

# PRESBYTERIAN STUDY GRANT



## INTRODUCTION

Presbyterian Study Grant (PSG) is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s financial aid program for students preparing to lead and serve as a minister or Christian Educator. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) theological grant program includes Presbyterian Study Grant, and supplemental grants intended to promote diversity. To be designated a Presbyterian Study Grant recipient a student must be seeking ordination as a teaching elder or plan to serve as a Christian Educator with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The applicant must demonstrate readiness for ministry through practice of spiritual disciplines in seminary life, communicate to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry discernment of a call to ministry, and have displayed to their home church the gifts they bring to congregational leadership.

No more than 120 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).

## RENEWAL

Presbyterian Study Grant is a competitive selection program in every year of award. There is no automatic renewal. Students must submit a complete application annually. Students are grouped by year of study before the application goes to the reading committee. The threshold of expectations for students entering seminary and middlers or seniors is not the same. Prepare your renewal application with the expectation that the application will be read critically. Having been selected in a prior year is not a part of the PSG Reading Committee's selection criteria, but be aware that if you have been selected in the past, the readers will read prior essays for background.

## SELECTION

When we have received your complete application, staff in Financial Aid for Service reviews the application to determine if the student is eligible for award. Only students eligible for award will be submitted to the Presbyterian Study Grant reading committee the first week of August. The PSG reading committee will consider the merits of eligible students and select students for award.

If the student is eligible for a supplemental award, the supplemental award will be determined by staff after the Presbyterian Study Grant has been awarded. Supplemental Grants may not be used to replace any portion of the Presbyterian Study Grant.

## ELIGIBILITY

- Active member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- MACE students are not required to be Inquirer/Candidate, but must be an active member of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation
- MDiv (also Dual Degree) students entering years 1 and 2 **must be an Inquirer or Candidate**
- MDiv (also Dual Degree) students entering year 3 **must be a Candidate**
- Normally enrolled full time at a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) related seminary
- Limited to MDiv and/or MACE
- Demonstrate Financial Need

## RANGE OF AWARD

Pres. Study Grant \$1000-\$6000

**Supplemental Grants (Based on Need):**

See last page for more details

## NUMBER OF AWARDS

Approximately 120 Awards

## DEADLINE

May 15

## AWARDS ANNOUNCED

No Later Than August 30

# PRESBYTERIAN STUDY GRANT: PART I

## APPLY

Go to [www.pcusa.org/psg/applynow](http://www.pcusa.org/psg/applynow) to download the application after April 1. The first part of the application includes Getting Started, essay, resume, and Faculty Endorsement. These elements constitute Part I of the application and are due May 15 (postmark).

Please send the Getting Started page by email to [finaid@pcusa.org](mailto:finaid@pcusa.org). You will be sent an email with links to the remaining documents once this page has been received.

## GETTING STARTED

This page is used to collect information we need to maintain your application and permission to discuss your application with the financial aid officer representing the seminary you plan to attend.

## RESUME/CURRICULUM VITAE

Prepare and attach a two-page resume or C.V. detailing activities you have participated in during and/or since your college years. When preparing your resume, consider how you have participated in the life of your college, university, or seminary, church, and community. If you have been employed, you may wish to include that as well. The resume is your opportunity to tell the Presbyterian Study Grant reading committee who you are through what you have done. **Students applying for renewal may submit an extract to append to the prior resume or replace the prior resume at their discretion.** Submissions with photographs will not be accepted. The submission will be discarded and the item will be reported as not received until the photo is removed.

## ESSAY TOPIC

### **What do you believe God is calling you to do in ministry?**

*Previously awarded students will reflect on the essay that supported their application in the original year of award and write about how their understanding of their call has evolved.*

## ESSAY GUIDELINES

The essay accounts for 40% of the overall score for your application and is the single most important document in your application. Composition of reading committees is at the discretion of the Coordinator for Financial Aid, but will normally include representation of those engaged in preparation for ministry, education at related schools, and both ruling and teaching elders distinguished by their contributions to and interest in theological education.

Submissions should be double-spaced and prepared on plain white paper.

## ENDORSEMENTS

Endorsements should never be completed by a person completing another endorsement for you—even if the endorser could be the same person in more than one context. This effectively deprives the student of a third voice supporting their application. Endorsements should not be completed by the student's parents, spouse, or sibling.

