

The Karen Keener PROF Scholarship

What is the PROF Scholarship?

The Professors of the Future (PROF) Scholarship was established in 1997 by the late Karen M. Keener, who joined the English faculty at Parkland College in 1970 and was chair of the Humanities Department when she retired in 2000. Professor Keener was a strong proponent of diversifying our faculty. This scholarship is an effort to achieve that diversity by offering opportunities for underrepresented students to enter the field of college teaching.

The (PROF) program selects outstanding Parkland students and assists them in becoming community college teachers by providing financial and mentoring support. Our goal is to help these students to complete their bachelor's and master's degrees and, when opportunities are available, to have them return to teach at Parkland as PROF scholars. PROF scholars are encouraged to apply for any faculty positions that become available in their disciplines at Parkland.

What benefits does a PROF Scholar receive?

- A total of \$9,000 spread over four years
- A mentoring relationship with a Parkland faculty member in the student's discipline

Who can apply?

Any current or recent Parkland student who meets the following criteria may apply. The student:

- Must be a member of an underrepresented group within the discipline or program in which the student aspires to teach
- Must be a United States citizen or a permanent resident
- Must not already have a bachelor's degree

What are the academic requirements?

To qualify, a student must:

- Have completed at least 24 credit hours towards the academic program in which the student hopes to teach
- Have at least a 3.2 GPA
- Have compelling academic promise
- Set a career goal of teaching in a community college

After acceptance, the scholar must:

- Successfully transfer to a four-year college or university in the calendar year of the award
- Complete bachelor's and master's degrees in the discipline declared during the application process. The master's degree must be completed within three years after earning the bachelor's.
- Submit transcripts each semester. The scholarship funds will be allocated upon submission of each semester's transcript, with a total of \$9,000 spread over four years.

- Participate in a mentoring relationship with a Parkland faculty member in the student's discipline
- Return to Parkland during the period of the scholarship to participate in student engagement activities

The deadline is Friday, April 12, 2019, at 5:00 PM.

You can read more about the scholarship and former recipients and can download the application form at <http://www.parkland.edu/academics/PROF.aspx>

With the application form, students must also submit:

- Two letters of recommendation from Parkland faculty
- A 750-1000-word essay sharing personal history, career goals, and experiential knowledge which make the applicant an exceptional candidate for this program
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, including Parkland College

Questions? Please contact one of the Karen Keener PROF Scholars Committee Chairs:

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The Karen Keener PROF Scholars Committee includes:

Dr. Britt Carlson, Chemistry

Dr. Isabel Scarborough, Anthropology

Jing Shi, Library

Julie Weishar, Chair, Fine and Applied Arts