Frequently Asked Questions

When is the application available and where do I find it? Applications will be available after Nov. 1, 2013 but before you begin completing the application, visit our website, click on the learn more about applying for a scholarship and look at the Checklist and Application Guidelines, 2014-2015 Scholarship Brochure, District Map, Major Codes, and Responding to Scholarship Essay Questions documents. Then, when you are sure you have everything you need and know how to proceed, click on the Apply Now on STARS Online link to get to the application.

What parameters should I use for my STARS username and password? You will receive a confirmation email from STARS with your login information; however, be sure to pick a username and password that you will remember, but not one that is so easy others could get into your application. Waubonsee Community College recommends passwords contain a minimum of eight characters with at least one being a lowercase alpha character (a b c), at least one being an uppercase alpha character (A B C), at least one being a number (1 2 3) and at least one being a special character (! @ #). Spaces are not allowed in usernames or passwords.

What if I am unsure what my major will be? If you have not decided on an area of study or major, under the type of degree question on the Opening Questionnaire tab choose the Associate in General Studies option. If you are unsure where your major fits under the fourth question on the Opening Questionnaire, please call us for assistance (630-466-2983).

What if I do not have or cannot remember my GPA from a former educational institution? You may enter 0.0 under this required field. However a copy of your most recent educational institution transcript IS required so you should be able to include your GPA; please see the next question for more information on transcripts.
Do I need to do an essay, and how long should my essay be? Instead of writing essays, you will need to answer five or six questions under a tab called Free Form Questions. Each answer should be no less than 100 and no more than 250 characters.

Where do I talk about my community service, campus activities or extracurricular activities? The Free Form Questions section of your application includes a question about community/volunteer service and extracurricular activities. Note several scholarships require community or volunteer service or extracurricular activities so be sure to include all of this information in your answer to this question. If you do not have any of these types of activities to report, please answer the question with an explanation (for example, “Since I worked 20 hours per week as well as attending school, I did not have an opportunity to engage in any extracurricular activities or volunteer service projects.”)

Where do I provide my current transcripts? It is your responsibility to obtain a copy of your complete transcripts from your current or most recent educational institution attended. Scan all transcript pages and upload the document into your application on the Attach Documents tab. If your high school will not release your transcripts to you, they may be mailed or faxed to our office (see contact information above) with a note from the school that they do not release transcripts to students. We will scan them for you. However, they MUST be received in our office no later than three days prior to the scholarship application deadline. Please note we do NOT require official transcripts, but they MUST be complete.

What if there are no criteria listed? These scholarships are open to all applicants. It is important for you to apply for open scholarships and to include any information in your Free Form Question answers that would help the Selection Committee choose you to receive the scholarship.

Should I apply for the smaller scholarships? Yes, as long as you qualify! Not all recipients receive large awards, so it is worth your time to apply for all of the scholarships that you can...if you don’t apply for all of the ones you qualify for, you might not get any awards. Just be sure you meet a scholarship’s selection criteria before you apply!

REMEMBER! The application deadline is midnight, Feb. 10, 2014. No paper applications will be accepted.