successfully completing a minimum percentage of coursework attempted. Successful completion is defined as completion of at least 67 percent of the total hours attempted with a grade of A, B, C, or D. Courses resulting in final grades of F, I, U, W, and WU are not considered as successfully completed. All courses taken for credit in which a student is enrolled after the official Tuition Refund period has ended are counted as Attempted Hours and are shown on the academic transcript. Courses resulting in final grades of AU, AP, AR, MT, and NA are not considered as attempted or earned hours.
3. **Maximum Timeframe** - Students must complete their educational program of study in a timeframe not to exceed 150 percent of the published length of program for full-time students. This will be measured in credit hours attempted (e.g., if the academic program length requires 65 credit hours to graduate, the maximum time frame cannot exceed 98 credit hours attempted). All hours

attempted at RCC and hours transferred from other post secondary institutions, regardless of when they were attempted, are counted toward the maximum timeframe for program completion. An additional 30 credit hours may be allowed for required remedial coursework.

Eligibility Status

Satisfactory: Satisfactory status is achieved when a student's cumulative GPA is a 2.00 or higher, the completion rate of courses is 67% of their attempted credit hours at the end of each semester, and the credit hours attempted by the student do not exceed 150 percent of the published length of the program for full-time students.

Probation: A student (who is not currently on probation) whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.00 and/or has not completed 67% of their cumulative attempted credit hours will be placed on probation for the following semester. A probationary period allows the student to receive financial aid for one semester even though the student does not meet all of the requirements. Students on probation are not allowed to use financial aid funds to pre-register for courses for an upcoming semester. At the end of the probation period, if the student meets all of the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements, s/he remains eligible for continued financial aid.

Termination: At the conclusion of the probation period, if a student's cumulative grade point average is below a 2.00 GPA and/or the student's cumulative completion rate of courses is below the required 67% completion of attempted credit hours, the student's financial aid will be terminated. Also, students who have attempted the maximum allowable credit hours for their program will have their financial aid terminated.

(i) Special Notes

- 1. Withdrawal from College and/or Course Withdrawals – “W”** - Students who withdraw from classes at RCC should understand their withdrawal may affect their eligibility for financial aid as determined by this Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAP). Withdrawal from the College and/or courses(es) before the end of the official Tuition Refund Period (census date for the semester or course, whichever comes first) are not calculated in the SAP. Withdrawal after the Tuition Refund Period may affect the student's ability to meet the quantitative requirements and complete their program within the maximum timeframe.
- 2. Unofficial Withdrawal (WU)** - is used when computing the GPA and cumulative attempted hours, but does not qualify as successful completion of credit hours attempted. This grade will negatively impact the student's ability to maintain compliance with the SAP standards.
- 3. Failures (F)** - Grades of “F” are used when computing the GPA and cumulative attempted hours, but do not qualify as successful completion of credit hours attempted. These grades will negatively impact the student's ability to maintain compliance with the SAP standards.
- 4. Grades of “Incomplete” “I”** - An incomplete will count as attempted hours but not completed hours and will have a negative impact on GPA. No earned hours will be posted until a grade has been assigned to the coursework. Students with ‘incompletes’ may have difficulty meeting the satisfactory academic progress requirements at the time of evaluation, but may be reevaluated upon completion. The student must make a written request to the Financial Aid Office when the coursework has been completed. The request form is available on the RCC website.
- 5. Never Attended Classes (NA)** - Credit hours for which a student registers but

never attends will not be counted as attempted or earned hours. The student is responsible for paying the tuition and fees for these courses and charges for unreturned books and supplies.

- 6. Course Repeats** - Students may be allowed to repeat a course in accordance with the policy outlined in the College Catalog. For financial aid purposes, all hours attempted and/or completed will be counted in cumulative hours. However, only the highest grade will be counted in the grade point average. Therefore, it is possible that a student repeating coursework may not be in compliance with the quantitative and maximum timeframe component of this policy.
- 7. Remedial Coursework** - Remedial coursework will count in the number of attempted and earned hours and grades given for these courses will affect GPA. In addition, there is a limit of 30 semester hours of remedial coursework that can be included in a student's enrollment status which will not count in the 150 percent timeframe.
- 8. Audited Courses** – An audited class is not included in the enrollment hours for purposes of awarding financial aid funds. The audited hours will not count as attempted or earned hours.
- 9. Transfer Credit** - Transfer credit is included in the total hours attempted and earned.
- 10. Proficiency (Credit by Exam)** - While a credit by exam (“X”) is not included in the enrollment hours for purposes of awarding financial aid, the attempted and completed credits are counted in each component of the quantitative standard and the maximum timeframe.
- 11. Summer Session** – Credit hours attempted and earned during the summer session are included in the calculation of SAP. Full-time status is the same for the summer session as it is for the fall and spring semesters. (12 credit hours)

(ii) Monitoring and Notification Process

It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of his/her satisfactory academic progress status for financial aid eligibility.

To determine a student's academic progress status and eligibility for financial aid, a student's academic record will be evaluated at the end of each semester or period of enrollment. Once the student is determined to be ineligible for financial aid, the student will be sent written notification informing him/her that he/she is being placed on financial aid probation for one semester due to failure to maintain satisfactory academic progress standards. If the student does not meet all of the requirements at the end of the probationary semester, he/she is determined to be ineligible at that time for aid and the student will be terminated from the financial aid programs. The student will be sent written notification informing him/her that his/her financial aid eligibility has been terminated.

In addition, RCC checks to ensure the student is making satisfactory academic progress in each payment period before aid is disbursed.

(iii) Regaining Satisfactory Academic Progress

In order to regain financial aid eligibility, the following steps may be taken:

Qualitative Standard (Cumulative GPA)

Deficiencies in cumulative grade point average (GPA) can be remedied by taking courses at RCC without the benefit of federal financial aid until the required GPA has been attained. If the student is successful in bringing up the GPA to the required level, the student must make a written request to the Financial Aid Office for reevaluation. The form is available on the RCC website.

