



VCF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION SCORING RUBRICS

Applications are scored on a 3300 point scale. The rubrics below are designed as guidelines and do not address all possible aspects of essay and recommendation characteristics.

MAX POINTS		MAX POINTS	DESCRIPTION
1000	Essay #1 - Educational and Career Goals	700	<i>Content</i>
		300	<i>Mechanics (Spelling, Grammar, etc.)</i>
1000	Essay #2 - Community Well-Being and/or Family Responsibilities	700	<i>Content</i>
		300	<i>Mechanics (Spelling, Grammar, etc.)</i>
500	Academic Letter of Recommendation	500	
400	Last Semester's GPA	400	<i>Multiplied by 100</i>
400	Cumulative GPA	400	<i>Multiplied by 100</i>
TOTAL		TOTAL	
3800		3300	<i>Without Phoenix or Supplemental Essays</i>

Scored separately are the **Phoenix essay (pg. 5)** and the **optional supplemental essays (pg. 6)** that follow the same point scale as both required essays in the table above. Students who submit responses for the Phoenix and/or supplemental essays become eligible for additional scholarship opportunities. These scholarship awards, however, are not granted just by essay submission but are scored and ranked accordingly. Points earned for the Phoenix and optional are only utilized for scholarships that require those responses.

1000 POINTS: [ESSAY #1](#) - EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER GOALS

700 POINTS: [ESSAY #1](#) CONTENT – NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Prompt: What area(s) of study are you excited/passionate about and why? Did an experience or mentor lead you to this interest? What career goals do you have that align with this interest? If you have not yet chosen a field of study, how do you see Ventura College assisting you in exploring different paths of study and eventually leading to a career path? Please elaborate on your plans to achieve your goals and what activities you’re doing now (through work or otherwise) to support those goals. Explain how a scholarship can help you.

700 Outstanding	Addresses prompt in clear & concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Describes clear goals & strategies for achieving them. Detailed plan of how scholarship can help in pursuit of goals.	Demonstrates excitement/passion in their area of study and career of interest. If unsure of area of study and career, demonstrates clear knowledge of and desire to engage in opportunities available at VC to get there. Details relevant experience/activities.	Demonstrates strong motivation to succeed.	Great example to the community of a “model” VC student (work ethic, campus involvement...)
500 Strong	Addresses prompt in clear & relatively concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Describes goals & how to achieve them. Addresses how scholarship can help.	Demonstrates excitement in their area of study and career of interest. Or mentions knowledge of and possibility of engaging in opportunities at VC to develop goals. Some relevant experience/activities.	Demonstrates motivation to succeed.	
300 Good	Addresses prompt in clear manner.	Provides relevant information.	Describes goals & some idea of a plan to achieve. Vague idea of how scholarship can help.	Demonstrates generalized interest in their area of study and career of interest. Or has vague understanding of VC’s role in developing. Little relevant experience/activities shared.		
100 So-so	Clear narrative. Addresses prompt.	Provides some relevant information.	Describes goals but not clear on how they plan to accomplish them.	Unclear about area of study and career of interest. Unclear about opportunities at VC to develop this interest. No relevant experience/activities shared.		
50 Poor	Unclear narrative. Does not address prompt.	Does not provide sufficient relevant information.	Unable to assess the applicant’s goals, progress, mitigation of obstacles, or commitment.	Does not identify area of study nor career of interest. Does not include VC’s potential role in developing their interests and/or career goals.		

300 POINTS: **ESSAY #1 MECHANICS – GRAMMAR, SPELLING ETC.**

300:	Perfect
200:	Minor errors
100:	Many errors

1000 POINTS: **ESSAY #2 - COMMUNITY SERVICE AND/OR FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES**

700 POINTS: **ESSAY #2 CONTENT – NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Prompt: Describe how you contribute to the well-being of your community. Discuss your participation in and what you have learned from school or other extracurricular activities, family responsibilities, volunteer work, employment, a particular hobby or other interests. If you have been unable to contribute to the community, tell us why you could not (for example: part-time job, children, lack of transportation or other reasons) and what you would do if you had the time/resources/energy available to participate. If applicable, explain how these experiences align with possible career goals.

700 Outstanding	Addresses prompt in clear & concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Describes extensive participation in efforts that contribute to well-being of their community, family and/or lives of others. If unable, thoroughly details circumstances preventing and has clear vision for and great desire to provide future service.	If applicable, details how interest/talent/efforts and experience align with and support educational and career goals.
500 Strong	Addresses prompt in clear & relatively concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Describes great participation in efforts that contribute to well-being of their community, family and/or lives of others. If unable, describes circumstances preventing and has vision for and desire to provide future service.	
300 Good	Addresses prompt in clear manner.	Provides relevant information.	Describes participation in efforts that contribute to the well-being of their community, family and/or lives of others. If unable, vaguely describes circumstances preventing and has unclear vision for and little desire to provide future service.	
100 So-so	Clear narrative. Addresses prompt.	Provides some relevant information.	Describes minimal community or family involvement. If unable, does not describe circumstances preventing nor idea/desire for future service/participation.	
50 Poor	Unclear narrative. Does not address prompt.	Does not provide sufficient relevant information.	Unable to assess the applicant’s involvement in the community nor desire to be involved in the future.	

