

National Presbyterian College Scholarship

Guidelines for Applicants

INTRODUCTION

The National Presbyterian College Scholarship program was created with the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s related colleges and universities in the 1950's. The program seeks to assist Presbyterian students attending Presbyterian related schools. In 2010, the office of Financial Aid for Service reviewed the program and revised certain elements of the program 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.

Between twenty-five and thirty-five students will be selected for the award. Those students will have the opportunity to renew the scholarship provided they maintain at 2.5 GPA, participate in a campus ministry or regularly attend church during college, and participate in discernment of vocation through a series of essay questions that ask the student to consider who God is calling them to be.

APPLY

The application includes a short "Getting Started" document, a church membership and pastor's endorsement form, and the secondary school report, which includes a teacher recommendation. These forms as well as the applicant's resume and essay are due by May 15 (postmarked deadline). The student's high school transcript, and financial information form are due by June 15 (postmarked deadline).

Current college students requesting renewal will submit a short "Getting Started" document, write an essay on an assigned topic, provide an evaluation by a leader of the community they worship with, and obtain a financial information form from the college or university they attend.

SELECTION

A reading committee will meet in the spring to select students for awards. Selected students will be eligible for up to \$4,000 in funding, dependent on need. A scholarship acceptance form will be sent to the student to sign.

If the student fails to accept the scholarship, or elects to attend a college or university that is not related to the Presbyterian Church (USA), the award will be offered to another eligible student. The reading committee selects students based on:

- Personal qualities of character and leadership reflected in contributions to church, school, and community.
- Creativity and completeness in response to the essay topic.
- Academic achievement, taking into consideration the recommendation of the guidance counselor or teacher, the transcript, and the standardized college exam scores.



ELIGIBILITY

Presbyterian Church (USA) members who are:

- Rising Freshman planning to attend a Presbyterian related college or university.
- Normally enrolled full-time
- Eligible to receive need-based aid – all applicants must complete the FAFSA.

RANGE OF AWARD

Minimum: \$250

Maximum: \$4,000

DEADLINES

May 15: Getting Started, Essay, Resume, Secondary School Report, Transcript, Church Membership/Pastor's Endorsement

June 15: Financial Information Form

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The Essay



ESSAY OVERVIEW

NPCS 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 will work together to understand what you are good at and what makes you feel inspired and happy. We'll ask you to think about community, how the Gospel is seen and felt in the world, and where it ought to be seen and felt. Before you graduate, we'll challenge you to think about the ways you are called.

THE ESSAY TOPIC

Freshman essay: What is Christian Vocation?

Reflect and discuss with parents, pastor, and peers: Who is someone you admire because they are faithful to their call? What distinguishes this person?

Sophomore Essay: What does it mean to be gifted by God?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–7. Define “common good” in your own words. What is a gift that you have been given for the common good? How do you use your gift serving the common good?

Junior Essay: God gives us gifts and talents to enjoy as well as share. Which gifts and talents do you enjoy about yourself? What are you good at? What makes you feel inspired and happy? Discuss with friends; how do your gifts and interests address what you perceive to be the challenges facing your generation?

Senior Essay: Synthesize what you've learned through the essays you've written for your scholarship program and answer this series of questions: What's next for you? For the church? For the world?

Students may respond by writing an essay or by submitting a video responding to the question. Guidelines for the video are found at: www.pcusa.org/2015/WhatNext

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. Approximately half of the NPCs readers are high school teachers and will expect your work to be appropriate to grade level and thoroughly proofread.

Essays should be double spaced and on plain white paper. They may be faxed or submitted by email, but they will not be altered in any way. The essay should be written in the language of instruction; students attending Universidad Inter-American may submit their essay in Spanish.

The National Presbyterian College Scholarship may not be used for study abroad. Students must be enrolled full-time at a Presbyterian Related college or university, complete and academic year, maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA, and demonstrate financial need in order to be considered for renewal.

PRESBYTERIAN RELATED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Agnes Scott College
Alma College
Arcadia University
Austin College
Belhaven University
Blackburn College
Bloomfield College
Buena Vista University
Carroll University
Centre College
Coe College
The College of Idaho
College of the Ozarks
The College of Wooster
Davidson College
Davis & Elkins College
Eckerd College
Hampden-Sydney College
Hanover College
Hastings College
Illinois College
Johnson C. Smith University
King University
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lees-McRae College
Lindenwood University
Lyon College
Macalester College
Mary Baldwin College
Maryville College
Mililkin University
Missouri Valley College
Monmouth College
Montreat College
Muskingum University
Presbyterian College
Queens University of Charlotte
Rhodes College
Rocky Mountain College
St. Andrews University
Schreiner University
Sterling College
Stillman College
Trinity University
Tusculum College
Universidad InterAmericana de Puerto Rico
University of Dubuque
University of Jamestown
University of the Ozarks
University of Pikeville
University of Tulsa
Warren Wilson College
Waynesburg University
Westminster College – MO
Westminster College – PA
Westminster College – UT
Whitworth University
William Peace University
Wilson College

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Details, Disclosures, and Contact Information

DEADLINES & EXTENSIONS

The goal of Financial Aid for Service is to present as many students as possible to the NPCS reading committee. We consider deadline extensions on a case-by-case basis with the goal of presenting a complete application to the selection committee.

EMAIL & FAXES

Deadlines are by postmark; it is not necessary to use express or overnight mail to meet deadlines. You may email scanned documents or files to: finaid@pcusa.org

PARTNERSHIP

The National Presbyterian College Scholarship is a partnership between the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the participating Presbyterian-related colleges and universities. As a matter of policy, Financial Aid for Service shares student contact information with admissions officers at the school designated by the student unless the student has opted out by initialing the designated box on the application. We may request information from financial aid officers at the student's first choice school in the final stages of the application process for the purpose of establishing a student's eligibility to receive the National Presbyterian College Scholarship.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EVALUATIONS

Information collected to support your application is maintained by the office of Financial Aid for Service. The church membership/pastor endorsement form, the secondary school evaluation, work product of Presbyterian colleges and universities, 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 NPCS program, NPCS reading committee members, and financial aid staff at the student's selected college or university.

Mailing Address/Contact Information

Financial Aid for Service
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