Quantitative Standard (Completion of 67% of Attempted Hours)

Deficiencies in hours earned may be remedied by successfully earning hours at RCC without the benefit of federal financial aid. If the student is successful in bringing up the percentage of completed courses to the required 67% completion rate, the student must make a written request to the Financial Aid Office for reevaluation. The form is available on the RCC website.

Maximum Timeframe (150%)

Students who exceed the maximum allowable timeframe to complete a program of study must appeal (see below) and provide a graduation plan signed by their Academic Advisor or Student Development Counselor. If the plan is considered reasonable, the student may receive financial aid on probation for one or more semesters until the degree is completed.

Financial Aid Appeals Process

A student who has become ineligible for financial aid due to lack of satisfactory grade point average, percentage of credit hours completed, or exceeding the maximum timeframe for program completion may appeal his/her status to the Financial Aid Committee. Federal regulations allow the Financial Aid Office to extend eligibility to students that fail to meet minimum standards if they can document that there were mitigating circumstances beyond their control that caused them to perform below standards. Mitigating circumstances may include but are not limited to:

1. Serious illness or injury that prevented the student from completing his/her classes.
2. Death in the student's immediate family.
3. Unusual situation over which the student had no control that prevented him/her from successfully completing his/her classes.

Appeals must be made in writing on a Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Appeal Request Form. These forms are available online and from the Vice President for Student Development. All appeals along with supporting documentation must be submitted to the Vice President for Student Development. Students may be asked to appear before the Financial Aid Committee to explain mitigating circumstances. The Vice President for Student Development will notify the student in writing or by phone of the decision made by the Committee. The decision of the Financial Aid Committee shall be final.

OVERPAYMENTS

In the event a student receives an overpayment of his/her financial aid, the overpayment must be repaid by the student, no matter what the reason for the overpayment. The College must notify the U.S. Department of Education if it has serious difficulty in collecting an overpayment from a student.

The student will not be eligible for additional federal financial aid until the overpayment is resolved. The College will not release academic or financial aid transcripts until the overpayment is paid.

FEDERAL PELL GRANT

This federal aid program is designed to provide financial assistance to undergraduates entering post-high school educational institutions. The amount of a student's grant is dependent upon the financial status of the student according to an annual congressionally approved formula adopted for the program.

VERIFICATION

Verification is the process used to check the accuracy of the information a student has given when applying for federal financial aid (Federal Pell Grant, FSEOG, FWSP).

The purpose of verification is to make sure students are providing accurate information about their need for financial aid. Students selected for verification by the processing service or the Financial Aid Office are required to submit the required documentation within two weeks of submission of a valid Student Aid Report (SAR). The required documentation may include a verification worksheet, a 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ, a written statement verifying untaxed income, statement of educational purpose/default/repayment certification and statement of registration status. Failure to provide required documentation may result in forfeiture of funds. The Financial Aid Office must be notified if the student is unable to acquire this documentation within two weeks.

PAYMENT OF AWARDS

Financial aid funds (with the exemption of Federal Work-Study or Work-Scholarship funds) are distributed to students by directly crediting their Accounts Receivable. Students wishing to use financial aid funds to pay tuition, fees, books, and supplies must sign a form with the Financial Aid Office authorizing the deduction of the cost from their awards. Any remaining funds will be paid directly to the student approximately four weeks following the last day to withdraw from classes with a tuition refund. Students are given written notification of the exact disbursement dates. Checks will be mailed to the student's address on file with the Registrar's Office. Federal Work-Study and Work Scholarship funds are paid directly to the student on a monthly basis after properly signed timesheets are submitted. Timesheets must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office by the tenth day of each month. Checks are mailed to the student's home address on the last workday of the month.

EARLY SCHEDULING/TUITION PAYMENT

Students will be given the opportunity to schedule classes early for each semester. Once the student has scheduled classes, he is expected to attend those classes. If he decides to change his schedule or not to attend RCC, he must see a counselor in person to officially withdraw from the scheduled classes. Failure to withdraw from the classes will result in an overpayment of financial aid funds. This overpayment could prevent the student from receiving future financial aid funds at RCC or any college until the overpayment is repaid. The student will be responsible for repaying the financial aid funds. Also, the student will receive Never Attends (NA's) for the classes he does not attend. This will affect the student's academic progress and may prevent the student from receiving future financial aid funds at RCC.

REQUIRED REPAYMENT OF PELL GRANT AND OTHER FINANCIAL AID (RETURN TO TITLE IV FUNDS POLICY)

A new Federal Return to Title IV Funds Policy took effect August 2000 for the 2000 – 2001 academic year. This policy affects any student receiving federal financial aid (Pell, FSEOG) who withdraws or is withdrawn by instructor(s) from all classes. Federal Work-Student funds are excluded from this policy.

Under this policy, if you receive federal financial aid (use a financial aid warrant and/or receive a check), and you withdraw or are withdrawn by instructor(s) from all classes before completing more than 60% of the enrollment period, you will be required to return federal financial aid funds.

For example:

Ima Student is enrolled in the Accounting curriculum. She must drop out of college to help her parents harvest the peach crop. Ima was awarded \$1650 Pell Grant funds for the semester. She used \$600 of the \$1650 on registration day (with her Pell warrant) to pay tuition, fees, books, and supplies. A check for the other \$1050 was sent to Ima to use for living expenses. She dropped out of day 31 of the 118 day semester (calendar

days). Ima was enrolled for 26% of the semester (31/118). She earned 26% of the \$1650 or \$429. Seventy-four percent (74%) of the \$1650 or \$1221 must be returned to the Pell Grant program. RCC is responsible for returning \$777 to the Pell Grant program (\$1221-444=\$777). Lucky for Ima, the funds she received were grant funds. The new Federal policy states that if the funds received were grant funds, then the student can reduce the repayment by 50%. Therefore, Ima must repay only \$389 to the Pell Grant program (50% of \$777= \$389).

