

Scholarship Fund Guidelines Southern Illinois District

- A.
- 1) The Southern Illinois District annually has available a sum of money to be distributed as scholarship assistance to students of the District. By Board of Directors action the District Scholarship Committee has been directed to give financial assistance to students preparing for full-time church work at a university or seminary operated by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.
 - 2) Scholarships will only be granted to full-time students working towards a bachelor's degree, Master of Divinity degree, or in the seminary certificate program.
 - 3) Applications for scholarship grants will be considered on the basis of student need, school recommendation, District policy and funds available.
 - 4) To assure a more accurate estimate of each applicants need, an objective analysis is made by the Financial Aid Officer of the respective seminary or university. **A completed FAFSA must be on file with the respective seminary or university, no later than June 15, in order for a grant to be awarded.** The District Scholarship Committee will use their recommended figure to assist in determining the amount of scholarship assistance to be awarded.
 - 5) Scholarship grants are made for educational fees and room and board. Monies are remitted directly to the university or seminary, at the beginning of each semester or quarter.
 - 6) Funds will be allocated each year for one academic year at a time.
 - 7) Scholarship grants are made available from the member churches of the Southern Illinois District. The applicant shall be a communicant member of a congregation in the Southern Illinois District. Students are expected to maintain at least a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. The Scholarship Committee may withdraw a scholarship if the student's deportment is unsatisfactory. Applicants are encouraged to make full use of scholarship grants available from home congregations or other church agencies before requesting a District grant.
 - 8) Following graduation and initial placement, the worker is expected to serve in a full-time professional ministry at least one (1) year for each year of student aid provided.
 - 9) Students who discontinue their studies, unless for health reasons or other valid circumstances, shall repay to the District all money paid on their behalf.

B. Procedure (for first time applicants)

- 1) The deadline for submitting requests for scholarship applications to the Southern Illinois District is June 15 of each year. The Financial Aid Application is to be submitted to the Financial Aid Office of the respective university or seminary as soon after January 1 as possible, but no later than May 15.
 - 2) For first time students, upon receipt of request for scholarship application forms, the District Scholarship Committee will send the following:
 - a) The District Financial Aid Application can be found at:
<https://sidlems.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Generic-District-Application.pdf>
This is to be completed by the applicant and parent (or spouse, if applicable). This form is to be sent to the Financial Aid Office of the university or seminary you are attending. **Also, the applicant must send a completed FAFSA to the respective seminary or university, no later than June 15, in order for a grant to be awarded.**
 - b) Scholarship Application - to be completed by the applicant and parent (or spouse, if applicable). This form is to be mailed to the Southern Illinois District, 2408 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221 attn: Scholarship Committee.
 - c) Pastor's Evaluation - to be completed by the Pastor of your congregation and returned to the Scholarship Committee at the Southern Illinois District, 2408 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221. A grant cannot be made without the return of this character reference.
- C. All returning students can get a District Financial Aid Application from the attending university or seminary financial aid office or download the form at <https://sidlems.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Generic-District-Application.pdf>
- D. All of the above material must be received by the Scholarship Committee no later than June 15 so that the Committee may meet to determine scholarship grants on the basis of need, within the limitation of funds available. Committee action will be reported to applicants by July 15.

Guidelines revised August 20, 2004

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