



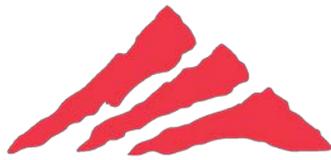
MHCC Foundation Scholarships Essay Examples

Essays are the most important component of the MHCC scholarship application, and make up the majority of an applicant's overall score. There are four essay questions and each response is limited to 200 words. The following essays are examples taken from the applications of past scholarship recipients. All examples are shared with the authors' permission.

1. What are your specific education plans and career goals and why? What inspires you to achieve them?

I am studying funeral services with the plan to become a licensed funeral director and embalmer after graduation. I chose this degree after spending several years working as a family service representative at a local non-profit cemetery. I really enjoyed being able to serve families during one of the most difficult times in their life, and knowing that I always did my absolute best to make the experience as smooth and easy as possible for them. I feel that I possess a high level of empathy and interpersonal skills, which allows me to really connect with the families I serve, while still being professional and efficient. I believe it is important for me to excel in school in order to be a top candidate when applying for jobs in a traditionally male dominated profession.

I was born and raised in a very poor village in Vietnam. I witnessed a lot of people who had to struggle to survive. Many of them were sick and often died due to lack of access to medical care. Seeing death and pain firsthand inspired me to pursue a nursing career because I believe the nursing profession will give me the opportunity to help and take care of people in times of need. I completed the nursing assistant training program last summer. I want to have experience in the medical field, so I plan on working as a nursing assistant while pursuing a nursing degree. I will finish all the nursing prerequisites by the end of fall term and be ready to apply for the nursing program at MHCC. I am aware that there are many obstacles toward my dream. However, I am prepared to overcome every challenge, and I believe I can be successful because I have clear determination, a positive attitude, and serious passion for nursing.



2. What have you done for your family or community that you care about the most and why?

When I was in high school, I spent several years volunteering for and acting as a board member for a non-profit. I grew up in a relatively small town where there was not a whole lot to do for people under the age of 21, and where there was a growing problem with methamphetamine. We wanted to provide both volunteer opportunities and youth oriented events to keep kids busy in a way that would not lead to getting into trouble or drug use. We organized and sponsored dances, concerts, trash clean-ups, and even had a radio show. This experience gave me not only the opportunity for my own personal growth, but also an opportunity to enrich the community experience for other young people. I learned to work with people from a variety of backgrounds, and learned how to be self-sufficient and self-motivated, which has greatly contributed to my academic success thus far.

My dad was in a traumatic car accident about seven years ago. I graduated high school a year early to take care of him. My family is a great priority to me and I love them very much. I cared for my father when he couldn't walk and take care of himself because of his broken back. Showing care to my dad made me realize that I wanted to become a nurse. I enjoy caring for people and helping them feel better. Since his accident, he is doing a lot better, and I am very proud that I helped him improve his health. Reflecting back to this time, I see how my actions improved his life and this is what makes it so special and meaningful to me. Helping people brings me joy and seeing how my actions can benefit someone's life is the greatest reward.

I come from a very conservative family that believes education isn't very important, especially for married women. In my culture, women are expected to get married young, have children and stay home to care for the husband and kids. For this reason, I was strongly discouraged to go to college and work toward a career. But I have always had the desire to further my education so I decided to challenge my family's rigid opinions and enroll in college, becoming the first female in my family to go to college. I believe my decision inspired my younger sisters to continue their



education. Today, we are all enrolled in school and working hard to reach our dreams. Similarly, for two years, I have had the opportunity to mentor women in the Transiciones Program, a great college preparation program that provides Latina women with the necessary skills to succeed in college. I am very grateful to be able to help these students and encourage them to be successful women in the community. I want to lead by example, I try my best to keep my younger sisters, and the women I mentor, motivated to reach their career goals.

3. Describe a personal accomplishment and the strengths and skills you used to achieve it.

In July 2016, I earned my GED. It was a dream come true for me because I had tried to study many times before that, but was not able to take the test. Whenever I tried, something held me back, but finally, I succeeded and finished it. I studied one subject intensely at a time and took the test when I was ready. I did practice tests online and read different books. I spent a lot of time studying and I minimized my leisure time. After I got my GED, my self-esteem and confidence grew significantly towards my abilities of studying anything I wanted. Now, I am a college student. I realized when I put time and effort toward something, I could learn anything. It felt good to finally share with my wife and kids, the accomplishment I had made. I can now proudly say I have a high school equivalency certificate.

I am a mother of three children and while working part-time, I completed all the prerequisites for nursing school with a great GPA, above 3.57 – while also taking good care of my family. I am proud of this achievement because it required a lot of work and commitment. This accomplishment taught me that nothing is impossible if someone is organized, dedicated and has patience in life. I learned from my mother to be well organized, and ask for help if needed. Those skills, in addition to my strength, kept me going when overwhelmed with schoolwork and family demands. I always make a list of what I need to do and execute it according to priority. For example, I would wake up as early as possible to get my children ready for school before I leave so I could make it to my own classes on time. With my success in getting accepted to nursing school, I feel accomplished – and this reinforces my belief that no success is unachievable.



I believe firmly that this quote represents my life in the United States, specifically in my process to learn English, "In the struggle between the stream and the rock, the stream always wins, not because it is stronger but because it perseveres." My first day in class at MHCC, I experienced a different country, different classmates, and a different culture. I thought it would be easy because I like to study. Before, every time I had questions I used to ask the teachers; however, that day was really different. I didn't understand the directions from the teacher. I observed that most of my classmates were participating in the class, but I couldn't understand anything. I wrote every word that my instructor wrote on the board to try to understand better. That day, many feelings invaded me: despair, frustration, and I doubted if I was prepared to study this new language. However, after that first day, I began my way to the unknown, but interesting world of the English Language. Now my English is improving every day and GPA is over 3.8. I know it won't be easy, but I am going to persist until I attain my goals.

4. Describe a significant change or event that has occurred in your life? How did you respond and what did you learn about yourself?

Less than a year ago, my 17 year relationship ended. With that ending, I lost my sense of purpose, my sense of security, and everything I thought I knew. I wanted to curl up and disappear. Instead, I chose to get up and start making plans to take care of myself and my beautiful daughter. Once I was able to secure assistance and a place for us to live, I started to think long term about how to care for my "new" family. I knew that I needed a career that would make enough to provide fully for us, but in order to get that career I needed an education. So I applied to MHCC and found childcare for my daughter. With that came my mental availability to focus on school knowing that she is safe. Through this season I've learned: I'm much stronger than I ever thought I could be, that I can accomplish what I set out to do in the face of uncertainty, and in spite of all this life change, I'm still me, and finding who I am again is an incredible journey.

Every summer the FBI holds a competitive leadership academy for youth. I got accepted and had the chance to experience being around a lot of talented, fearless individuals. It was extraordinary being able to step into the shoes of a special agent



for four days. I feel like the academy gave me a sneak peek into what my future could be. I used this opportunity to ask the FBI agents a lot of questions I had such as, "What made you want to join the FBI?" The answer that I most commonly got back was that they wanted to join so they could give back to the community. Being involved in the FBI youth leadership academy helped me realize what I wanted to do. After talking with a couple of special agents and hearing how much they loved what they did, it made me want to help and give back like them. That's why I want to work for the human sex trafficking unit to help young women and men get out of a horrible life they are being forced to live.