Scholarship Process Frequently Asked Questions

**Can I start filling out the application out, take a break and come back?**
A: Yes! You can save your application and return to it later.

**Do I just need to fill out just one application in order to be considered for every scholarship opportunity?**
A: Yes! The scholarship committee will review your application and see which of the many scholarship offerings you're eligible for.

**What if I don't know my GPA?**
A: The GPA box on the application is optional. The scholarship committee will check your GPA to make sure that it's accurate in order to ensure that you're eligible for as many opportunities as possible. If you are an Accelerated student or a first semester freshman, the scholarship committee will use your admission GPA.

**If I am awarded a scholarship, will I receive the funds for the duration of my time as a student?**
A: This is dependent on the particular scholarship and the criteria within each scholarship. The majority of the scholarship offerings are given on a semester- to- semester basis and are not continuous for the entirety of the student's enrollment. Each student’s award notification letter will indicate whether or not the awarded scholarship will follow the student through the completion of their program, as long as they maintain good academic standing and other criteria set by that scholarship.

**Should I complete the optional written portion of the application?**
A: Certain scholarships have a required written portion in order to be considered. In order to be considered for those scholarships, we urge every student to complete the written portions. Each section should be 250 words or less and is specific to the requirements of the scholarship.

**What is the average amount of money awarded?**
A: Because of the large amount of scholarships we are able to offer to our students, as well as each scholarship’s differing criteria, it's difficult to provide an average amount.

**Are there any need-based doctoral scholarships?**
A: Yes!

**Do graduate students need to fill out the FAFSA?**
A: Yes! If you have questions or concerns about submitting a FAFSA form, contact either Jacqueline Van Dao at vandaojn@vcu.edu or Amber Yancey at abyancey@vcu.edu.

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Can out-of-state students apply for scholarships?
A: Yes! There are even specific scholarships for certain states.

Is the leadership fellowships application different from the application for these scholarships?
A: Yes. The applications are separate, but both open on April 15th. Please contact Jamie Smalley, jlsmaley@vcu.edu, for any additional information about these specific opportunities.

I'm an international student and unable to fill out a FAFSA form, what do I do and will I still be considered for scholarships?
A: Yes, you can still be considered for a scholarship. Email Jacqueline Van Dao at vandaojn@vcu.edu if this pertains to you.

If I choose not to fill out a FAFSA form, will I still be considered for scholarships?
A: Yes! But you must contact either Jacqueline Van Dao at vandaojn@vcu.edu or Amber Yancey at abyancey@vcu.edu to notify them. There are still other scholarships that you could be eligible for.

I am a new accelerated student starting in the summer, am I able to receive scholarships during the summer semester when I enter?
A: The summer semester that you are entering in is within a different academic year from the one that the scholarship application cycle is for. The earliest scholarships awarded will be for the fall semester, starting the new academic year. Unfortunately, no scholarships, unless otherwise stated, will be available during the summer semester new accelerated students enter the program. Therefore, should you need financial aid, please fill out a FAFSA form for the current academic year (i.e. if you start the accelerated program summer 2019, you will fill out a FAFSA form for 2018-2019 to receive financial aid).

How am I evaluated credit-wise for scholarships?
A: You are evaluated from the fall semester through the summer semester (i.e. Fall 2019 through Summer 2020). So, when filling out the application, please provide your enrollment status as it pertains to your specific nursing program of study. Should you be awarded a scholarship that gives awards throughout multiple semesters, depending on the criteria of that scholarship, your enrollment status must stay consistent in order to receive your scholarship award.