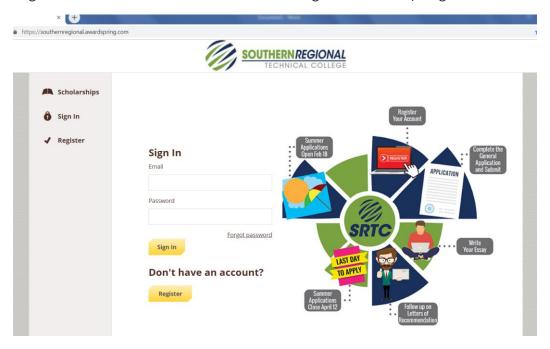


The "How To" Overview:

In order to be considered for a scholarship, you must complete a few easy steps.

1. Log-in or create an account at southernregional.awardspring.com.



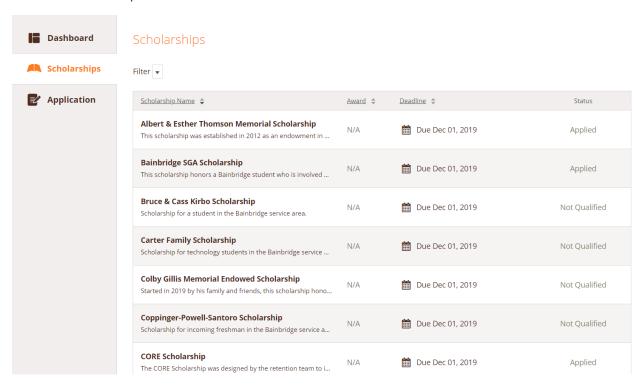
2. Complete the General Information tab and the Qualification Questions tab.

Application



- **3.** On the Academic Information tab, upload an unofficial copy of your transcript, easy peasy using BannerWeb:
 - Go to BannerWeb (at the top right of the SRTC website)
 - Enter Secure Area
 - Enter your user ID and PIN using the directions listed at the top of the page, and log-in
 - Select Student Services & Financial Aid
 - Select Student Records
 - Select Academic Transcript
 - Transcript Level should automatically say all levels and transcript type
 should automatically say official paper transcript. Click the submit button
 - Your transcript should appear on the screen (unless you have a hold on your account)
 - Highlight the entire page, right click, and copy the text
 - Open a Word document, right click, and paste the text into the document
 - Save the document with your transcript
 - Go into your AwardSpring scholarship account, and select the Academic
 Status tab
 - Select the upload option
 - Choose your transcript from the list where you saved it
- 4. On the Essay Questions tab, write two unique and original 250-word essays based on the topics provided on the screen.

- 5. On the Professional Recommendations tab, request and receive at least two recommendations. And don't forget: current students *must* request at least one from an SRTC faculty member. (Sorry, recommendations from friends and family cannot be accepted.)
- **6.** Click Submit. AwardSpring will automatically apply to the scholarships you are eligible for based on the answers to your application questions. You can find a list of the scholarships you have applied for on your Dashboard by clicking Scholarships.



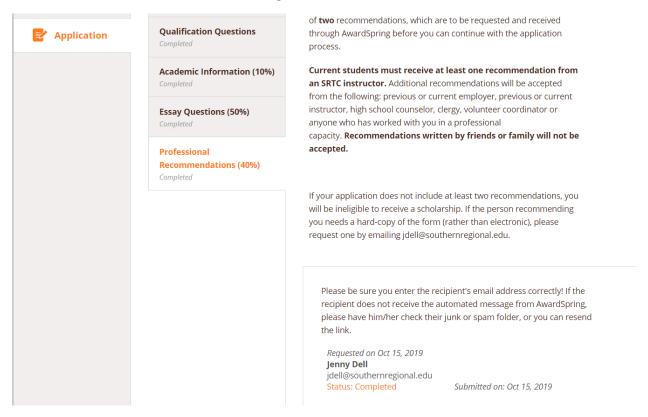
7. A few scholarships require an additional essay question. Visit your Dashboard to see if you have any items requiring completion. When your Dashboard looks like this, your submission is complete:

You did it! Nothing left to complete. Way to go!

