



GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS NETWORK
Higher Education Scholarships for Christian Leaders
Scholarship Application Information

Complete Applications are due by: September 2, 2025

ELIGIBILITY

Scholarship grants are available to students for full and part-time study toward the first bachelors degree or certification at colleges, universities, and vocational schools, or first master's degree in theology. Applicants will be asked to describe the ways or organizations for whom they provide Christian leadership, especially those that help churches or ministries to thrive, address structural racism, and/or engage issues of poverty (which are three of the Synod's most important goals).¹ Active participants in a congregation, new worshipping community or campus ministry within the bounds of the Synod of the Covenant are eligible to apply. *Applicants are eligible to apply annually, up to a maximum of 5 years.* Applicants must have and maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA to be eligible. All financial grants will be made payable to the church session or campus ministry for distribution. Church or campus ministry will return the grant to the synod office if the student's status changes. Grants will not be considered after the application due date: September 2, 2025. Only completed applications will be considered. Special consideration will be given to applicants who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color, and to those with significant financial need. Applicants and their sponsoring ministry will be notified by October 15, 2025.

The amount of the scholarship will be awarded on the basis of need, academic standing, and contribution to Matthew 25 work as noted above. Winners will be invited to create a short "thank you" that we can share with the synod (brief video, handwritten note or other visual media).

INSTRUCTIONS

The review of applications will begin **September 3, 2025**. Applications and all requested materials and endorsement letter from pastor, new worshipping community leader, campus minister, or clerk of session, must be submitted by the deadline to receive consideration by the scholarship committee. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered nor will they be carried forward automatically. Applicants will need to reapply annually to be considered for continued funding.

¹ For more information about these three goals, please visit <https://pcusa.org/matthew25>.

All applications must include 3 documents:

- As a single document, the entire completed Scholarship Application: General Information, Educational Information, and Financial Information; this includes the amount of tuition for the year, and a full accounting of any other financial aid, family support, or source of income.
- Statement as to how the student demonstrates Christian leadership (in the church or at school), especially those that help congregations or ministries to thrive, and/or helped to address racial injustice, and/or engage anti-poverty efforts (the three main goals of the Synod).²
- An Endorsement letter from a leader in the ministry in which the student is engaged, emailed separately as detailed in the application instructions

Questions can be addressed to Rev. Amy Duiker aduiker@sugarcreekchurch.org.

Applications can be completed and uploaded at www.synodofthecovenant/grants, or emailed to grants@synodofthecovenant.org.

Please submit each application individually. Do NOT submit multiple applications as a group to ensure proper processing.

Please contact the Synod Grants and Scholarships Committee using the following information:

Grants and Scholarship Team
The Synod of the Covenant
[**grants@synodofthecovenant.org**](mailto:grants@synodofthecovenant.org)
248-729-2415, x701

² For more information about these three goals, please visit <https://pcusa.org/matthew25>.



Grants and Scholarship Network

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

General Information

Student Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

Racial-Ethnic Background: _____

Pronouns (optional): _____

Presbyterian-Related Ministry Where You are an Active Participant:

Church/Ministry: _____

Presbytery Within Which the Church/Ministry is Located: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Telephone for church/ministry: _____

Email Address for church/ministry: _____

**Who will write your letter of endorsement? (Pastor, New Worshiping Community
Leaders, Campus Minister, Clerk of Session)**

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Academic Information:

Institution of Higher Education: _____

Previous Higher Education (list completed degrees or certifications and the issuing school):

Classes for which you are or intend to be registered for fall 2025 semester/quarter:

Degree or Certification Sought: _____

Cumulative GPA: __

Financial Information:

Please fill out the chart below to the best of your knowledge of your current financial situation. We are aware that you may not have income in every category.

Expenses	Tuition for This Academic Year	
	Living Expenses	
Income	Total Financial Aid from All Sources (School, Federal, Private, Awards & Scholarships)	
	Expected Family Contribution	
	Expected Income from Employment	
	Total Income	
Need	Expenses Minus Income	

	Yes	No
Have you applied for additional Financial Aid from your School?		
Have you received a Pell Grant?		

Christian Leadership:

Please include with this application a statement as to how you demonstrate Christian leadership (in the church or at school), especially those that help congregations or ministries to thrive, and/or helped to address racial injustice, and/or engage anti-poverty efforts (the three main goals of the Synod).³ (up to 300 words)

Signature:

This form must be signed by the person whose file is to be disclosed.

I, _____, affirm that the above information is accurate and submitted to the Synod of the Covenant for the purpose of determining my eligibility for scholarship assistance.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

³ For more information about these three goals, please visit <https://pcusa.org/matthew25>.



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Scholarship Application

Endorsement letter from Pastoral Leader or Clerk of Session

Friend in Christ:

A student from your Christian community is applying for Higher Education Scholarship for Christian Leaders offered by the Synod of the Covenant. The scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis depending on the student's need, enrollment status, and demonstrated Christian leadership.

A letter from a ministry leader of the community where the student is an active participant in good standing is required to complete the scholarship application.

Please write a letter on official letterhead (no longer than one page) about the above student addressing the following topics:

1. What is your ministry role?
2. How long have you known the applicant?
3. Do you recommend the applicant for a scholarship from the Synod of the Covenant?
4. Is the applicant an **active participant** in the ministry?
5. How has the student helped your ministry to thrive, and/or helped to address racial injustice, or engaged anti-poverty efforts (the three main goals of the Synod)?⁴
6. Do you have additional relevant comments you wish to share?

Ministry leader or clerk of session must e-mail the letter on letterhead to the Synod's email (below) before the student's application can be considered. This is the only form of endorsement accepted. Your letter must be received by September 2, 2025, so that applications can be considered beginning 9/3/2025. Please use this same email for any questions or feedback as well.

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The Synod of the Covenant
grants@synodofthecovenant.org
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