These scholarships are supported by the National Science Foundation to encourage students to continue their education in the fields of Mathematics, Engineering and Sciences.

Scholarship Awards Academic Year 2015-16

This scholarship is open to all RHC STEM Students who satisfy the listed eligibility criteria. Recipients will be eligible and encouraged to participate in mathematics and science support activities.

The amount of scholarship is determined by the course load the applicant carries in the next academic year and the amount of unmet need from financial aid.

- Level 1: $4,000 for two consecutive semesters enrolled in two major preparation transfer level mathematics & sciences courses each semester during one academic year¹.
- Level 2: $5,000 for one semester enrolled in three, and one semester enrolled in two transfer level mathematics and science courses during one academic year¹.
- Level 3: $6,000 for two consecutive semesters enrolled in three transfer level mathematics & science courses in each semester of one academic year¹.
- Transfer: $6,000 transfer scholarships available to students who completed their major preparation courses at Rio Hondo College, graduates with an AA/AS degree and transfer in a STEM major to a four-year university in Fall 2013.

Major Preparation STEM courses are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>180, 190 (190H), 191, 250, 260, 270 (130 or PSY 190 for some Bio majors)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>150, 160, 211, 212, 213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>120, 130, 131, 131L, 230, 231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>200, 201, and selected other courses</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the applicant’s Scholarship Application, Scholarship Essay demonstrating an interest in a field of Mathematics, Science or Engineering, extracurricular activities including MESA| TRiO S³-STEM activities, academic records, faculty recommendation and eligibility for federal financial aid.

We want to particularly encourage students who could improve their performance by offsetting outside work through this scholarship and can become high performing students. While grades play a role to determine that you have potential, having a high GPA to apply is not necessary.

The successful candidates will be notified by letter and/or email or telephone.

Transfer Scholarship applicants need to show a history of participation in MESA| TRiO S³-STEM activities.

Application and all supporting documents must be received by 5 PM on June 16, 2015 in the MESA Center S205.

¹ The scholarship amounts may vary depending on the financial aid package the student receives.
Recommendation request are due June 16, 2015
If you have any questions, please stop by the MESA/SSS-STEM Center in S205

Eligibility Requirements
All applicants must:

1. Be officially enrolled at RHC in a minimum of 12 units each semester of the award with full-time enrollment in programs leading to graduation and/or transfer in the biological sciences, physical sciences, including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science, mathematical sciences, computer and information sciences, geosciences or engineering.
2. Have demonstrated or expressed a genuine interest in a Mathematics, Engineering or Science career (as evidenced by your courses taken), plan to graduate with an AA/AS and transfer to a four-year institution in one of the aforementioned majors.
3. Must be citizens of the United States, nationals of the United States, aliens admitted as refugees under section 207 of the Immigration and National Act, or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.
4. Must not have previously received a Bachelor’s Degree in any field from any US or foreign institution.
5. GPA Requirements:
   1. Levels 1 – 3: GPA of 2.7 in math & science major preparation courses, and 2.8 overall. (All colleges combined)
   2. Transfer Scholarship: GPA of 3.0 in math & science courses.
   3. At minimum students are eligible to enroll in pre-calculus Math 180 and/or Chemistry 130 in the first scholarship year. (Have passed at least Math 175 and/or Chemistry 120 on the first attempt with a B or better if those are the only 100 level math and science courses taken.)
   4. New students must be eligible to enroll in Pre-calculus.

6. Demonstrate financial need for the 2015 – 16 academic year as defined by the US Department of Education rules for need-based financial aid. The 2015 – 16 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be filed. (visit: www.fafsa.ed.gov)

A scholar can apply for this scholarship for a maximum of three years. For future support, scholarship recipients must make acceptable progress. Acceptable progress is defined as

- Successfully completing the math/science courses outlined in the educational plan for the year.
- Completing 12 units each semester with a grade of C or better in each course completed. (Don’t drop your courses.)
- Maintaining a 2.7 grade point average in mathematics and science courses and an overall grade point average of 2.8. (For continued support GPA should increase.)
- Submitting mid-year and year-end reports.

Students who withdraw from or do not pass a course will meet with Drs. Priest and Spieler to determine how to proceed and whether subsequent funds will be disbursed. Students who do not complete 12 units in the first semester are ineligible for the second disbursement of the scholarship. Students who do not complete 12 units in the second semester are not eligible to apply for continuation.

Recipients of the scholarship are expected to participate in

- Academic Excellence Workshops that are offered for their courses
- MESA/TRiO SSS STEM Program offerings such as MESA Hour
- Regular meetings with their faculty mentor
- Regular contact with the MESA/TRiO SSS STEM Program Director
Application Process
All applicants must complete and submit the following materials to the MESA|TRiO S³-STEM Office in S205 by 5pm Tuesday, June 16, 2015

1. The Scholarship Application needs to be completed on a computer, hand written applications will not be accepted. The application is accessible at the STARSS website or by request can be emailed to you. (If this link does not work here’s how you get there on the new RHC website: www.riohondo.edu/mesa, find link on the front page.)

2. A 750-word scholarship essay (or approximately two pages), as described on the application form. Typed 12pt font double-spaced. Make sure to address each prompt.

3. Unofficial Transcripts from all colleges attended. (You will be disqualified if you omit transcripts from any other colleges you attended.)

4. Updated Educational Plan from the MESA or a RHC Counselor showing your current courses through transfer. Make sure to make the appointment if your plan has to be changed after the spring 15 semester. If you don’t have a counselor, see Dr. Spieler. (The educational plan must be printed from RHC’s my educational plan.)

5. One letter of recommendation from a Mathematics, Engineering or Science Professor at RHC. The application has two parts:
   a. Recommendation request: After a faculty has agreed to write a recommendation, enter your name and the faculty's name in the request page of the recommendation. Print the request page, sign it and take it to the instructor to sign. -- Make sure to request your recommendation at least 2 weeks in advance of the deadline and sign the request page! Faculty members will disappear right after finals, so ask early.
   b. Turn the signed request page in by May 20, 2015 to S205.
   c. Ask your instructor to submit the recommendation to the selection committee directly by June 16, 2015. You should email the recommendation form to your instructor. Fill in your name and student id number, save the file as studentlastname_instructorlastname_starss and attach it to your email. (For example: Erik Belmal's recommendation from Dr. Spieler should be named Belmal_Spieler_starss.pdf)
   d. Recommendations should be emailed to gspieler@riohondo.edu or printed and submitted to Dr. Spieler.

6. Include confirmation that you submitted the 2015-16 FAFSA submission. Highlight your EFC

7. Proof of Permanent Residency if it applies. A copy of your green card or other document should be included.

8. Order a IRS Tax Transcript for 2014 at https://sa2.ww4.irs.gov/irfof-tra/start.do (If you are selected for verification by the Financial Aid office, you must be able to present this immediately)

Please stop by the MESA|TRIO SSS STEM office if you have any questions. To request that application materials be emailed to you send an email to gspieler@riohondo.edu with the subject line: STARSS Application.