



### **The OCC Advantage Program Solvay High School**

The OCC Advantage program, launched in 2016, is a college and career-readiness pilot program offered to entering freshmen at Solvay High School. The program supports the development of skills, behaviors and habits that prepare a student for success in high school, college and career. Students who successfully complete the OCC Advantage program while in high school will be eligible to receive a first semester full-tuition scholarship with the opportunity to earn three subsequent semesters at Onondaga Community College.

The OCC Advantage is a scholarship applied **after** any state or federal grants, public or private scholarship or other non-loan financial aid for which a student is qualified is applied to his/her account. Students will be responsible for room and board, books, supplies, transportation and other expenses outside of full-time tuition and fees at Onondaga Community College.

#### **Expectations for the OCC Advantage Program as a Solvay High School Student:**

Students may sign up for the OCC Advantage Program in the first semester of their freshman year. Once in the program the student **MUST** complete the following:

1. Grade Point Average - maintain the following cumulative high school course GPA requirements (on a 4.0 scale):
  - Freshman year—70% average (based on 2<sup>nd</sup> semester average)
  - Sophomore year—73% average
  - Junior year—75% average
  - Senior year—77% average
  
2. Meet the following attendance requirements during high school (number of **unexcused** absences):
  - Freshman year—5 days (based on 2<sup>nd</sup> semester average)
  - Sophomore year—9 days
  - Junior year—8 days
  - Senior year—7 days

3. Complete community service as required by Solvay High School.
4. Successfully complete required college readiness programming to be organized, developed, and funded based upon the annual calendar, and to include topics such as career exploration, college success skills, and if necessary, attend a restorative program for students whose enrollment may be in jeopardy due to requirements #1 and #2.
5. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and apply for the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) by March 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year, and complete the application and apply for the New York State Excelsior Scholarship by the annual deadline established by New York State.
6. Apply to Onondaga Community College by March 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year at Solvay High School. Students are not required to attend Onondaga Community College to participate in the OCC Advantage program while in high school. However, the scholarship is only for Solvay graduates who meet the requirements and who enroll within one year of high school graduation as a full-time student at Onondaga Community College.

#### **Expectations for the OCC Advantage Program as an OCC Student:**

The following criteria is required of each participant to maintain the OCC Advantage scholarship, while enrolled at Onondaga Community College:

1. Participate in the Onondaga Community College welcome activities and orientation program prior to beginning freshman year.
2. Full-time enrollment every semester – minimum of 15 credits per semester with completion of 30 credits per academic year. Summer courses may be used to fulfill the 30 completed credits requirement, at the expense of the student.
3. Consecutive enrollment – fall/spring until certificate/degree is completed.
4. FAFSA completion and application to the New York State TAP Program – each year by March 1. Apply for the New York State Excelsior Scholarship by the annual deadline as established by New York State.
5. Community service – participation in at least one college-sanctioned service activity or enrollment in 1 service learning course.
6. GPA requirements (on a 4.0 scale):
  - 1<sup>st</sup> semester – 2.2
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> semester – 2.3
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> semester – 2.5
  - 4<sup>th</sup> semester – 2.5