Beware—Under this policy, every student who withdraws completely or is withdrawn by instructor(s) on or before the 60% point of the semester will be required to repay funds.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG)

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant is a federal aid program designed for students with the greatest financial need. Priority is given to Federal Pell recipients.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM

This program, when available, provides jobs on campus to qualified students. During the academic year, work-study employment is limited to a certain number of hours per week. Employment in the Federal Work-Study program is also limited to available funds. Funding of the program is based on contributions from local sources matched with federal monies. A Free Application for Federal Student Aid form must be submitted with an RCC Application for Student Financial Aid. Applications are reviewed on June 1 for each new college year. At that time, students are ranked according to need and assigned jobs. The Director of Financial Aid determines which applicants may receive work-study aid.

ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANT

This federal program awards grants to financially needy students enrolled full-time in the first or second year of college. The students must have graduated after January 1, 2005 or January 1, 2006 from a rigorous high school program, as determined by the state or local education agency and recognized by the Secretary of Education. Recipients must be eligible for and receive the Pell Grant. Students must complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* to be considered for this program.

COLLEGE FUNDS INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN

This plan is available to help students pay tuition and fees that are not covered by financial aid or other resources. Smaller, interest-free monthly payments may be arranged rather than paying a full lump sum at the beginning of the semester. Payments are due on or before the first of each month and may be made by check, money order or automatic bank draft. A nonrefundable enrollment fee is required. Apply online at www.CFNC.org/cfipayplan.

THE N. C. COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANT PROGRAM

This need-based program assists North Carolina residents whose Pell Grant may not be sufficient to cover tuition, fees, and required books. Students must be admitted and enrolled for at least six hours per semester, have completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), qualify for the grant based upon a valid Expected Family Contribution under Federal Methodology and the program's

recognized "required education expenses" for attending a North Carolina Community College; and meet all other eligibility requirements for the federal Pell Grant. The award amounts vary based upon the individual student's eligibility.

NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP

Recipients are selected based on the information provided by the student on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students not eligible for the Federal Pell Grant with an estimated family contribution of \$5,000 or less will be eligible for the ELS. Recipients must be NC residents and enroll for at least six credit hours per semester.

NORTH CAROLINA NURSE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP/ LOAN PROGRAM (NESLP)

Awards are available for students preparing for licensure in Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) or Registered Nurse (RN). Awards are based upon financial need and academic performance. Recipients must be NC residents; have financial need determined by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Recipients enter into a contract with the State of NC in which they agree to work full-time as a licensed nurse in NC. Twelve months of service as a full-time nurse cancels one year of NESLP support. Loans not repaid through service must be repaid in cash. Recipients are determined by the Financial Aid and Nursing Departments prior to the beginning of the Spring Semester.

NORTH CAROLINA NURSE SCHOLARS PROGRAM (NSP)

Merit based scholarship-loans are available to students interested in becoming Registered Nurses and practicing in North Carolina. Recipients must be NC residents; enrolled full-time in the ADN program; have a 3.0 GPA; and have a demonstrated record of leadership and service through active participation in high school, collegiate, and/or civic extracurricular activities. Recipients enter into a contract with the State of NC in which they agree to work full-time as a registered nurse in NC. Twelve months of service as a full-time nurse cancels one year of NSP support. Loans not repaid through service must be repaid in cash. Applications are available online at www.CFNC.org/NSP. The deadline is normally the first week of May of each year.

NORTH CAROLINA PROSPECTIVE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP/LOAN (PTSL)

This competitive, merit-based scholarship-loan program is available to students with a non-weighted 2.5 or better GPA who have chosen to pursue teaching as a career. Recipients must be NC residents who agree to work full-time as teachers in NC's public schools one year for every year of funding received or repay the loan in cash. Applications are available online at www.CFNC.org/NSP. The deadline is normally the first week of April of each year.

NORTH CAROLINA STUDENT INCENTIVE GRANT

This grant program provides assistance to students who attend postsecondary schools and have substantial financial need. Recipients are selected based on the information provided by the student on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Students must be NC residents, enrolled full-time.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships vary in amount and availability. Interested students should contact the Financial Aid Office in the Student Development Department for applications.

The Estella Alderman Flynt – Lina Flynt Bauersfeld Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established initially by a gift from Lina Flynt Bauersfeld to honor the memory of her mother, Estella Alderman Flynt. It was expanded later by gifts made in memory of Lina Flynt Bauersfeld by her family, friends, and former students and renamed the Estella Alderman Flynt-Lina Flynt Bauersfeld Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to a full-time, second-year student who demonstrates exceptional ability and interest in English.

The Annie Brooks Beam Memorial Scholarships

Francis and Martha Beam de Vos and their children established these scholarships in memory of Mrs. Annie Brooks Beam, the mother of Mrs. de Vos. The scholarships are awarded to Richmond County residents enrolled full time in the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum who demonstrate scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. These scholarships are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Joseph D. Beam Memorial Scholarships

Established by Joseph D. Beam, Jr. to honor the memory of his father, the Joseph D. Beam scholarships are awarded to deserving Richmond County residents who have achieved academic excellence and are enrolled full time in Mechanical Engineering Technology or Electronics Engineering Technology. Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors. These awards are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Bennett Family Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a customer, an employee, or an immediate family member of a customer or an employee of the Ellerbe Telephone Company. The recipient must be accepted for enrollment as a first-year, full-time student in a two-year curriculum. Preference will be given to applicants enrolling in the Electronics Engineering Technology and Business Administration curricula (in that order) before qualified applicants in other curricula will be considered. The recipient must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 for all courses taken in high school, or a minimum score of 275 on the GED test. The award may be renewed for a second year if the recipient maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher with no grade lower than “C.”

