

EXCEL Winter Scholarship **Southwestern Michigan College**

The EXCEL Program is a federally funded, Title IV national TRiO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education especially designed to provide eligible students with academic support services to achieve personal and educational success. The EXCEL Winter Scholarship is available to active, eligible participants. A goal of the EXCEL Program is to graduate and transfer eligible students. This scholarship is intended to help defray the costs of attending SMC.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Making good academic progress – this is based on your Counselor’s recommendation and the Committee’s final decision.
2. Pell grant eligible and have unmet need as defined by the financial aid office.
3. Enrolled in at least 6 credits in Winter semester.
4. Participated in at least one EXCEL activity or two Stretch Beyond workshops in either Fall or Winter semesters of this academic year.
5. Completed the 2008-2009 FAFSA. Financial Aid workshops are available in February.
6. Students must display good character and be a positive role model for the program.
7. Contact your EXCEL Counselor at least twice a semester.
8. Meet standards for Academic Good Standing.

Instructions:

1. Please complete application thoroughly either typed or in neat print.
2. Please attach an essay of at least two pages that answers the specific questions stated on the application. Your essay must be typed and double spaced.
3. An EXCEL staff member must receive your completed scholarship application by **February 29th, 2008**, to be considered for the scholarship. Applications received after the deadline or *without* an essay will not be considered. Completion of the Scholarship Application and Essay does not guarantee receipt of a scholarship.
4. All scholarship recipients will be notified by phone no later than March 10, 2008.
5. Send or physically bring in your application and essay to:
 - EXCEL Office in Academic Support, within the College Services Building on the Dowagiac campus; or,
 - Laura Skillings, EXCEL Counselor, at the Niles Area Campus; or,
 - Email your application and essay to Vicki Maxa, Director of EXCEL Program, vmaxa@swmich.edu



Application for the EXCEL Winter Scholarship

Contact Information:

Full Name: _____

Student ID: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ EXCEL Counselor: _____

Essay Instructions:

Please type a detailed essay answering the following questions. All of your responses should at least two typed double-spaced pages with a 12-point font. Use this page as your cover page for your essay.

Essay Questions:

1. How will the scholarship help you achieve your educational and career goals?
2. Tell us of an instance where EXCEL staff and/or services were helpful to you.
3. Identify resources available to you as a student at SMC and describe how one or more of those resources has been helpful to you.
4. At this point in time, explain your thoughts and plans for transferring to a university.

By signing below, I attest that all information submitted for consideration of scholarship is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I am aware that I must immediately notify my EXCEL counselor if I intend to drop or withdraw from a class during the semester I receive this scholarship.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

For Office Use Only:

- Met with Mentor (if assigned).
 - Date received: _____
 - Met with Counselor at least twice a semester.
 - Attended one or more EXCEL activities: _____
 - Received tutoring.
 - Hours enrolled: _____
 - Academic good standing; Overall GPA: _____; Prev Semester GPA: _____
 - Pell eligible.
 - Unmet financial need: \geq \$400.
 - Other: _____
 - Counselor recommendation: _____
- _____