

Pathway Retention Award

Recognizing that diversity brings innovation, progress, and greater opportunities for all the Pathway Retention Award was established by the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity to promote the retention of diverse individuals within Old Dominion University. Specifically, the program is designed to provide assistance to students who are on their journey to success, recognizing that their achievements will reflect positively upon the University and that their journey will promote an appreciation and understanding of differences by the University community. For the past few years, the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity has spotlighted the diversity efforts of different colleges from within the University by choosing individual students from individual colleges to be recipients of the Pathway Retention Awards. As of the 2013-2014 academic year, all colleges at Old Dominion University have had students as recipients of this honor. Starting with the 2014-2015 academic year, we are excited to announce that we are opening the award up to all students across the University.

Award

Selected students will receive: A "Block 160 Meal Plan", consisting of 160 meals per semester and \$350.00 worth of flex points that can be used at the ODU Food Court, Subway, Starbucks, and Chick-Fil-A establishments on campus. Additionally, each recipient receives an Old Dominion University Bookstore Scholarship which provides up to \$250.00 each semester for books. The scholarships, valued at over \$3,500.00 each, will enable recipients to focus on achieving their academic goals.

Criteria

Minimum eligibility criteria includes full-time enrollment as a rising sophomore or above, with a minimum 2.5 GPA and being a member of an underrepresented population. Examples of underrepresented populations at Old Dominion University include, but are not limited to, students who 1) are significantly older or younger than other students, 2) do not speak English as their first language, 3) are first-generation college students, 4) are single parent students, 5) are of a minority race/ethnicity, 6) are students with learning disabilities, or 7) work full-time while attending school. These individuals have different goals and reasons for attending ODU. They all have overcome distinctive obstacles that get in the way of their education. They bring unique experiences and insights to their field of study, which can challenge the perceptions of the University community. They cause all of us to assess the world around us differently, sparking innovation, inspiration, and greater understanding.

Entry Requirements

Students meeting basic criteria can compete for the award by submitting a one page essay explaining how receiving the Pathway Retention Award would impact their retention at Old Dominion University as they work toward academic success and ultimately graduation. Essay submissions must be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font, no longer than a single page, and include name, telephone number, email address, and major.

Competitive Selection

Recipients are selected by the Pathway Retention Award Selection Committee. Committee members will review and rank each essay. Students who have composed the most highly ranked essays are selected as award recipients.

Recipient Responsibilities

Recipients are required to complete surveys at a predetermined location on campus. Surveys must be submitted to the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity by a specified date. Recipients will also be required to attend two award ceremonies; an acceptance ceremony hosted by the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity and the end of year award ceremony, hosted by Auxiliary Services.

Important Dates

Essays are due to the following email address OfficeofInstitutionalEquityDiversity@odu.edu no later than **March 7, 2014**. Essays will be reviewed by the Pathway Retention Award Program Selection Committee. Based upon its review, the Committee will select ten recipients. Recipients will be notified by the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, no later than **March 28, 2014** and the awards will be presented on **April 10, 2014**.

If there are additional questions, please contact Lynn C. Smith at 683-3141.

The Pathway Retention Award Program provides assistance to students who are on their journey to success, recognizing their achievements will reflect positively upon the University and that their journey will promote an appreciation and understanding of differences by the University community.

