

# **SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

## **The Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod**

### **A. General Principles**

- 1) The Mid-South District annually places a sum of money into the district budget which is distributed as scholarship assistance to students of the district. By convention action, the Mid-South District Student Financial Assistance Committee has been directed to grant assistance to students preparing for full-time ministry at our synodical schools; such as Pastor, Teacher, Director of Christian Education, or other full-time professional church work recognized as a rostered position in The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Applications for scholarship grants will be considered on the basis of need, academic qualifications and the recommendation of the applicant's pastor.
- 2) Eligibility - Applicants for Student Financial Assistance must:
  - a. be active members of a congregation affiliated with The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in the Mid-South District;
  - b. be preparing to become full-time church workers in The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod;
  - c. have been accepted by a recognized synodical university or seminary;
  - d. be in a situation where the income of the parents, the student's own possible earnings and other regular support (scholarships, grants, etc.) are inadequate to meet the financial requirements of the school which the student is attending ("unmet need"); and
  - e. submit all required forms and information no later than **June 15**.
- 3) The primary estimate of "unmet need" will be made by the synodical school on the basis of the Graduate and Professional School Financial Aid Application and/or other Financial Aid Forms they may have in use. Such applications or forms are filed directly with the college or seminary in accord with instructions from the specific educational institution.
- 4) Scholarship grants are made for educational fees, and room and board. They are remitted directly to the college or seminary, with one-half usually remitted at the beginning of each semester, after September 1 and January 15.
- 5) All grants are made on an annual basis. Scholarship recipients requesting an additional grant for another year should request the school authorities to send a report on his/her academic achievement to the chairman of the Mid-South District Student Financial Assistance Committee. Financial assistance will not be granted to a student for a second year in the same class/grade.
- 6) Since scholarship grants are made available from the member churches of the Mid-South District, recipients are expected to be faithful in their work and conscientious about the use of all funds available to them. Applicants are encouraged to make full use of any scholarship grants available from their home congregations and other church agencies before they consider the need for a district grant. Remember to get PELL Grant and/or FAFSA forms from your school's Financial Aid Office. Complete these forms as soon as possible after January 1 of each year and make certain that you request that results be forwarded to your university or seminary to be used in completing your financial aid package. Proof of your completion of this step is required as part of this application process.
- 7) A student who discontinues his or her studies for reasons other than ill health, or if the student is dismissed from school, they will be required to repay the amount of funds received from the Mid-South District. An "Agreement of Repayment" is now required as part of the application procedure.

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**B. Procedure - Items 1-3 below are required at the Mid-South District Office on or before June 15.**

- 1) The **“District Financial Aid Application”** form is to be filed with the educational institution upon completion (Section I only). The university or seminary will complete the middle portion. This is where they use the information provided by the PELL and FAFSA processes.
- 2) The **“Pastor’s Evaluation of Applicant”** form is to be completed and returned to the District Office **prior to June 15.** In case of a vacancy in the pastoral office, please have the vacancy pastor complete the form. A grant cannot be made without this step being completed.
- 3) The **“Agreement of Repayment”** is to be signed by the student, parent(s), and pastor. This is where the applicant states that he or she will repay money granted should they leave their program of study before entering church work for any reason other than health problems.
- 4) After the report is received by the Mid-South District Student Financial Assistance Committee from the educational institution (Section II of the **“District Financial Aid Application”** form), the financial assistance is made on the basis of need, within the limits of the funds available to the committee. The decision of the committee on scholarships will be made known to the applicants and educational institution as soon as feasible following August 1.

**NOTE: Applications must be requested each year the student attends a Concordia Seminary or a University System School. THEY ARE NOT SENT UNLESS REQUESTED.**