300 POINTS: **ESSAY #2 MECHANICS – GRAMMAR, SPELLING ETC.**

300:	Perfect
200:	Minor errors
100:	Many errors

UP TO 400 POINTS: **LAST SEMESTER'S GPA MULTIPLIED BY 100** (Ex: 2.8 GPA = 280 Points)

UP TO 400 POINTS: **CUMULATIVE GPA MULTIPLIED BY 100** (Ex: 2.8 GPA = 280 Points)

500 POINTS: ACADEMIC LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

500 Outstanding	Enthusiastic. Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of applicant	Observes excellence in academic commitment and performance	Verifies obstacles overcome (if relevant)	Very highly recommends applicant
400 Strong	Demonstrates knowledge of applicant	Verifies applicant's strong academic commitment and performance		Highly recommends applicant
300 Good	Demonstrates some knowledge of the applicant	Verifies applicant's academic participation	Notes performance improvements made by applicant	Recommends applicant for scholarship
200 Weak	Provides little information or unenthusiastic responses	Does not verify their academic performance, work ethic, their goals, or their progress towards meeting them, regardless of the checkbox recommendation made.		
100 Not supportive				The recommendation does not support the student

1000 POINTS: PHOENIX ESSAY

700 POINTS: PHOENIX ESSAY CONTENT – NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Prompt: Tell us about your educational journey as a re-entry student, especially any hardships or extenuating circumstances, which resulted in the pause in your education. Please also elaborate why you have decided to complete your education and how your education will support your career goals.

700 Outstanding	Addresses prompt in clear & concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Student clearly describes how he/she has made their return to school and the circumstances that took them away. Compellingly describes strategies in place to succeed.	Keen understanding of education’s role in their career goals. Demonstrates strong motivation to succeed by showing commitment to and strategies for completing a certificate or degree and/or transferring to a four-year University within a 6-year time frame.
500 Strong	Addresses prompt in clear & relatively concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Student describes how he/she has made their return to school and the circumstances that took them away. Describes comprehensive strategies in place to succeed.	Understands education’s role in their career goals. Demonstrates motivation to succeed by showing commitment to and strategies for completing a certificate or degree within a 6-year time frame.
300 Good	Addresses prompt in clear manner.	Provides relevant information.	Student describes the circumstances that took them away from school and reasonable approaches for how he/she is prepared to succeed.	
100 So-so	Clear narrative. Addresses prompt.	Provides some relevant information.	Student does not address the circumstances that took them away from school or does so but is unclear on how he/she is prepared to succeed.	
50 Poor	Unclear narrative. Does not address prompt.	Does not provide sufficient relevant information.	Student either does not address the circumstances that took them away from school or does so but is unconvincing regarding how he/she is prepared to succeed.	

300 POINTS: PHOENIX ESSAY MECHANICS – GRAMMAR, SPELLING ETC.

300:	Perfect
200:	Minor errors
100:	Many errors

1000 POINTS: SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS

700 POINTS: SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAY CONTENT – NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Prompt: How do you demonstrate a commitment to and/or leadership in advocating for _____? You may include community service work, education, employment, involvement in related student clubs or organizations, etc.

Options include gender equality, immigrant (documented and/or undocumented) rights, Hispanic/Latinx/Mexican communities, African American/Black communities, Native American communities, social justice and/or anti-racism.

700 Outstanding	Addresses prompt in clear & concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Student clearly describes numerous activities with detailed explanation of impact.	Demonstrates strong leadership in mentioned activities.	Demonstrates strong motivation to continue work/serve in this area.
500 Strong	Addresses prompt in clear & relatively concise manner.	Provides relevant information.	Student describes numerous activities with explanation of impact.	Demonstrates leadership in mentioned activities.	Indicates that they may continue work/serve in this area.
300 Good	Addresses prompt in clear manner.	Provides relevant information.	Student describes some activities and impact.		Indicates that they would like to do more for the cause in the future.
100 So-so	Clear narrative. Addresses prompt.	Provides some relevant information.	Student has not engaged in any activities.		Indicates that they would like to do more for the cause in the future.
50 Poor	Unclear narrative. Does not address prompt.	Does not provide sufficient relevant information.	Student has not engaged in any activities.		Indicates no plans to support the cause in the future.

300 POINTS: SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAY MECHANICS – GRAMMAR, SPELLING ETC.

300:	Perfect
200:	Minor errors
100:	Many errors