0 Items requiring completion

11 Applied scholarships

8. Check back a few weeks prior to the application deadline to be sure at least two of your recommendations have been submitted. Click Application, then the Professional Recommendations tab. You want to see **STATUS**: **COMPLETED** on at least two requests. If you don't see this, follow-up with the people you sent requests to and consider asking someone else, too!



Scholarship Success Tips:

 Apply early! Recommendation take time to complete. Essays take time to perfect. Give yourself ample time to make sure your application is the best it can be. And don't miss these deadlines!

SEMESTER	APPLICATIONS OPEN	APPLICATIONS DUE	AWARDS ANNOUNCED
Fall	May 25	July 25	August 1
Spring	October 15	December 1	December 20
Summer	February 20	April 15	May 1

 No scholarship application is complete without at least <u>TWO</u> letters of recommendation. This doesn't have to be a daunting task: Current students *must* request at least one letter from an SRTC instructor. Make sure the instructors you ask are familiar with you, and be sure that you give them reasons to want to write nice things about you.

Contact these individuals <u>BEFORE</u> you put their name and email address into your application. A face-to-face meeting, a phone call, or even an email goes a long way.

Ask EARLY. Don't put it off, because the forms might take a long time for your references to write. Remember, these instructors and professional references are doing you a favor. Explain that you are applying for scholarships. Ask them if they would mind submitting a recommendation on your behalf. Ask them to write their email address for you. Explain to them that they will receive an EMAIL from AwardSpring with their recommendation link. Remind them of the scholarship deadline. Tell them to check their junk or spam folders if they think they're not receiving the request link.

Avoid Common Mistakes:

- Follow the scholarship prompts and answer EVERY question. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
- Make sure to register your account with the email address you check most often.
 This is how we will notify you of missing items from your application as well as whether or not you received a scholarship.
- Ask someone to help you by proofreading your essays. Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. The majority of points are taken off because students did not have someone proofread their essay. Don't let grammatical errors be what keeps you from getting a scholarship.
- Pay attention to essay word count. Essays less than 250 words may result in disqualification.
- Don't forget to upload your academic transcript. Current students can view transcripts by logging into BannerWeb.
- Please, please, please, please, please, please, PLEASE get those two letters of recommendation. These count as 40% of your score! It is YOUR responsibility to check AwardSpring for the status and follow-up with your references.

• <u>Be aware of the deadlines!</u> There are no extensions, and letters of recommendation will not be accepted after the deadline, either.

Make Your Essay Shine...

Consider writing more than the minimum 250 words. The review committee wants to know your personal story and understand your value. Write an essay that's worth \$500!

Follow the essay prompts. Be as detailed as possible in your essay. Be specific with your goals and aspirations. The more the review committee can learn about you, the better.

Do not use the same essay more than once. The goal is for the committee to learn as much as they can about you and your goals. Essays are randomly checked with plagiarism software. Plagiarism on even one essay will result in disqualification from all scholarships you apply for.

... and Stand Out From the Crowd

- While it is not a requirement, titles and paragraph indentions demonstrate professionalism (but titles shouldn't count as part of your 250 words).
- A well-researched essay goes a long way! Don't forget to give credit where it is
 due. While there is no need for a works cited page, please let us know where you
 gathered your information.
- Be yourself and tell an interesting story, especially if the essay prompt calls for a personal reflection or your point of view.
- Lastly, do not insult the people reading your essay. Do not say anything negative about the essay question, or the scholarship application process. (Duh, right?)

Two Weeks Before the Deadline:

<u>Don't forget to follow up on those recommendation requests</u>. Checking to see whether the recommendations have been turned in is easy (and it's YOUR responsibility). It is a great idea to follow up with a phone call or email to your recommender if they are in "pending" status. Ask if they received the email request. Repeat the email address back to them to ensure it is correct. Correct any errors in the email address or resend

the email to make sure it is on the top of your recommender's email inbox.

When in Doubt, Contact Us!

The Foundation staff are always happy to help students! If you get stuck, contact us to talk through it or schedule an appointment to review your application before you hit "submit."

Christina Reneau
Director of Resource Development
229-225-4060
creneau@southernregional.edu
Thomasville A-231 (Mon-Thurs, 8 am – 6 pm)