

# Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates



Presbyterian Mission  
**Financial Aid  
for Service**

Between twenty-five and thirty rising freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be selected for award. Awardees are eligible for renewal but must re-apply each year. Presbyterian Mission Agency's mission work plan emphasizes relieving poverty and reducing the impact of systems of white supremacy. These goals allow for additional funding for students of color, students who are the first in their family to attend college and students with unusually high need.



Online application powered by

**Kaleidoscope**

- Help available in the application.
- Opportunity to apply for more scholarships through Kaleidoscope.
- Email: [help@mykaleidoscope.com](mailto:help@mykaleidoscope.com)

## Eligibility

Presbyterian Church (USA) members who are:

- Enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university in the United States
- Seeking a first associates or bachelor's degree
- Eligible to receive need-based aid – all applicants must complete the FAFSA.
- Making satisfactory academic progress

## Range of Award

Minimum: \$250  
Maximum: \$4,000

## Deadline

*May 15:* Student portion of on-line application completed  
*June 5:* Third party elements due

## Awards

*July 15:* Scholarship recipients

## The Process at a Glance

*These steps will be completed by the applicant.*

- 1 Complete the FAFSA. Sign up for financial aid at the college or university you plan to attend.
- 2 Gather information needed to complete the application.
- 3 Visit [www.pcusa.org/college](http://www.pcusa.org/college) and click the apply now button to get to the application. Create an online account with Kaleidoscope if you have not already.
- 4 Complete all application steps in the online application system by **May 15th**.
- 5 Follow up with third party endorsers and recommenders until application is complete. **Deadline for these elements is June 5<sup>th</sup>.**

*These steps will be completed by the office of Financial Aid for Service*

- 6 Endorsement requests and Financial Information Form sent to the college or university that you attend.
- 7 Applications are read by a reading committee.
- 8 Award letters notifying the student and the school will be sent by July 15.



## For the Applicant:

- 1 Complete the FAFSA. Sign up for financial aid at the college or university you plan to attend.**
- 2 Gather the information needed to complete the application.**
  - Name and address of the worshiping community you attend
  - Name and email of your pastor or clerk of session
  - Name and email address of a church leader or someone else in your life who can answer questions about your character and commitment to the values of this program. This cannot be someone you reside with.
  - Information about where, when, and what you have studied to date.
  - General information about your interests and goals.
  - General information about extracurricular activities, volunteer work, and employment.
  - The name and email address of your financial aid counselor at the college or university that you plan to attend in the fall.
- 3 Set up an online account.**

Follow the link at [www.pcusa.org/college](http://www.pcusa.org/college) to the application you plan to complete. The link will take you to Kaleidoscope. The email address used in the first part of the application will be your user id. Follow the instructions provided in your inbox to set up an online account, authenticate your identity and begin the application. If you need help with the application, email [help@mykaleidoscope.com](mailto:help@mykaleidoscope.com)
- 4 Complete the remaining application elements in the online application system by May 15th.**

This includes writing an essay. You can find more details about the essay requirements on the next page of this guide. You will be asked to allow us to contact your endorsers after the essay section of the application. If you do not allow us to contact your endorsers you will be required to collect the paper endorsements on your own. Financial Aid for Service will contact you with more information if you select this option.
- 5 Follow up with third party endorsers and recommenders.**

Financial Aid for Service will send reminders to the email you provide for your endorsers periodically, but it is the responsibility of the applicant to complete their application. Endorsers can contact Kaleidoscope help at any time for any issues with receiving the email, creating an account or accessing the form. [help@mykaleidoscope.com](mailto:help@mykaleidoscope.com)

## For the Office of Financial Aid for Service

- 6 Financial Information Form sent to the college or university that you attend.**

The Financial Information Form is the final element of the application and will be completed by the financial aid office at the college or university the student plans to attend. Our office will send the form to your financial aid counselor. When the form is complete, they will send it back to our office.
- 7 Applications are read by a reading committee.**

A reading committee will meet in June to select students for awards. The reading committee selects students based on personal qualities of character and leadership reflected in contributions to church, school, and community and how creative and complete the student's essay is.
- 8 Award letters will be sent by July 15th.**

Selected students will be eligible for up to \$4,000 in funding, dependent on need.



## Essay Overview

Awardees are required to write an essay each year. The purpose of the essay is to explore vocation by thinking about who God created you to be. Over the next four years we would like to partner with you to come to a deeper understanding of your place in the world. What gifts do you have? What inspires you and brings you joy? We'll ask you to think about community, how you see and experience the Gospel in the world now, and ways you are challenged to see the Gospel in new and surprising ways. Before you graduate, we'll challenge you to think about the ways you are called.

## 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 college in Puerto Rico may submit their essay in Spanish.

### Freshman Essay

*"Find out who you are and do it on purpose".*

*-Dolly Parton*

Dolly Parton gives us a great definition of Christian Vocation in this quote. You may have heard a pastor or church leader talk about "call" before. This simply means finding out who we are and doing it on purpose.

- *Do you have a clear sense of who you are?*
- *If not, what have you learned about yourself so far?*
- *If so, how can you do it on purpose as you go into your Freshman year?*

### Sophomore Essay

*"We must use our lives to make the world a better place to live, not just to acquire things. That is what we are put on the earth for."*

*– Dolores Huerta*

- Do you agree with this quote from Presidential Medal of Freedom awardee Dolores Huerta?
- What does it mean to make the world a better place to live?
- What specific gifts, skills or talents do you have that contribute to this goal?
- If you don't agree, what do you believe your purpose is?
- What gifts skills or talents do you have that will contribute to that purpose?

### Junior Essay

*"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."*

(Howard Thurman quoted in Gil Bailie, *Violence Unveiled: Humanity at the Crossroads* (New York: Crossroads, 1997)

- Think about a time in the recent past when you have felt fully alive. What were you doing?
- What do you think about this quote from Howard Thurman?
- How could doing what makes you come alive to have any impact on the challenges facing your generation?

### Senior Essay

What's next for you? For the church? For the world?



## What does it mean to participate in this program?

In 2020, the Presbyterian Mission Agency board approved a recommendation to make one scholarship program for undergraduates served by the National Presbyterian College Scholarship, Student Opportunity Scholarship, and Native American Education Grant. The goal of the combined program is to promote leadership development and discernment of vocation. This emphasis allows students to not only gain valuable knowledge for the world, but also to engage with discovering who God created them to be.

## Deadlines & Extensions

The goal of Financial Aid for Service is to present as many students as possible to the reading committee. Due to the high volume of applications received in the previous academic year, we do not anticipate that we will be able to offer extensions in 2023.

## 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.

## Alternate Contacts

The online application system cannot be configured to support alternate contacts. Starting in the spring of 2021 we began only responding to inquiries made by the student. Our online application is managed by a third-party service.

## Study Abroad

The Presbyterian Scholarship may not be used for study abroad. Students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university in the United States, maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA, and demonstrate financial need in order to be considered for award.

## Mailing Address/Contact Information

Financial Aid for Service  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

Toll Free: 800-728-7228 ext. 5097

Cell Phone: 502-780-0088

Email: [finaid@pcusa.org](mailto:finaid@pcusa.org)

**Kaleidoscope Help Desk**

[help@mykaleidoscope.com](mailto:help@mykaleidoscope.com)