The Russell E. Bennett III, Memorial Scholarship

Established by Russell E. Bennett, Jr. to honor the memory of his son, the Russell E. Bennett III Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a Richmond County resident enrolled full time in the first year of the Information Systems curriculum who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. This scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Emma Lou Daniels Brown Memorial Scholarship

Established by her husband, Harry T. Brown, and sister, Kay G. Cavendish, the Emma Lou Daniels Brown Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student enrolled full time in the first year of an associate degree curriculum who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The recipient must be a resident

of Richmond or Scotland County. The award may be renewable for a second year if the recipient maintains a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.

The Harry T. and George W. Brown Craftsman’s Continuing Education Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Harry T. and George W. Brown by their family. It is intended to provide financial support to individuals wishing to develop skills in the various construction trades either as a hobby or in preparation for a career. It is available to students enrolled in the non-curriculum programs art RCC. The scholarship is awarded based on financial need.

The Polly Brown Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Polly Brown, a longtime employee of RCC. The scholarship will be awarded to a full-time, second-year student in a two-year curriculum. The recipient must have completed a minimum of 20 semester hours with a 3.0 minimum grade point average during the first year.

The David and Sandra Burns Scholarship

This scholarship was established in honor of David and Sandra Burns with an initial gift from the Z.V. Pate Foundation. David and Sandra Burns have continued to contribute to the fund as an act of community service. The intent of this scholarship is to provide educational opportunities to students with demonstrated financial need.

The Gene and Alice Burrell Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to a second-year student who has completed at least 24 semester hours at the Associate in Arts level with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade lower than “C”. Preference is given to applicants who have also completed at least two history courses at RCC with no grade lower than “A” and have plans to transfer to a four-year college or university to complete a baccalaureate degree with a major in history.

The Butler Manufacturing Company Foundation Scholarship

This scholarship is funded by a grant from the Butler Manufacturing Company Foundation. The purpose of the scholarship is to encourage and financially support post-secondary educational opportunities critical to the future workforce and community development.

The Ruth McFarland Bynum Memorial Scholarship

Established by her husband, Charles K. Bynum, the Ruth McFarland Bynum Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a deserving Richmond County resident enrolled full time in the Business Administration curriculum. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The CSX Transportation Scholarship

The CSX Transportation Scholarship is awarded to an employee of the CSX System, a child of an employee or a dislocated employee who is accepted for enrollment in any vocational, technical, or college transfer curriculum. The selection criteria include scholastic promise and academic achievement. The award will be given to a Richmond County resident who is enrolled full time and may be renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The J. Neal Cadieu, Sr. Memorial Scholarships

Established by J. Neal Cadieu, Jr. to honor the memory of his father, the J. Neal Cadieu, Sr. Memorial Scholarships are awarded to students enrolled full time in the

Associate Degree Nursing curriculum. The awards will be given to deserving Richmond County residents who demonstrate scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The scholarships are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Carolyn Wilson Carter Memorial Nursing Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Carolyn Wilson Carter by her family and friends. This scholarship is awarded upon recommendation of the Nursing Department Chairman to a second-year Associate Degree Nursing student enrolled full time.

The Dorothy King Chisholm Memorial Scholarship

Established by her husband, Ed Chisholm, the Dorothy King Chisholm Scholarship is awarded to a full-time student entering the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum. The award will be given to a deserving Richmond County resident who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Christian Closet Merit Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the Christian Closet to assist a deserving student in his or her educational efforts. The stipend is to be used for tuition, books, and fees.

The Robert L. Cole Memorial Scholarship

The Robert L. Cole Memorial Scholarship was established by his wife, Mrs. Sara O. Cole, to assist a full-time student enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing, Criminal Justice, or Human Services Technology curriculum. The award is given to a deserving Richmond County resident who demonstrates scholastic promise and academic achievement. This scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Barbara S. Condor Endowed Basic Skills Program Graduate Scholarship

Established by her husband, J. Richard Condor in her honor, the Barbara S. Condor Endowed Basic Skills Program Graduate Scholarships is awarded to a graduate of the RCC Basic Skills Program who is enrolled full-time in a curriculum program at the College. This scholarship is awarded based on a combination of financial need, scholastic promise, and academic achievement.

The Abbie G. Covington Scholarship

Established by Abbie G. Covington, former Mayor of Hamlet and a longtime Accounting instructor at RCC, this scholarship is awarded to a full-time, first-year student in a curriculum program with preference given to an applicant who is a family member of an employee or an employee of the City of Hamlet. In addition, the recipient must demonstrate scholastic promise and financial need. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Carlton C. Culler – Michael W. Sellers Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established originally by Michael W. Sellers in memory of Carlton C. Culler to assist a full-time student enrolled in the Information Systems curriculum. Following the untimely death of Michael Sellers, the scholarship has been supported by Mrs. Pat Culler of Associated Business Systems as a memorial to both men. The scholarship is awarded to an applicant who demonstrates financial need and is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Daniel Robert Currie Memorial Scholarship

The Daniel Robert Currie Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a full-time student entering the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum. The scholarship was established by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel F. Currie in tribute to the memory of their son, Daniel Robert Currie, and has been supported by numerous friends and members of the Currie Family. The scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Jackson L. Dawkins, Jr. Scholarship

The Jackson L. Dawkins, Jr. Scholarship is awarded to a full-time student in a vocational, technical, or college transfer curricula. The recipient of the award must have a grade point average of 2.5 for all courses taken in high school, or a minimum score of 275 of the GED test and demonstrate financial need. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic progress.

