

# How to complete an effective Scholarship Application & Personal Statement



# Eligibility



- Graduating high school seniors, recent graduates and continuing students who have at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average are eligible to receive scholarships.
- While some scholarships require higher GPAs, 2.0 is the minimum requirement.
- Eligibility requirements for a specific scholarship:
  - [www.wnc.edu/scholarships](http://www.wnc.edu/scholarships)

# WNC Application Directions!



## Online Forms

Test Form

### 2013-2014 Academic Year Scholarships

The application deadline is March 5, 2014. Submit this form **only once per academic year**. All applicants who meet the general eligibility requirements (minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA) will be considered for all scholarships.

Transcripts are required for all scholarship applications and must be received in the Foundation Scholarship Office no later than March 5, 2014.

- ✦ Students currently in high school can order official school transcripts through the high school registrar. Must include the fall semester of your senior year.
- ✦ Students who have completed at least one semester of classes at WNC may request an unofficial transcript by going to [my.wnc.edu](http://my.wnc.edu).
- ✦ Students transferring from another college/institution should order their transcripts from their current institution and send them to WNC.

Follow all Directions when applying for WNC Scholarships!

# WNC Application Example

## Personal Information

<b>Name *</b> <small>First / Middle Initial / Last</small>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
	<small>Prefix and Suffix are optional.</small>
<b>Date of Birth *</b>	Month... <input type="text"/> Day... <input type="text"/> Year... <input type="text"/>
<b>Gender *</b>	Male <input type="radio"/>   Female <input type="radio"/>
<b>Marital Status *</b>	Single <input type="radio"/>   Married <input type="radio"/>   Single Parent <input type="radio"/>
<b>Country of Origin *</b>	United States Of America (USA) <input type="text"/>

## Contact Information

<b>Current Mailing Address *</b>	<input type="text"/> Address <input type="text"/> Apartment/Suite <input type="text"/> City State <input type="text"/> Zip <input type="text"/>
<b>Physical Address</b>	<input type="text"/> Address <input type="text"/> Apartment/Suite <input type="text"/> City State <input type="text"/> Zip <input type="text"/> <small>Please provide your physical address if it differs from your mailing address.</small>
<b>Phone *</b> <small>Area / Prefix / Number</small>	<input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> Ext. <input type="text"/>
<b>Email Address *</b>	<input type="text"/> <small>You will receive an e-mail confirmation when you have successfully completed this form.</small>

## WNC Information

<b>WNC Status *</b>	new WNC student <input type="radio"/>   continuing WNC student <input type="radio"/>   transferring to WNC <input type="radio"/> <small>Your WNC status as of Fall 2013</small>
<b>NSHE ID</b>	<input type="text"/> <small>Your NSHE ID if admitted to WNC</small>
<b>Primary Campus *</b>	<input type="text"/> <small>Where do you plan to attend most classes?</small>
<b>Planned Enrollment *</b>	<input type="text"/> <small>Planned enrollment at WNC for the next school year. NOTE: if your actual enrollment in the fall semester is different than the planned enrollment you select, your eligibility for scholarships may be affected</small>

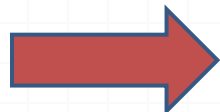
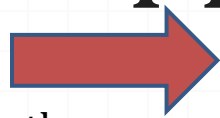
Very Important you report the same data on the FAFSA as your application!

- Make sure contact info matches what is in your student center!
- Update it if you need to!

- **Very Important to know:**
  - WNC Status
  - NSHE ID
  - Planned Enrollment (# of units you are taking Fall 14)

# WNC Application Continued

- Program of Study is the academic program you are currently in!
- If it does not match what you have in MyWNC , see a counselor to change it!



- Fill out each box! Do NOT leave anything blank!
- Especially if you are a Veteran and are using our vet benefit services through the Financial Aid Office at WNC!

<b>Program of Study *</b>	
	Choose... <input type="text"/>
<b>Clubs &amp; Organizations (Check all that apply)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ASL Club <input type="checkbox"/> Latino Student Club <input type="checkbox"/> Lone Mountain Writers <input type="checkbox"/> Wildcat Productions <input type="checkbox"/> Douglas Diversity Club <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Year Nursing <input type="checkbox"/> NSNA (National Student Nursing Association) <input type="checkbox"/> PTK Carson <input type="checkbox"/> PTK Fallon <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Club <input type="checkbox"/> WNC Art Club
<b>High School/GED Information</b>	
<b>High School/GED Status *</b>	current high school student <input type="radio"/>   high school graduate <input type="radio"/>   GED recipient <input type="radio"/>   none of these <input type="radio"/>
<b>High School</b>	<input type="text"/> <i>High school you attended or are attending if applicable</i>
<b>Year Completed</b>	Year... <input type="text"/> <i>High school or GED completion year or anticipated completion year, if applicable</i>
<b>Additional Information</b>	
<b>Citizenship *</b>	Yes <input type="radio"/>   No <input type="radio"/> <i>Are you a U.S. Citizen?</i>
<b>Nevada Resident *</b>	Are you a Nevada resident? Yes <input type="radio"/>   No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Nevada Native American *</b>	Are you a Nevada Native American? Yes <input type="radio"/>   No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Disability *</b>	Do you have a disability documented with WNC Counseling Services? Yes <input type="radio"/>   No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Military *</b>	Have you ever been in the military or ROTC? Yes <input type="radio"/>   No <input type="radio"/>
<b>Do you use Veteran's Services at WNC? *</b>	Yes <input type="radio"/>   No <input type="radio"/>



