

**VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**AIMS Higher  
Scholarship Application**

*Washington County Scholar  
Smyth County Scholar  
Citizens in Action (VHS)*

2016-2017

# AIMS Higher Scholarship Application Guidelines

The VHCC Appalachian Inter-Mountain Scholars (AIMS) Higher encourages Virginia-resident students in Washington County, Smyth County, and the City of Bristol to complete a challenging curriculum and to pursue higher education. Students who graduate from high school in 2016 and meet the requirements of their high school program will have the opportunity to attend up to **two years of college without paying any tuition or fees**.

AIMS Higher will **fill the financial aid gaps** for 2016 high school graduates who receive financial aid that is less than the cost of their tuition and fees, or who fail to qualify for any financial aid (this is a gap program for **tuition only**). Students who receive AIMS Higher Scholarships will be expected to enroll continuously full time (at least 12 credits per fall and spring semester) beginning with the fall 2016 semester and complete their coursework within two years. AIMS Higher will pay up to tuition and fees (after all other aid/scholarship is applied) based on the tuition and fee rate applicable on July 1, 2016. ***AIMS Higher is not available for summer semesters.*** To continue receiving AIMS Higher funding while at VHCC, a student must maintain a **2.75 grade point average** and meet all financial aid satisfactory academic standards as outlined in the VHCC catalog. ***Recipients will also be expected to complete 20 hours of community service during their freshman year.***

AIMS Higher Scholarships are being funded through a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission and are subject to the availability of funds.

## What are the academic, attendance, and community service standards for AIMS Higher?

- Students from Washington County Virginia must meet the minimum requirements for the Washington County Scholar Program and receive a Standard or Advanced Diploma. Graduates must have been recognized as Washington County Scholars for at least 3 years while enrolled in a Washington County High School including their senior year.
- Students from Virginia High School must meet the minimum requirements for the Citizens in Action Program, have at least a 2.5 GPA and receive a Standard or Advanced Diploma. Graduates from the class of 2015 must have been recognized as Citizens in Action Scholars for at least 3 years including their senior year.
- Students from Smyth County must achieve a GPA of at least 2.5 (unweighted); maintain a 95% school attendance rate; have no out of school suspensions; and complete 20 hours of community service. Graduates must have achieved all of the above for at least 3 years including their senior year. Students must receive a Standard or Advanced Diploma.

## How can a student apply for the AIMS Higher Scholarship?

AIMS Higher Scholarship applications are available through the VHCC Financial Aid Office, Career Coaches, local high school guidance offices, and at financial aid workshops to be conducted at all area high schools. The scholarship application will include two components: a section to be completed by the student (**which must include the Free Application for Federal Student Aid - FAFSA**), and a section to be completed by the high school counselor. The entire application process ***must be fully completed and submitted*** to the Office of Financial Aid by **Friday, April 22, 2016**. Scholarships will be determined by **June 2016**, and notification to students will occur by **July 2016**.

**Virginia Highlands Community College  
AIMS Higher Scholarship Application**

1. Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle)
2. Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. High School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Describe your hours of community service: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. I will graduate from high school in 2016, have applied for admission to Virginia Highlands Community College and plan to enroll in the Fall Semester of 2016 as a full-time student.
7. I understand that I must have a completed application for financial aid (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on file with the VHCC Office of Student Financial Aid by May 1, 2016.
8. I certify that I will have completed all of the academic, attendance, and community service standards for AIMS no later than my high school graduation date. I certify that I have met all the standards for AIMS 3 of 4 years while enrolled in high school including my senior year.
9. I understand that continuation of this scholarship is dependent on a minimum grade point average of at **least 2.75** each semester of attendance. Additionally students will need to provide documentation of at least 25 community service hours performed during the fall and/or spring semesters. If chosen as a scholarship recipient, my signature on this application gives permission for the release of any photograph and/or promotional material that Virginia Highlands Community College may deem appropriate.

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Application must be submitted by Friday, April 22, 2016**

**High School Guidance Counselor Certification**

I certify that the student has a reasonable expectation of satisfying all of the academic, attendance, and community service standards of this program. The attached high school transcript indicates at least a “C” grade, or current enrollment, in each of the courses required for graduation. A final certification of the academic, attendance, and community service standards will be furnished upon request after graduation.

Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_