

Scholarships for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Members

Financial Aid for Service

A Ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

About

What is God calling you to do? What gifts have you been blessed with? What are you interested in? What inspires you? Our scholarship application asks students to think about vocation, and invites church leaders and mentors to help students recognize their gifts. We serve church members and students preparing for a career in ministry with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In this work we respond to the anti-poverty and anti-racism priorities set by the agency by administrating need-based aid programs and providing additional aid to people of color through supplemental grants.

Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates:

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides scholarships to up to 100 college students annually. Eligible applicants will be PC(USA) church members seeking a first associate's or bachelor's degree and attending an accredited college or university in the United States full-time.

Award Amount: Up to $4,000 in need-based aid.

If the need remains after the scholarship is awarded, students may be considered for additional supplemental aid, including a $2,000 supplemental award for people of color.

The Scholarship for Undergraduates is a need-based scholarship, as determined by the Student Aid Index. If you would like to know more information about need-based aid and the Student Aid Index (SAI), please visit the Federal Student Aid Website here.

Samuel Robinson Award:

The Samuel Robinson Award is offered to juniors and seniors attending a Presbyterian-related college or university. Students must memorize the 107 question-and-answer pairs in the Westminster Shorter Catechism. They have up to 18 months from the start of the recitation to complete it.

Award Amount: $2,500

Presbyterian Study Grant:

The Presbyterian Study Grant is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s financial aid program for students planning for careers in the church. The program serves approximately 100 students per year.

Award Amount: $1,000–$6,000

The Presbyterian Study Grant is a need-based scholarship, as determined by the Student Aid Index. If you would like to know more information about need-based aid and the Student Aid Index (SAI), please visit the Federal Student Aid Website here.

Eligibility

Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates:

1. Presbyterian Church U.S.A. member. Membership exceptions are offered to:

a. The children of PCUSA mission co-workers serving outside of the United States.

b. People participating in new worshiping communities sponsored by PCUSA Presbyteries.

2. Must attend an accredited college or university in the United States full-time, seeking a first bachelor's degree.

3. Must be in good standing and demonstrate financial need. Financial need is determined by the Student Aid Index. If you would like to know more information about need-based aid and the Student Aid Index (SAI), please visit the Federal Student Aid Website here.

Samuel Robinson Award

1. Member of a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) worshiping community or attending a PCUSA new worshiping community.

2. Attending a Presbyterian-related college or university

3. College juniors and seniors only. Student must complete at least two years of college (graduating by this spring, or next spring)

Presbyterian Study Grant:

1. MACE/F

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

2. MDiv or MDiv/Dual degree

Students preparing for a career as a Minister of Word and Sacrament must be under care of Presbytery (no later than September 1)

a. Inquirers may receive up to two awards.

b. Candidates are eligible for award until the student has completed the requirements for the MDiv program.

• 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. Financial need is determined by the Student Aid Index. If you would like to know more information about need-based aid and the Student Aid Index (SAI), please visit the Federal Student Aid Website here.

Deadlines

Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates:

Student Deadline: Second Monday in May

Recommender Deadline: First Monday in June

Samuel Robinson Award:

Quarterly: First Friday of March, June, September, December

Presbyterian Study Grant

Student Deadline: Second Monday in May

Recommender Deadline: First Monday in June

Requirements

Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates:

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.

Essay Topics

You can find the Essay Topics here.

Samuel Robinson Award:

Students participating in Samuel Robinson Award will memorize the Westminster Shorter Catechism using the WSC memorization tool at wsc.pcusa.org. Upon completion of the memorization, the student will be invited to provide information required to evaluate eligibility and provide an award.

The catechism is divided into sections to make it easier to memorize. It is a flashcard system that shows the question and the answer. How you respond is recorded by the system. An algorithm takes in consideration how often you have seen the question/answer pair, your response, and how much time it takes you to react to determine when you have memorized the question/answer pair.

Presbyterian Study Grant:

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

Essay Topics

You can find the Essay Topics here.

Awards

Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates

Use of Award

Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduate 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 college/university'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 college/university have been fully discharged, the college/university receiving the award on behalf of the student may release the residual to the student. The Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduate 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.

At this time, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) does not offer assistance for elementary or secondary education. Students who are the dependents of teaching elders or church workers participating in the Board of Pensions for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) should also visit www.pensions.org and search for Transition to College to learn about aid for the families sending a student to college for the first time.

Contingent Awards

Applicants may be selected to receive the Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates 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 Awards

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 college/university. Vacated awards cannot be assigned to another term or academic year.

Samuel Robinson Awards:

The Samuel Robinson Award is paid directly to the student in a single payment and may be used for any purpose the student deems appropriate. Past awardees have used the funding for expenses related to transition from college to a career or to graduate school, as a fundraising tool for the Young Adult Volunteer program, to pay down student loans, and to take a vacation. There are no limits to how the student may use the funding.

Samuel Robinson Award is not renewable. The award is not available to students receiving aid from another PCUSA grant or scholarship program in the year of application. The students who

have started the memorization will have a six-month grace period after graduation to complete the recitation.

Process

Presbyterian Scholarship for Undergraduates:

1. Before you begin your application, you will need to have a few things prepared. You can find those items here.
2. You can find the instructions to apply here.
3. Please complete your application by the second Monday in May.
4. Recommendations are due the first Monday in June.

Samuel Robinson Award

1. Start at wsc.pcusa.org.

2. Register to save your progress as you complete the memorization.

3. Memorize the catechism. The catechism is divided into sections to make it easier to memorize. It is a flashcard system that shows the question and the answer. How you respond is recorded by the system. An algorithm takes in consideration how often you have seen the question/answer pair, your response, and how much time it takes you to react to determine when you have memorized the question/answer pair.

4. Complete the application. When you complete 100% of the memorization, you will be prompted to go to the Samuel Robinson Award application. The application asks questions about you, your church membership, and your education to date. You will be required to upload proof of enrollment—the registrar at the college or university you attend will be able to provide you with proof of enrollment.

5. Application review. Upon submission, a Presbyterian Mission Agency staff member will evaluate your application and follow-up with you about the award within 20 business days.

6. Awarding process. Upon award the student will be prompted to complete a W-9 and direct deposit form to facilitate payment.

Presbyterian Study Grant

1. Before you begin your application, you will need to have a few things prepared. You can find those items here.
2. You can find the instructions to apply here.
3. Please complete your application by the second Monday in May.
4. Recommendations are due the first Monday in June.

Additional Information

Presbyterian Study Grant & Undergraduate Scholarship

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.

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 the office of Financial Aid for Service. The church membership/pastor endorsement form, work product of the college/university or seminary/divinity school 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 Church (U.S.A.) scholarship program, reading committee members, and financial aid staff at the student's selected college/university or seminary/divinity school.

Contact Us

Financial Aid

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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