

## Cañada Scholarship Program

### TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

Your personal statement is an essay you write about yourself. In your personal statement, please include your personal information and anything you would like to share about yourself and your family with the scholarship committee. Please discuss your academic goals, career goals, involvement in extra-curricular and community service activities, any honors and awards you may have received as well as special circumstances that may warrant additional consideration by the scholarship committee. Financial need is an additional consideration for all need-based scholarships. See below for examples of what to include for each area. **Your personal statement is limited to 7,500 characters (including spaces) so please check this before trying to copy and paste it into the STARS Scholarship application system at <https://starsonline.smccd.edu/Stars/>.**

- Academic Goals - Explain what your academic plans: *Transfer to a 4 year college or university? Get an AA (Associate Arts) or AS (Associate of Science) degree at Cañada College? Get a Career/Technical/Vocational degree? Improve your basic skills or English language ability?*
- Career Goals - Explain how you plan to use your education to meet your career goals: *Get a job or do research in your field of study, get a new job, or get promoted in a job you already have?*
- Extra-Curricular Activities - Explain what activities you are involved in outside of the classroom: *Are you involved in Student Government, school clubs or organizations? Are you participating in varsity athletics?*
- Community Service Activities - Explain what your involvement is in community service or volunteer programs: *Are you involved in a volunteer program, community service projects or your church?*
- Honors and Awards - Explain any awards or honors you have received: *Have you received awards through service, academic programs, any community awards or honors? Are you on the Dean's List, in Honors program, etc.? Have you received any athletic awards?*
- Special Circumstances - Explain any special circumstances you may have personally or within your family: *Do you have any disabilities that challenge you? Do you have any family or living difficulties or other special family circumstances? Do you have any educational disadvantages or financial hardship? Have you overcome personal challenges?*