

Valencia College

Bridges to Success Scholarship

Application Deadline: January 27, 2022 by 5 PM

<https://valenciacollege.edu/students/bridges-to-success/>

The Bridges to Success Scholarship is a program designed to support students with the transition to college as well as provide a full tuition award and book stipend.

Program Eligibility

- **2022 high school graduate of an Orange or Osceola County high school**
- **Have a minimum 2.75 unweighted academic GPA**
- **Have NOT earned more than 6 college credits from Dual Enrollment (DE) or Advanced Placement (AP) courses.**
- **Have completed community service/documented on high school transcript.**
- **Must be first-generation college student**
- **Complete all the minimum academic courses required by the state of Florida**
- **Qualify for Pell Grant as determined by the FAFSA**
- **Meet Florida residency requirements**
- **Qualify for free or reduced lunch**
- **Must have completed PERT exam or have taken SAT/ACT test**

Bridges to Success Information Session-12/1, 12/8, 1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26

- **If you are interested in the Bridges to Success Scholarship, sign up for an information session at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bridges-to-success-program-informational-session-tickets-164035298995>**
- **At these sessions, you will be given an overview of the Bridges to Success Program and student eligibility.**
- **You cannot be more than 15 minutes late to the session!**

The first step in applying for this scholarship is to complete a Valencia College online application! You won't be able to apply for this scholarship if you don't apply to Valencia first!

(Are you a D/E student? You will not need to reapply to Valencia since you already have an Atlas account!)

- Step 1: Complete Valencia College online application and pay \$35 application fee.
 - <https://valenciacollege.edu/>
 - You will need to submit a Valencia application first (unless you are a D/E student) and the application will need to process before you can access the Bridges to Success scholarship application. This normally takes 5-7 business days.
- Step 2: Check email/mail daily for Valencia ID number.
- Step 3: Once you have your Valencia ID number, create your [Atlas account](#)
- Step 4: Once you are in your Atlas account:
 - Click Students
 - Click Applications
 - Click Bridges to Success Application
 - *You can find the Honors College and the Valencia Foundation Scholarship in the Applications section as well!*
- Step 5: **Submit a complete Bridges to Success Application Checklist by January 27, 2022 by 5 PM.**
 - Complete the Bridges to Success online application.
 - Complete the essay
 - In 800 words or more please answer the following three questions using 12 pt Times New Roman font, double spaced.
 - Why do you want to participate in the Bridges Summer Program?
 - Describe a personal challenge or adversity you've experienced and how you were able to overcome that obstacle (provide specific steps that were necessary).
 - How will the Bridges program help you in achieving your educational and career goals?
 - Include your name and Valencia ID number on all pages of the essay.
 - Save your essay in PDF format!
 - Tell your story! Not just financially but how would being in this scholarship program help you now and in the future?
 - Ask your counselor or Ms. Nelson to review your essay before uploading it to your application.
 - talani.nelson@ocps.net
 - Submit 2 letters of recommendations
 - FERPA Access Waiver
 - We recommend you “waive my right of access to this recommendation”. This reassures colleges that the

information is accurate and truthful and maintains the integrity of the rec letter.

- Ask your recommenders to complete the form. Make sure you give them a couple of weeks before the deadline to complete this form.
- Follow up with recommenders to make sure they submit on time.
- If you don't have a community volunteer reference, you can ask a teacher, counselor, coach, staff member.
- Submit Florida Residency
- Submit the BTS Transcript Request Form by January 14th so we can upload your transcript to your Bridges to Success application.
 - <https://tinyurl.com/bridgestranscript22>
 - Bridges prefers students to have community service hours listed on transcript.
- Complete 2 FAFSA applications at fafsa.gov
 - 2021-2022 FAFSA
 - 2022-2023 FAFSA
- Take PERT Test and send ACT/SAT scores officially to Valencia.
 - You can take the PERT test for free once you have your Valencia ID number.
 - Valencia PERT Testing Information:
<https://valenciacollege.edu/students/assessments/pert.php>
- Complete the Program Forms
 - Assumption of Risk
 - Conference Delegate
 - Talent Release
 - Permission to Treat
 - Student Consent to Release Education Records
- Check Atlas email daily!
 - Bridges will only send communication to your Atlas email (not your personal email).

What is the Bridges to Success Scholarship Program?

Valencia College invites high school seniors to apply for the Bridges to Success Program (BTS). The program is created to enhance the skills needed for academic success. BTS provides an academic, cultural, and social road map that has proven to be successful in graduating ethnically diverse student populations.

BTS begins with a mandatory six-week summer program. Upon successful completion of the summer program students are invited to participate in the Bridges to Success Achievers Program.

- § Proven strategies for success and academic achievement
- § Caring and supportive staff and faculty vested in your future
- § Needed structure to stay focused on academic goals
- § Weekly updates/reminders from Academic Advisors and Program Director
- § Advanced registration for courses during FALL/Spring semesters

What are the requirements of the Bridges to Success Program?

- § Attend 6-week summer program with classes Monday-Friday.
- § Attend campus meetings
- § Complete required tutoring
- § Complete minimum of 30 hours of community service/volunteer service per semester
- § Participate in Day of Service/Adopt A Highway project