The Lindsey G. DeWitt Memorial Scholarships

These scholarships were established in memory of Lindsey Guy DeWitt by the DeWitt family to help full-time students entering the Mechanical Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology, or Machinist curriculum. Preference is given to Richmond County residents. The recipient must demonstrate academic achievement, scholastic ability, and financial need. The awards are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Eleanor and Sairfax Mary Dockery Memorial Scholarship

Miss Betsy Sairfax Dockery established the Eleanor Mary Dockery Memorial Scholarship in memory of her sister. After Miss Sairfax Dockery's death the family renamed the scholarship to honor both ladies. The award is available to a Richmond County resident on the basis of need. Eligible students must be enrolled full time in a vocational, technical, or college transfer curriculum. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Mary Elizabeth and Nicholas West Dockery, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Established by Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas West Dockery, Jr., the Nicholas West Dockery, Sr. Memorial Scholarship is awarded on the basis of financial need to a Richmond County resident enrolled full time in the first year of an associate degree curriculum. This award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Rhonda W. Dunlap Memorial Scholarship

Established in memory of Mrs. Rhonda W. Dunlap by her daughters, Mrs. Leone D. McLester and Mrs. Roberta D. Sumpter, this scholarship is awarded to a first-year full- or part-time student in a curriculum program leading to an Associate in Arts degree with a stated intention of pursuing certification as a teacher associate. The part-time student must be enrolled in at least 6 hours each semester. This award is renewable for subsequent semesters with no more than a total of six academic semesters or three academic years.

The Earl G. Dunn Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Chief Deputy Earl G. Dunn to help a deserving student enrolled full time in the Criminal Justice curriculum. The recipient must be a currently employed Richmond County law enforcement officer, a graduating Richmond Senior High School student, or a second-year Criminal Justice student.

The Dr. George A. Ferré Memorial Scholarship

Established by Hamlet Hospital, the family and friends of Dr. George A. Ferré to honor his memory, this scholarship is awarded to a full-time student in the Medical Assisting Technology curriculum who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Charles K. Fipps Scholarship

The Charles K. Fipps Scholarship is established to assist a full-time student enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum. This award is a one-time two-year scholarship that will be awarded in the Fall of 2006 and renewable for a second year.

The Cynthia Gibson Memorial Nursing Scholarship

The Cynthia Gibson Memorial Nursing Scholarship was established to assist a single mother demonstrating financial need enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Neill Graham Memorial Scholarship

Established by Neill Graham, a retired Business instructor at RCC, this scholarship is awarded to a student who has demonstrated excellence in business studies. The recipient shall be a second-year, full-time student who has attained the highest GPA in the Business Division after completing the first year of his/her program as a full-time student.

The Joseph W. Grimsley Memorial Scholarships

Funded by a bequest made by RCC's former president, Joseph W. Grimsley, before his death on July 13, 2001, these awards are granted to first-year students on the basis of demonstrated achievement and leadership. The awards are renewable for a second year based on satisfactory performance.

The Melva W. Hamilton Scholarship

Melva W. Hamilton established this scholarship for a first-year, full-time student in the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum who demonstrates scholastic promise and financial need. If a qualified Nursing student is not available, the award may be granted to a student in the Medical Assisting Technology curriculum who meets all of the other qualifications. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The J. Robert (Bob) Harrison Memorial Scholarship

The J. Robert (Bob) Harrison Memorial Scholarship was established by Mrs. Elizabeth W. Harrison as a tribute to her husband. The scholarship is awarded to a first-year, full-time student enrolled in the Electronics Engineering Technology, Mechanical Engineering Technology, or Information Systems curriculum. To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must demonstrate academic achievement, financial need, and be employed part time in the RCC Cooperative Education Program (Co-op). The scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Wyndie Daniels Brown Hayes Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Wyndie Daniels Brown Hayes by her parents, Harry and Emma Brown. The award is given to a deserving Richmond or Scotland County resident enrolled full time in the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Thomas B. Hunter Memorial and Florence Ledbetter Hunter Scholarships

These scholarships were established by the children of Thomas B. and Florence Ledbetter Hunter. The Thomas B. Hunter Memorial Scholarship for Academic Excellence is awarded annually to the entering second-year Associate Degree Nursing student who has achieved the highest GPA on ADN curriculum courses taken during the first year (fall, spring and summer) of the ADN program. The Florence Ledbetter Hunter Scholarship is awarded to the second-year ADN student who has demonstrated exceptional professional and clinical nursing skills during the first year of the ADN program. Available beginning in the Fall semester of 2004.

The Johnson – Shepherd Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Lonnie T. and Eileen E. Johnson to honor the memories of their parents and grandparents. The recipient must be a first-year, full-time student in a curriculum program leading to an Associate in Arts degree who plans to attend a four-year college or university to attain a baccalaureate degree. In addition, the recipient must demonstrate scholastic promise and financial need. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Faye Wilson Jordan Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Mr. Bill Jordan in memory of his wife, Faye Wilson Jordan. The intent of the scholarship is to assist a student enrolled in a program or classes that may prepare them to assist others with behavioral issues such as smoking cessation. The award is made to a student enrolled in a behavioral sciences-related program or two behavioral science-related courses in the year of the award.

The G. R. and Mary Ellen Kindley Scholarship

Mr. & Mrs. G. R. Kindley established this scholarship to assist a first-year, full-time student in the Mechanical Engineering Technology curriculum. The recipient must be a resident of Richmond County and have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 for all courses taken in high school, or a minimum of 275 on the GED. The scholarship may be renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Kiwanis Club of Laurinburg Bookship

This scholarship was established by the Kiwanis Club of Laurinburg to assist a deserving Scotland County resident in his or her educational efforts at RCC. The stipends are awarded to full- or part-time students who need financial assistance in purchasing required books and educational materials.