# WNC Application Continued

ELL *	Have you completed an English Language Learning (ELL) course at WNC? Yes <input type="radio"/>   No <input type="radio"/>
Athlete *	Are you a student athlete at WNC? Yes <input type="radio"/>   No <input type="radio"/>
Career Goal *	<input type="text"/> <small>Fill in "Unknown" if currently undecided. Some scholarships are awarded based on the career goals of the applicant; answering something other than "Unknown" is highly encouraged.</small>
Leadership/Community Service *	<input type="text"/>
<b>Personal Statement</b>	
<b>About Your Personal Statement</b> <b>Do not include personally identifying information</b> in your statement. Adding personal information in your statement will automatically exclude your application from being considered. Your personal statement must be between 250 and 500 words. <a href="#">Get tips for writing a personal statement.</a> Remember, your personal statement is your opportunity to share with the Scholarship Committee and donors who you are and why you should be chosen to receive scholarship funds for your education. Compose your personal statement beforehand using a text editor or word processing program so you can copy and paste it into the text box within the application. NOTE - there is no spell or grammar check available within the application.	
Statement *	<div><b>Copy and paste your statement from word! Do NOT write your statement in this box!</b></div> <div><small>Copy and paste your personal statement into the text box above</small></div>
<b>Certification and Release of Information</b>	
Acknowledgment *	<input type="checkbox"/> By checking this box and submitting this scholarship application, I certify that the information provided is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the release of the information provided herein as well as academic transcripts and applicable financial information on record at WNC to outside organizations or persons for review in the determination of scholarship eligibility. I understand that intentional falsification of information on this application may result in termination of any scholarship granted.
<div>Submit Reset Start Over</div>	

Your Career Goal should be linked to your program of study for example:

If your program of study is an:

- **Associate of Science**
  - Engineer be specific (Chemical, Civil ,etc)
  - Astrobiologist
  - Doctor (what type)
  - Physicist
- **Associate of Arts**
  - Educator/Teacher
  - Accountant
  - Lawyer
- **Associate of Applied Science**
  - Welder
  - Machinist
  - Nurse
  - Police Officer

Follow all Instructions for your Personal Statement!

# Submit a FAFSA

- MOST scholarships require a verified financial need. Students are encouraged to complete the FREE Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA):
  - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- The FAFSA is used by the WNC Financial Aid Office to determine your eligibility for:
  - Grants (Pell)
  - Work Study
  - Student Loans

# Submit a WNC Application

- Apply online and complete the Western Nevada College Scholarship Application, including a personal statement.
- **READ** all instructions before filling out your application!
- Do **NOT** put any identifying information in your statement!
- Apply only once to be considered for all scholarships, each of which may have different eligibility criteria.
- Apply each year to be considered for scholarships--**DEADLINE** is March 5th.

<https://www.wnc.edu/scholarships>





# Creating a Statement



- Take **TIME** to walk through the writing process:
  - Brainstorm
  - Outline
  - Draft your statement using a word document, saving your progress on your own computer
  - Revise the statement
  - Read it to friends & family, receive feedback and revise it again!
  
- Take time to answer the following questions in detail, looking for the most unique or worthy information:
  - Who are you?
  - What is most important to you?

# Writing the Statement!

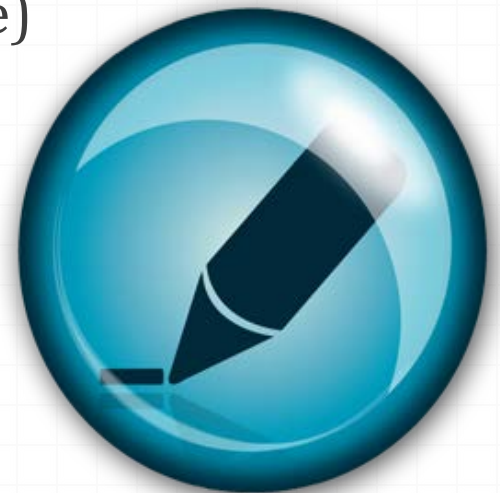
*Your personal statement must be at least 250-500 words and should include your:*

- o Barriers & Challenges,
- o Overcoming Adversities,
- o Extreme Financial Need,
- o Unique &/or Unusual Circumstances,
- o Accomplishments,
- o First Generation College Student,
- o Life Changing events
- o **NO Personal Identifying Information should be included!**



# Your Purpose:

- Show how you will be an indispensable member of the student body and the college community as a whole.
  - **D**emonstrate effort
  - **E**xpress your interest (passion if possible)
  - **E**xhibit thoughtfulness (insight if possible)
  - **P**repare your statement carefully



# How do you stand out?

- On paper in 250-500 words
- Who are you?
- How does all this explain you in a unique way? As a unique learner or student?
- Find an overall word that captures your personality as a student!
- Find a metaphor or overall label for your unique qualities as a student: a persistent detective, a coalition builder, a fighter for a particular cause, etc.
- Make this your thesis or controlling idea!



# Dominant Impression

- Your thesis can shape how you talk about all of the details of your experience and which parts of that experience are most important:
  - Barriers & Challenges,
  - Overcoming Adversities,
  - Extreme Financial Need,
  - Unique &/or Unusual Circumstances,
  - Accomplishments,
  - First Generation College Student,
  - Life Changing events
- Leave a lasting impression!
  - If you need additional help with your writing, there are plenty of easily accessible online guides or writing handbooks you can borrow from your library. Spend some time polishing your work. The Online Writing Lab at Purdue is one guide you might use to work out any errors in your application statement before you submit it:
  - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>





# Questions???

Go to [www.wnc.edu/scholarships](http://www.wnc.edu/scholarships)

Call the WNC Foundation Office at 445-4410 or email at  
[wncscholarships@wnc.edu](mailto:wncscholarships@wnc.edu)



Western Nevada College  
**FOUNDATION**

*~ Choose to make a difference ~*