

# Student Opportunity Scholarship



## Deadlines:

*May 15:* Getting Started, Essay, Church/Campus Ministry Endorsement, Financial Information Form (due June 15)

## Eligibility Requirements

### Student must:

- Be a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)
- Have completed first year of college
- Be enrolled full time at an accredited college or university in the United States
- Be in good academic standing (2.5 GPA or greater)
- Be seeking a bachelor degree.
- Demonstrate financial need

## Introduction

Serves Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) college students by providing need-based aid for sophomores, juniors and seniors who are full-time, first degree students, attending accredited institutions in the United States. Preference in this program is extended to racial ethnic students in order to promote diversity.

Student Opportunity Scholarship applicants will explore who God created them to be in a series of essay questions intended for students to explore with mentors and peers. This program requires that students maintain an active involvement in a worshipping community or campus ministry program while they are attending college. Visit [pcusa.org/SOS/Guide](http://pcusa.org/SOS/Guide) to explore the essay topic. Students entering the program in any year other than sophomore may select either the question for rising sophomores or the question for the rising juniors and seniors. Students receiving the Student Opportunity Scholarship in the current academic year, may expect to receive the renewal application in an email.

## Mailing Address/Contact Information

Financial Aid for Service

100 Witherspoon Street

Louisville, KY 40202

Toll Free: 800-728-7228 ext. 5224

Fax: 502-569-8766

Email: [finaid@pcusa.org](mailto:finaid@pcusa.org)

*Print, sign, and send (mail, fax or email)*

**Deadline: May 15 (Postmark)**



# Student Opportunity Scholarship

Application for New Applicants

## Getting Started

### Attachments

- Getting Started
- Essay
- Resume
- Church Membership Form
- Submitted by Pastor

<b>First</b>	<b>Middle</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>SSN</b>
<b>Street Address</b>			
<b>City</b>	<b>County (required)</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>
<b>Phone</b>	<b>Cell</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Race Ethnicity</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	

### **Information the Office of Financial Aid Needs to Get Started**

#### 1. College/University

#### 2. Church

#### 3. Alternative Contact (Optional)

College/University

Home Church

Name of Alternative Contact

Anticipated Graduation Date

Address

Relationship to Student

Degree You Are Seeking

City, State Zip

Phone (Daytime)

Anticipated Enrollment

- Full-Time       Part-Time

Are you preparing for a career in ministry as a

- Teaching Elder    Christian Educator

- Minister of Sacred Music    Missionary

Are you, or any member of your family, employed by the PC (U.S.A.) in a church occupation?

- Yes    No

**Email**

I authorize PC (U.S.A.) Financial Aid staff to respond to requests for information initiated on my behalf to the above named person.

**Initial:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) communicates with students primarily by email. When you provide us with an email we assume that you will check your email regularly. Please add [finaid@pcusa.org](mailto:finaid@pcusa.org) as a trusted sender of email.**

**The Getting Started is for office use only. This element of your application is used to collect information we need to manage your application. Complete, print, and mail the form at your earliest opportunity so we can respond to questions that you or your alternative contact may have about the status of your application.**

**Deadline for Application is May 15.**

#### *Confidentiality of Evaluations*

Information collected to support your application is maintained by the Office of Financial Aid for Studies. The endorsement elements and work product of the staff and reading committee are confidential and will not be released to the student. Only staff members with responsibility for the Student Opportunity Scholarship program and the SOS reading committee members view applications.

#### *Release of Information*

I understand that the Office of Financial Aid for Studies will seek information regarding enrollment, satisfactory academic progress, and financial aid in order to determine my eligibility for award, and by my signature, I give the above named college or university permission to provide information to the Office of Financial Aid for Studies to determine eligibility for need based aid and/or verification of enrollment.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

# Congregation or Campus Ministry Endorsement

Application for New Applicants

Student's Name

Date Sent to Pastor

## Part I. Membership Verification (To Be Completed by Home Church Pastor or Elder)

*If the applicant is related to the endorser, another church officer should complete Part I and II.*

The student named above is applying for an undergraduate scholarship from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In order to be found eligible for this award, the student must be a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and active in church or collegiate ministry. Please complete Part I and return the form to the student. You or a college minister will complete the evaluation in Part II.

PDF Form Filer Available at: [www.pcusa.org/SOS/Church](http://www.pcusa.org/SOS/Church).

Name of Church

Pin Number

Presbytery

(Church) Address

City, State Zip

Phone Number

E-mail

### Membership

Baptized  Active  Affiliate

### Attendance

Weekly  Monthly  Occasionally  Never

Attends Elsewhere:

Church/Chapel

Is the applicant serving the congregation as an intern or staff member?

Yes  No

Endorser's Name

Signature

Date

## Third Party Verification for Funds Matching

The student is not a U.S. Citizen, or Permanent Resident and:

Resides in the U.S. and wants to remain after college  Is in the U.S. for college only

Country of Origin

Note: The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has funding for immigrants, and appreciates your assistance identifying students who are immigrants.

## Part II. To Be Completed by College Minister, Chaplain or Pastor

The Student Opportunity Scholarship responds to three goals established for the Office of Financial Aid for Studies:

- to ameliorate poverty,
- to recognize students who are active, engaged, members with gifts for leadership, and
- to engage students in a meaningful exploration of Christian vocation.

Sixty percent of the funding in this program is donor restricted for racial ethnic students. We seek applicants who are willing to work with a congregational leader or college minister to define their gifts for leadership, and embrace opportunities to participate in the mission and ministry of the church through participation in a congregation or collegiate ministry.

If the student has special needs or circumstances that you would like to convey to the Office of Financial Aid for Service, please email [finaid@pcusa.org](mailto:finaid@pcusa.org) or prepare a cover letter.

How long have you known the applicant?

In what ways has this student participated in the life of the community and congregation or campus?

# Congregation or Campus Ministry Endorsement

Application for New Applicants

**How has college impacted the student's attendance and participation?**

**Describe the student's gifts for leadership.**

**What expectations do you have for the student's attendance and participation over the next year?**

**The Student Opportunity Scholarship (SOS) Reading Committee will select students based on their understanding of personal qualities of character and leadership as reflected in contributions to church, school, and community. Based on your knowledge of the student, please tell the SOS Reading Committee why you recommend this student for a scholarship from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number (Day)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Email**

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