The Kiwanis Golden K Club Scholarships

The Kiwanis Golden K Club of Laurinburg established these scholarships to provide assistance for full-time students entering the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum. These scholarships are awarded to Scotland County residents who demonstrate scholastic promise, academic achievement, and dedication to the nursing profession. The awards are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Annie Louise Lackey Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established to provide assistance to a student enrolling full time in the Associate in Arts or Associate in Science curriculum. The scholarship is awarded to a Richmond County resident based on need and ability. Preference will be given to applicants who express an interest in completing their baccalaureate studies at Wingate University. The scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Phyllis D. Long Memorial Nursing Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Mrs. Phyllis D. Long by her family honoring her life-long service to the citizens of Richmond County. The recipient must be a resident of Richmond County and enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program at RCC. The stipend is awarded primarily based on need and is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Thomas and May Burch MacCallum Scholarship

The MacCallum Scholarship is awarded to a resident of Richmond County who is enrolled full time in a vocational, technical, or college transfer curriculum. The scholarship is awarded based on demonstrated financial need and academic achievement and is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Woodrow and Mary McInnis Educational Scholarship

This scholarship is established in memory of Woodrow and Mary McInnis with an initial gift from Mr. Thomas M. McInnis and Jeff, Mary Ann, Olivia, and Will Meacham. The scholarship is awarded to a recipient who has passed the 8th grade of Ellerbe Middle School (or the 9th grade of the former Ellerbe Junior High) or resides in the portion of Richmond County served by Ellerbe Middle School. The recipient must be enrolled in a program that supports completion of a four-year degree leading to certification as a teacher in the North Carolina public schools. The award is for a first-year full-time student who demonstrates financial need and is not renewable for a second year.

The Harris McKinnon McRae Memorial Scholarships

These scholarships were established by the McRae Family in memory of Harris McKinnon McRae to help deserving full-time Business Administration students. Preference for the McRae scholarships will be given to graduating high school seniors residing in the northern part of Richmond County (Ellerbe and above). These scholarships are awarded to full-time students and are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Kimberly C. Melton Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Kimberly C. Melton by her family to assist a full-time student in the Nursing Assistant curriculum. This scholarship is awarded based on financial need and is normally the only financial aid for which CNA students are eligible to apply through RCC's Financial Aid Office.

The Dr. Samuel D. Morgan Memorial Scholarship

Established by Mrs. Anne M. Morgan to honor the memory of her husband who was the first president of RCC (then Richmond Technical Institute), the Morgan Scholarship.

The Morrison Correctional Institution Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the Morrison Youth Institution Social Interaction-Development (SID) Group. A recipient must be enrolled full time in the first year of a technical or vocational curriculum program and have a financial need. Priority of selection will be given to an applicant who is on probation/parole in the correctional system or a former inmate of a correctional institution. The scholarship may be renewed for a second year if the recipient maintains a grade point average of 2.0 or higher. Employees or immediate family members of employees of Morrison Youth Institution are not eligible to apply.

The Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation Scholarship

This scholarship was established to assist a deserving full-time student who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. Preference will be given to a student whose family is a member of the Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation; however, this is not a requirement.

The Margaret Ussery and Robert Franklin Pence, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Established by Mrs. Margaret U. Pence in memory of her husband, this scholarship is awarded to a student enrolled full time in the first year of the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum, is a resident of Richmond County, and who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. After the death of Mrs. Pence, her family requested the scholarship be renamed to honor both of their parents. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic achievement.

The Angus D. and Mary T. Phillips Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Angus D. and Mary T. Phillips. The recipient must be a second-year student enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program and have a first year grade point average not less than a "B".

The Meg Queen Memorial Scholarship

The Meg Queen Memorial Scholarship was established by the family and friends of Meg Queen in commemoration of her service to RCC and Richmond County. The scholarship is awarded to a first-year student enrolled full time in a vocational, technical, or college transfer curriculum who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The RCC Trustees' Basic Skills Scholarship

Established by the RCC Board of Trustees, this endowed scholarship is awarded to graduates of the RCC Basic Skills Program who have been admitted into a RCC curriculum program. This award is available to both part- (prorated) and full-time students and is renewable through the equivalent of two years of full-time study with satisfactory academic performance.

The John T. Robich Human Services Scholarship

This scholarship was established in honor of Professor John T. Robich by a former student, Rachel Thompson. It is awarded to a student enrolled full or part-time in the RCC Human Services curriculum. It is awarded based on need then merit. It is renewable for a second the equivalent of two full years of study..

The Richmond Community College Basic Skills “Ride for Adult Education” Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded to Richmond or Scotland County residents enrolled as a first-year, full-time student in a curriculum or technical program at RCC. They are awarded to GED graduates with commendations on the GED exam. The scholarships are funded by the participants of the “Ride for Literacy” Motorcycle Ride.

The Richmond Community College Foundation Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded to students enrolled full time in any curriculum. One Richmond County and one Scotland County recipient will be selected. The recipients must demonstrate scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The scholarships are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic progress.

The Richmond Community College Human Services Club Memorial Scholarship

The Human Services Club of Richmond Community College established this scholarship in memory of Rosa Chambers and Versa Morman, former students who died in the Imperial Foods fire in 1991, to provide assistance to Human Services Technology Students who demonstrate scholastic promise, academic achievement, and dedication to the Human Services profession. The recipients must be entering the second year of studies and maintaining an overall grade point average of 3.0 or better.

The Richmond Community College Merit Scholarships

These scholarships were established by the RCC Faculty and Staff to assist first-year students enrolling full time in any diploma or degree curriculum. The scholarships are renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic progress. The recipients must be legitimate scholars as demonstrated by prior academic excellence and must be committed to community involvement and lifelong learning.

The Riggins Family Nursing Scholarship

This scholarship was established to benefit a student enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program at Richmond Community College. Recipients must be enrolled full-time in the nursing program and be residents of Scotland County.

