



# Presbyterian Study Grant

## Guidelines for Applicants

### Range of Awards

up to \$6,000 in need-based aid. People of color are eligible for up to \$2,000 in supplemental aid. Additional aid available for Native American/Alaska Native tribe members.

### Number of Awards

100 Presbyterian Study Grant, up to 40 People of Color supplemental grants

### Deadlines

#### Student Deadline

Second Monday in May (May 13)

#### Recommender Deadline

First Monday in June (June 3)

### Eligibility

#### MACE/F

- Students preparing for a career as a Christian Educator
- Presbyterian Church U.S.A. member
- No more than 2 awards

#### MDiv MDiv/dual degree

- Students preparing for a career as a Minister of Word and Sacrament
  - Must be under care of Presbytery by September 1 - no more than two awards
  - Students in final year of study must advance to Candidacy by November 1
- Must attend an ATS accredited seminary or divinity school seeking a first professional degree for ministry.
- Must be in good standing and demonstrate financial need.

Presbyterian Study Grant serves students preparing for a career in ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Our goal is to reduce financial barriers to service in PCUSA worshipping communities and agencies by reducing the amount of money students may need to borrow to complete an education required for service in the church. The applicant must demonstrate readiness for ministry through practice of spiritual disciplines in seminary life and have displayed to their home church the gifts they bring to congregational leadership. MDiv students must be recommended by the CPM in the Presbytery of care.

No more than 100 students are awarded per academic year. PSG can be awarded up to three times to students who have not completed the first professional degree (required for certification or ordination).

Students in this program with educational debt are also invited to use the denomination's student loan repayment coaching program.

## Kaleidoscope

Kaleidoscope is the Presbyterian Mission Agency's online scholarship application partner. Make [support@mykaleidoscope.com](mailto:support@mykaleidoscope.com) a trusted sender.

### Process

- Start here [www.pcusa.org/psg](http://www.pcusa.org/psg) and register. When you create an online account, you can work on your application at your own pace. Your work is saved.
- Complete the FAFSA and apply for financial aid through the seminary or divinity school you plan to attend.
- Gather information needed to complete the application:
  - Name and email address of:
    - Clerk of Session and/or pastor (Christian Education)
    - CPM Moderator or Liaison (Master's of Divinity)
    - Financial Aid Counselor
    - Faculty recommender or Admissions Director at the seminary or divinity school (students starting seminary for the first time in the Fall, and transfer students)
- Follow the instructions in the application and complete the application steps by the second Monday in May (May 13).
- Log in to your student account to check the status of your application and follow up with third party endorsers and recommenders until the application is complete.
- Third party endorsements and recommendations are due the first Monday in June (June 3).

# Essay Requirements and Awards

## Guidelines for Applicants

### Essay Overview

Awardees are required to write an essay each year. The purpose of the essay is to help the selection committee understand what God is calling you to do in ministry. After the first essay, we will ask you to reflect on that answer and tell the reading committee about how your experiences at seminary, in supervised ministry, and with mentors is shaping your sense of call.

### Essay Guidelines

Your essay should be 500—1,000 words long. Readers will be instructed to consider how creatively and comprehensively you address the question. Readers will expect your work to be appropriate to grade level and thoroughly proofread.

The essay should be written in the language of instruction; students attending seminary in Puerto Rico may submit their essay in Spanish.



### Use of Award

Presbyterian Study Grant and the People of Color supplemental award may be used for expenses including but not limited to: tuition, books, fees, housing, subsistence, transportation, and incidental expenses generally considered part of the student budget. We verify expenses by checking the cost of attendance described on the seminary or divinity school's website. We will ask the financial aid office to submit additional expenses in the areas of dependent care and medical necessity only if we are unable to document need using cost of attendance.

After the expenses normally paid to the seminary or divinity school have been fully discharged, the seminary or divinity school receiving the award on behalf of the student may release the residual to the student.

Presbyterian Study Grant and the Supplemental grants for People of Color cannot be used for study abroad, or for the elementary, secondary, or post-secondary education of a dependent or spouse. Dependents and spouses who are also PCUSA members attending college should apply to Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates.

### Contingent Awards

Applicants may be selected to receive Presbyterian Study Grant on a contingent basis. Typically, this is due to an unresolved aspect of eligibility that does not require information used for selection. Contingent Awards are offered with an expiration date. All Contingent Awards must be finalized by November 1 of the year of award or the award is withdrawn.

### Vacated Award

From time-to-time awardees may reduce hours to below full-time or withdraw from their program. At that time, the award will be considered vacated and will be cancelled or recovered from the seminary. Vacated awards cannot be assigned to another term or academic year.

## Other Information



### Full-time study

In prior years we have used the phrase ‘normally enrolled full-time’ to describe those periods when a student might not be considered full-time because a required course is not available, or the student is participating in supervised ministry. We have also used normally enrolled to give the greatest consideration to what is considered full-time enrollment at the seminary or divinity school the student attends.

An exception to full-time enrollment is made for students within twelve months of graduation who will satisfy requirements for the degree program attending less than full-time.

### Deadlines & Extensions

Students with complete applications may be offered one extension for an element of the application completed by a church leader or financial aid office. Extensions are offered if the complete and eligible application pool is no more than 1.5 times the number of awards that can be offered.

### Alternate Contacts

The online application system cannot be configured to support alternate contacts. Our online application is managed by a third-party service. We accept alternate email addresses for the applicant.

### Confidentiality of Evaluations

Do not share your user ID/password, or any application links sent to your email after you have started the application.

Information collected to support your application is maintained by Kaleidoscope for the office of Financial Aid for Service. The church membership/pastor endorsement form, work product of the college or university the student attends, and the reading committee are confidential and will not be released to the student and/or parent/guardian. Applications are viewed only by staff members with responsibility for the Presbyterian Mission Agency scholarship program, reading committee members, and financial aid staff at the student’s selected college or university.

Apply now!  
Start your application at  
[www.pcusa.org/psg](http://www.pcusa.org/psg)

