

## **ATRA Entry to Practice Bursary Guidelines and Application**

### **Background**

The Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) supports ATRA student members in the pursuit of therapeutic recreation education for the purpose of becoming a Professional Member of ATRA. Offering a scholarship to students at the diploma and degree level addresses ATRA's purpose of providing professional development, research & education opportunities and establishing and improving consistent standards for practice for TR professionals entering into practice. The aim of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance to part time or full time students pursuing post-secondary studies towards a Diploma or Degree that is eligible for ATRA Professional Membership. It is also intended to support Alberta based Therapeutic Recreation programs and increase awareness of Therapeutic Recreation as a profession to students and educators.

### **Criteria**

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Enrollment at one of the following Alberta based Professional Membership eligible programs;
  - Lethbridge College Therapeutic Recreation – Gerontology Diploma
  - NorQuest College Therapeutic Recreation Diploma
  - University of Lethbridge Post-Diploma Bachelor of Therapeutic Recreation
  - University of Alberta's Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Sports and Tourism
- ✓ A demonstrated commitment to a career in Therapeutic Recreation
- ✓ Work and volunteer experience in Recreation Therapy settings\*\*
- ✓ Memberships, awards and distinctions\*\*

\*\*indicates criteria that are not mandatory to be able to apply for the ATRA Entry to Practice Bursary

### **Financial Responsibility**

When applying, applicants will include in their Rationale for Request letter confirmation that funding (other grants, bursaries or scholarships) has not previously been received for this education opportunity.

Once the bursary acceptance letter has been received, no other source of funding should be accepted for the same Diploma or Degree courses that the ATRA Entry to Practice Bursary has been awarded for. Should another bursary opportunity arise after the ATRA Entry to Practice Bursary acceptance letter has been received the successful applicant has a responsibility to inform ATRA which funding source they choose to accept.

## **Annual Allotments**

The Education Bursary Application Review Committee established by ATRA will review all applications with financial sponsorship targets set within the annual budget. The annual application deadline will be September 15 of each year. Applications for both retroactive entry to practice educational pursuits (six months post) and upcoming pursuits (six months hence) will be reviewed.

## **Applicant Procedures**

- Complete all portions of the application form (incomplete forms will be returned) and submit to [educationdirector@alberta-tr.org](mailto:educationdirector@alberta-tr.org) prior to September 15 of each year.
- Provide additional information if requested by the Educational Bursary Application Review Committee.
- Applicants will be notified by e-mail from the Education Director of the status of their application no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to the receipt of the award amount the responsibility of the applicant is to:

- Submit transcripts as proof of course completion for the same Diploma or Degree courses that the ATRA Entry to Practice Bursary has been awarded for.
- Submit receipts for the same Diploma or Degree courses and or textbooks that the ATRA Entry to Practice Bursary has been awarded for.

**ATRA Entry to Practice Bursary – Application Form**

<b>Demographics</b>	<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>e-mail: _____</p> <p>Contact phone number: _____</p> <p>Current year of education program: _____</p> <p>Anticipated year of graduation: _____</p> <p>Number of years registered as student member with ATRA: _____</p>
<b>Entry to Practice Undergraduate pursuit</b>	<p><b>Study towards:</b></p> <p>_____ Lethbridge College Therapeutic Recreation – Gerontology Diploma</p> <p>_____ NorQuest College Therapeutic Recreation Diploma</p> <p>_____ University of Lethbridge Post-Diploma Bachelor of Therapeutic Recreation</p> <p>_____ University of Alberta Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Sports and Tourism</p> <p>Specific courses for which the ATRA Entry to Practice Bursary is being applied for;</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<b>Requested Funds</b>	<p>Textbooks: \$ _____</p> <p>Tuition: \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL: _____</p>
<b>Rationale for Request</b>	<p>Please write a letter (minimum of 250 words) referencing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ A demonstrated commitment to a career in Therapeutic Recreation</li> <li>✓ Work and volunteer experience in Recreation Therapy settings</li> <li>✓ Memberships, awards and distinctions</li> <li>✓ Confirmation that funding has not previously been received for this entry to practice pursuit.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">_____ Letter attached</p>
<b>Submission Process</b>	<p>Form, letter and transcripts can be completed electronically or scanned and sent to;</p> <p><b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:educationdirector@alberta-tr.org">educationdirector@alberta-tr.org</a></p>