The Rockingham Civitan Club Basic Skills Scholarship

This scholarship was established to provide support and encouragement to graduates of the Richmond Community College Basic Skills Program to continue their education at the postsecondary level. The scholarship is awarded to a graduate of the RCC GED or Adult High School program who enrolls at least half-time in a curriculum program at the College. The recipient must be a resident of Richmond County and is selected on the basis of need and merit.

The Vera Anderson Rose Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is established in memory of Vera Anderson Rose by a bequest from the estate of her sister, Madeline A. Jones, to assist a student enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum. A recipient must be a resident of Richmond or Scotland County and the award is based on need and merit. The scholarship may be renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The SECU “People Helping People” Scholarship

Established by the State Employees Credit Union Foundation, two \$2,500 annual awards to individuals most deserving of an opportunity to attend college are presented. Students must be full-time; NC residents; demonstrate financial need using the FAFSA; preference will be given to students whose parents or guardians and family members are public sector employees who live and work in NC; preference may be given to students with limited financial aid from other programs; consideration will be given to students who best exemplify the SECU membership philosophy of credit unions, “People Helping People”, and have demonstrated leadership, excellence of character, integrity, and community involvement.

The Sealed Air Corporation Scholarships

These scholarships were established by the Sealed Air Corporation to assist full-time students enrolled in the first year of a two-year Associate Degree program. The recipient must demonstrate scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Lou Ann Smith Singleton Memorial Scholarship

Established in memory of Lou Ann Smith Singleton by her mother, Margaret Smith, this scholarship will be awarded to a first-year, full-time student enrolled in Mechanical Engineering Technology who demonstrates financial need. The scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Jean and John Benjamin Smith, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Established in memory of her parents by Ms. Gretchen Smith, this scholarship is awarded to a full-time student enrolled in a vocational, technical, or college transfer curricula. The recipient must be a resident of Richmond County and have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 for all courses taken in high school or a minimum score of 275 on the GED test. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Emma M. and Captain Walter R. Stancil, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Established by Mr. Walter R. Stancil, Sr., a graduate and trustee of Richmond Community College, to honor the memory of his wife, Emma M. Stancil, and son, Captain Walter R. Stancil, Jr., both of whom were killed in an automobile accident on February 10, 2002. The scholarship is awarded annually on the basis of merit and need to a graduate of RCC’s Basic Skills Program who has been admitted to a RCC curriculum program. The award is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Dr. Robert D. Street Scholarship

Established by Dr. Robert D. Street, retired Vice President for Administration at RCC, this scholarship provides an award to a first-year, full-time student in a curriculum program within the Business Technology Division. Recipients will be selected on the basis of academic achievement and financial need. The award may be renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Prentice Taylor Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship is provided by the Hamlet Rotary Club to commemorate the service of Prentice Taylor to Richmond County. The scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving full-time, second-year student.

The Richard Thorpe Memorial Scholarship

Established by his wife and by his lifelong friend, Bobby Singletary, the Richard Thorpe Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a full-time, first-year student enrolled in a vocational, technical, or college transfer curriculum and may be renewed for a second year. The recipient must be a resident of Richmond County and demonstrate financial need. Priority will be given to applicants who are (a) employed in the textile industry or whose parents are employed in the textile industry (or who have a family member, living or deceased, who is or was employed in the textile industry) and/or (b) are graduates of Rohanen High or Junior High School or children of Rohanen graduates.

The Time Warner Cable Scholarships

Time Warner Cable of Richmond County provides scholarships to full-time students enrolled in a vocational, technical, or college transfer curriculum who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The scholarship may be renewable for a second year if the recipient maintains a grade point average of 2.5 or higher.

The UNIMIN Corporation Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the UNIMIN Corporation to benefit students pursuing an Associates Degree or Diploma in a program related to math, science, engineering, or industry with continuation of studies toward a four-year degree. Preference will be given to family members of current UNIMIN employees. The scholarship is available to full- and part-time students with the stipend varying based on hours of enrollment. This award is renewable upon satisfactory academic performance not to exceed the equivalent of two years of full-time study.

The Thad and Mary Jane Ussery Scholarship

This scholarship was established by Thad and Mary Jane Ussery with the intent to support Richmond Community College's efforts to provide a trained and ready workforce. Awards are made to residents of Richmond County enrolled in the Welding or other Science, math, Engineering, or Technology-related programs. Selection is based on a combination of need and merit.

The Vulcan Materials Company Scholarship

The Vulcan Materials Company offers this scholarship to a full-time student in a curriculum program who demonstrates academic achievement and financial need. Priority will be given to Vulcan employees or their family members before considering other qualified applicants. If awarded to a first-year student, the scholarship may be renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Wachovia Technical Scholarships

The Wachovia scholarships are awarded to two full-time students in the second year of a two-year program. The scholarships are awarded on the satisfactory evidence of financial need, scholastic promise, and prior performance at RCC. Each student's performance during the first year of enrollment is a criterion for selection. These scholarships are used for books, tuition, and transportation.

The D. D. and Esta C. Wicker Memorial Scholarship

The D. D. and Esta C. Wicker Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a full-time student entering a college transferable curriculum. This \$1,000 award is given by Thomas G. (Tom) and Kathleen C. Wicker in memory of their parents to a deserving Richmond County resident who demonstrates scholastic promise, academic achievement, and financial need. The scholarship is renewable for a second year upon satisfactory academic performance.

The Dr. Bill and Bobbie Williams Scholarship

The Dr. Bill Williams Scholarship is awarded to a full-time student enrolled in a vocational, technical, or college transfer curriculum. The recipient must be a resident of Hamlet, have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 for all courses taken in high school or a minimum score of 275 on the GED test, and demonstrate financial need. This award may be renewed for a second year if the recipient maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher with no grade lower than "C."

The Dr. B. Wingate Williamson, Jr. Scholarship

Dr. B. Wingate Williamson, Jr. established this scholarship to assist a first year, full-time student in a two-year curriculum. The recipient must be a resident of Richmond County and have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 for all courses taken in high school, or a minimum score of 275 on the GED. The \$750 scholarship may be renewed for a second year if the recipient maintains a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher with no grade lower than "C."