## DUE BY MAY 15

- GETTING STARTED
- RESUME
- ESSAY
- FACULTY ENDORSEMENT

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A)

### RELATED SEMINARIES

- Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- Columbia Theological Seminary
- University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
- Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- McCormick Theological Seminary
- Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Princeton Theological Seminary
- San Francisco Theological Seminary
- Union Presbyterian Seminary

### BY COVENANT AGREEMENT WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Union/Auburn Theological Seminary
- Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico

### ONLINE AND EXTENDED COURSES

- Union Presbyterian Seminary of Charlotte
- University of Dubuque Theological Seminary

#### **Eligibility Limited to:**

- Candidates
- Final Three Years of Study
- Financial Need based on a budget limited to tuition, fees, books, and travel to meet in-residence requirements

# PRESBYTERIAN STUDY GRANT: PART II

Students should be mindful that providing an endorsement is not a requirement for the endorser. Read the endorsement. Consider who could best respond on your behalf in the context of the element, and ask the endorser if they would be willing to provide an endorsement of your application for financial aid from your denomination. You may want to provide your endorser with your resume and/or essay.

Students are responsible for soliciting endorsements. We strongly recommend that students provide endorsers with their resume and/or essay and the program guidelines. During the open application period, Financial Aid for Service will contact you periodically to provide you with an update on documents received on your behalf. Students are responsible for follow-up. **Financial Aid for Service will not seek endorsers on your behalf or contact your endorser to seek missing elements of the application.**

## FACULTY ENDORSEMENT

May be completed by a faculty member at the seminary or the Director of Admissions (first year students only), or an advisor from a degree program completed by the student. Do not wait until the last minute. Faculty members and Admission Directors write more effusively when they aren't suffering from hand cramps and deadline pressure.

## COMMITTEE FOR PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY VALIDATION & ENDORSEMENT

This is a required element for all MDiv and MDiv/Dual Degree students used to validate status under care as well as to secure an endorsement. Completed by your liaison, the moderator of the committee/commission on preparation for ministry, or the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, the CPM Form can also be used to document pending eligibility. If the student will be a first or second year MDiv student in the fall, the student must be enrolled by the Presbytery as an Inquirer by September 1. After the student has completed two years of study in an MDiv program, the student must advance to candidacy no later than November 1 of the year of application to be considered for award.

## CONGREGATIONAL LEADER ENDORSEMENT

This element of the application can be completed by a pastor, a session member, or in a congregation context other than the student's home church.

## FAFSA COMPLETED & FINANCIAL INFORMATION FORM

Periodically we remind students to complete the FAFSA. When you complete the FAFSA, contact your Financial Aid office to let staff know that you are a Presbyterian Study Grant applicant and you have filed a FAFSA. Information from the FAFSA is sent to your financial aid office. When your application is complete, Financial Aid for Service will ask you to sign a release for the financial information from your seminary.



## DUE BY JUNE 15

- CPM ENDORSEMENT
- CHURCH ENDORSEMENT
- FAFSA COMPLETED

## DISCLAIMER

Grant or scholarship aid provided by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may not be used for study abroad or internships. PSG and supplemental awards cannot be used to reduce institutional grants or scholarships, but may be used to reduce work/study or student loans. PSG and the supplemental grants are restricted to the common requirements for MDiv and MACE degrees.

## DONATE!

Presbyterian Study Grant is entirely supported by donor restricted gifts. We bear grateful witness to the faith of generations of members in the future of the Presbyterian Church. Please pray for our students and give to ECO E052102 as you are able.

[presbyterianmission.org/donate](http://presbyterianmission.org/donate)

## Application elements may be submitted by:

**Fax** 502.569.8766  
**Email** [finaid@pcusa.org](mailto:finaid@pcusa.org)  
**Mail** Financial Aid for Service  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
100 Witherspoon St.  
Louisville, KY 40202

# OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION

## SEARCHING FOR STUDENT AID

- Get a free email account to use for scholarship searches
- Visit [fteleaders.org](http://fteleaders.org) and [fteleaders.org/fundfinder](http://fteleaders.org/fundfinder)
- Enlist the help of friends and family, church and presbytery

You might be thinking: that's all very specific or incredibly vague. There are a lot of scholarship search engines out there. Only Fund for Theological Education [fteleaders.org](http://fteleaders.org) is theological education-specific. Everything else is just search algorithms. Give your scholarship search email to search engines. Save your email for applications. It will help you prioritize, and it will quarantine spam that is generated by advertiser supported sites.

Never, never, *never* pay for information about scholarships, or pay for anyone to manage your application process.

## SUPPLEMENT GRANTS AWARDED IN ADDITION TO PSG (BASED ON NEED):

People of Color	up to \$2000
Native American	up to \$2000
Low Income/Student Relief	up to \$2000
Mission Co-Worker Dependents	up to \$2,000
First Member of Family to Attend College in the U.S.	up to \$2,000

## MAILING ADDRESS/CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone 800.728.7228 x5224  
Fax 502.569.8766  
Email [finaid@pcusa.org](mailto:finaid@pcusa.org)

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Financial  
Aid  
FOR SERVICE

PROMOTING  
EDUCATION FOR  
A LIFETIME OF  
DISCIPLESHIP