

2018-19 PATHWAY RETENTION AWARD

The Pathway Retention Award (PRA) was established by The Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity to promote the persistence/matriculation of diverse students attending Old Dominion University (ODU). This award seeks to recognize the value that diverse students bring to the university, including students from underrepresented backgrounds that are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

Award recipients receive a *Block 160 Meal Plan*, consisting of 160 meals per semester and \$350.00 of flex points, which is an extension of the on-campus dining meal plan, accepted only in select on-campus retail food service establishments (*i.e.*, *Chick-Fil-A*, *ODU Food Court*, *Starbucks*, *Subway*). In addition, award recipients receive an ODU Bookstore Award valued at \$400.00 each semester. The distribution of the Award, valued at over \$3,500.00 annually, seeks to support students in their pursuit of academic excellence. Each year ten students are selected to receive the meal plan and bookstore Awards, while three students are selected to receive the bookstore *only* Award. Talented and diverse students, prepared to use their knowledge and experience to advance the ODU campus community towards inclusive excellence, are encouraged to apply.



TERMS/CONDITIONS

Award recipients are expected to serve as a secret shopper for Auxiliary Services during the 2018-2019 school year *and* attend two end-of-the-year award luncheons hosted by The Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity and Auxiliary Services.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

December 1

CONTACT

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Essay submissions are reviewed and ranked by a selection committee, who recommends award distribution to ten students. All students who receive The Pathway Retention Award administered by The Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity must :

- Be a member of an underrepresented group, which includes but is not limited to:
 - documented learning disability
 - first-generation college student
 - native language is not English
 - nontraditional student (e.g., age)
 - racial/ethnic minority
 - single parent
 - works full-time while enrolled at Old Dominion
 - veteran status
- Maintain full-time enrollment
- Maintain good academic standing with a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA

One page essay submissions are due **December 1st** to officeofinstitutionalequitydiversity@odu.edu with a subject line that reads, "PRA Application." Award recipients will be notified by **January 17th**. Students meeting basic criteria compete for the awards by submitting a one-page, Word document, essay explaining (1) how the financial award may impact persistence and (2) how the student would make a positive contribution to their program of study and the ODU campus community. Submissions should follow the following formatting guidelines: 12-point font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, single or double spaced.