The Woman's Club of Hamlet Susie B. Powers Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in tribute to the memory of Susie B. Powers, a charter member of the Woman's Club of Hamlet. The recipient must be a second-year student enrolled full time in the Associate Degree Nursing curriculum and must have a minimum grade point average of 2.5 for all courses taken in the first year. Preference will be given to a female resident of Hamlet; however, this is not a requirement.

Work Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded to second-year students in a two-year curriculum or second semester students of a one-year curriculum on the basis of academic achievement and expressed need. The work scholarship recipients will be assigned worthwhile duties on campus which will give them on-the-job training related to his/her curriculum. Recipients will be assigned to supervisors who closely evaluate the work performed and the level of performance. The qualifications are as follows:

1. Student must be full-time in his/her second year of a two-year curriculum at RCC or second semester of a one-year curriculum.
2. A minimum of a 2.8 grade point average is required of all students applying.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Students with physical disabilities that constitute vocational handicaps are eligible for scholarships from the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The nearest Vocational Rehabilitation district office can supply full details on these scholarships.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Richmond Community College education programs are approved by the North Carolina State Approving Agency for the enrollment of persons eligible for education assistance benefits from the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Those entitled to DVA benefits are eligible veterans, participants in the Montgomery G.I. Bill contributory program, active duty military in voluntary education programs, drilling National Guard, drilling Reservists, and spouses and children of disabled or deceased veterans. The VA Certifying Official provides information and assistance to students applying for DVA educational benefits.

To be eligible for educational benefits, the student must be enrolled in an approved curriculum, taking only those courses required for graduation in the chosen curriculum. The student must maintain satisfactory academic progress as set by the policy of RCC.

PROCEDURES FOR VETERAN'S BENEFITS

VA regulations governing institution-approved training of veterans and/or dependents of veterans require that certain documents be on file prior to certification for veterans' benefits.

1. Application for admission.
2. Proper application for VA benefits (available from the VA Certifying Official).
3. High school transcript or GED scores and transcript of academic record for each college previously attended.

The veteran or other eligible student may not receive DVA benefits for enrollment in the following: (1) course audits, (2) independent study, (3) repeated courses previously passed, (4) courses not required in chosen curriculum, (5) courses completed by proficiency.

DVA WEEKLY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

	Vocational and Associate Degree Programs Semester Credit Hours	Guided Studies Contact (Clock) Hours
Full-Time Benefits	12 or more	20
3/4 Time Benefits	9-11	15
1/2 Time Benefits	6-8	10

SATISFACTORY PROGRESS FOR VETERANS

A veteran enrolled at RCC is required to maintain the following minimum grade point average in order to be classified as maintaining satisfactory progress.

Associate Degree		Vocational Diploma	
Credit Hours Attempted	GPA	Credit Hours Attempted	GPA
1-12	1.35	1-12	1.50
13-24	1.55	13-24	1.75
25-36	1.70	25-48	1.90
37-48	1.85	Required for Graduation	2.00
49 or more	2.00		
Required for Graduation	2.00		

A veteran who does not maintain satisfactory progress will be placed on probation for one semester. In the event the grade point average is not increased, the veteran's benefits will be terminated.

DVA benefits may be restored by enrolling in the curriculum with no DVA benefits for a period sufficient to increase his/her grade point average to the acceptable minimum for hours attempted and reinstatement by the DVA.

The veteran student who enrolls in two or more subjects and fails or withdraws from all of them will be classified as having made unsatisfactory progress and benefits will be automatically terminated by the DVA.

When the veteran is dropped from classes by the instructor for non-attendance, the veteran's benefits will be terminated. To be recertified the veteran must contact the VA Certifying Official.

CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION

A Richmond Community College student, including the veteran, must successfully complete the required and elective courses needed to meet the minimum number of credit hours required for graduation from a curriculum.

Veterans are totally responsible for course repeats, courses for which he/she received credit, and courses which exceed the minimum number of credit hours required for graduation. In cases of doubt, please consult with your Advisor or the Registrar. An exception to this is that a grade of "F" on a mandatory subject must be repeated. Any veteran, or other eligible person, who does not meet graduation requirements within the time limits imposed will be deemed to not be making satisfactory progress and his/her benefits will be terminated.

Other than the exception noted above, any veteran or other eligible person, who exceeds the total hours and/or takes too many electives, will be required to reimburse the Department of Veterans Affairs.

OVERPAYMENT OF DVA BENEFITS

The law requires that the DVA must collect all benefits paid to a beneficiary for a course for which the grade assigned is not used in computing the requirements for graduation including a course from which the beneficiary withdraws, unless there are mitigating circumstances.

This means that if the veteran or other eligible person drops a course, unless he/she can show the DVA that there are mitigating circumstances, he/she must return all the money paid to him/her for pursuit of that course from the start of the term, not merely from the withdrawal date.

Examples of acceptable mitigating circumstances are prolonged illness, severe illness or death in the immediate family and unscheduled changes in employment or work schedule.

Examples of unacceptable mitigating circumstances include withdrawal to avoid a failing grade, dislike of instructor and too many courses attempted.

The veteran or other eligible person will be required to submit evidence to support his/her reasons for withdrawal. If the DVA determines that the veteran did not have acceptable mitigating circumstances, an overpayment of benefits will be created.

The DVA will attempt to collect any overpayments from a veteran or other eligible person by making a written request for payment and withholding future benefit payments. Debts may be referred to collection agencies or the Justice Department. Approval of DVA home loan guarantees may be delayed pending satisfactory repayment arrangements. Federal income tax refunds may be withheld and applied to DVA debts.

ATTENDANCE

Veterans will comply with RCC class attendance policies.