ABOUT THE PROMISE

The Rusk TJC Citizens Promise began as a vision of the Perkins family as a way of giving back to their hometown of Rusk, Texas. The vision became a reality in February 2014.

When it began, the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise was one of only 23 Promise programs in the United States and the first community-based Promise program in Texas. The program provides Rusk graduates with $4,000 per year for a maximum award of $8,000 over two years at TJC.

The program is a partnership between Citizens 1st Bank, the Perkins Family Foundation, TJC, the TJC Foundation and Rusk ISD.

Tyler Junior College is responsible for the administration of the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise.

All inquiries should be directed to:

TJC Scholarship Office
PO Box 9020
Tyler, TX 75711-9020

White Administrative Services Center
Corner of East Fifth Street and Baxter Avenue

903.510.3234
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

• Graduate from Rusk High School in top half of class with a minimum 2.5 GPA (based on rank at completion of junior year)
• Reside within Rusk ISD
• Attend RHS for grades 11 and 12

PROMISE REQUIREMENTS

• Enroll as full-time TJC student each fall and spring semester (at least 12 credit hours)
• Complete at least 67 percent of enrolled credit classes each semester and maintain a minimum 2.0 semester GPA and 2.5 cumulative GPA
• If criteria is not maintained, a student may be reinstated after he/she pays own expenses for one semester and meets all requirements

AT TJC, RUSK PROMISE STUDENTS RECEIVE

• Individual monthly progress meetings with Rusk Promise scholarship coordinator
• First consideration for volunteer opportunities
• Free on-campus tutoring
• Degree plan review in advance of transfer/graduation
• Career counseling on résumé-building and future job possibilities
• Graduates receive special cords signifying their participation in the Rusk TJC Citizens Promise program

DURING THEIR SENIOR YEAR, STUDENTS WHO ACCEPT THE PROMISE RECEIVE

• Monthly visits to RHS by the scholarship coordinator for important information on the college admissions process, scholarship requirements, financial aid, and all other things related to TJC.
• Special workshop by TJC financial aid staff for one-on-one assistance in completing the FAFSA.

This scholarship is a great opportunity for students to begin their academic career without going into debt. The requirements were not too steep, and I felt that they motivated me to do better in my studies. Megan (scholarship coordinator) kept us on track and made sure we met our requirements, but I felt that she became a friend as well as our coordinator.

Jessica Reynolds
Rusk TJC Graduate

TJC IS ALL ABOUT EXCELLENCE

1st community college in Texas approved to offer a Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.

53 National Junior College Athletic Association national championships.

TJC’s Alpha Omicron Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the community college honor society, is one of the top 30 chapters of more than 1,300 chapters internationally, and Alpha Omicron is the 10th oldest chapter in the nation.

Consistently tops in the state and nation in academics, speech and debate, and student media.

In 2016, TJC was named one of the nation’s top 150 community colleges (of more than 1,100) by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program.

TJC is regarded as a model for best practices in creating a safe and civil campus environment.

TJC holds Leader College status with Achieving the Dream, the nation’s foremost reform movement for community colleges.

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