

DISTRICT STUDENT AID PROGRAM

I. GENERAL

A. Purpose

The purpose of the District Student Aid Program is to assist in providing resources to those studying to be full-time church workers in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. The program is funded through the budget of the Southeastern District (SED) as well as donations from congregations, auxiliary organizations, and individuals.

B. Objectives

The objective of the program is to provide student aid on a school-year basis, to members of the Southeastern District whose major course of study results in a full-time professional career in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

Grants are generally provided only to students studying within the Concordia University System and Seminaries. Exceptions are made for those students attending Valparaiso University and Lenoir-Rhyne University who are pursuing a full-time career in church work in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.

The SED Student Aid Program is intended to financially assist in the education of our students who commit themselves to a full-time church work career. However, the District recognizes the value of Concordia University Distance Education Programs (such as CUENET) that are not full-time that will result in an LCMS certification. Applications for these programs will be considered on an individual basis by the SED Student Aid Task Force.

Individuals who are members in good standing of a congregation and are employed as full-time non-synodically trained teachers and enroll in a colloquy program to obtain a Lutheran Teacher Diploma (LTD) may also apply and be considered for assistance.

II. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

A. Applicant Qualifications:

- The applicant must be a communicant member of a congregation affiliated with the Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod.
- The applicant must intend to enter the service of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod as a professional church worker such as a Pastor, Teacher, Deaconess, Director of Christian Outreach (DCO), Parish Worker, Social Worker, Director of Christian Education (DCE), or Lay Minister. Aid is not given during vicarages, internships (i.e., for DCE, Deaconess), or graduate studies (other than seminary).

- B. Students must apply *each year* they wish to be considered for a grant. All applications must be submitted on the Southeastern District, LCMS Student Aid Application form; other application forms will not be accepted. Grants are awarded through the District, not the institution. The application is available in a fillable PDF form and must be *typed* and *signed*. Digital signatures or a scanned form with original signature, will be accepted. Handwritten applications will not be accepted.
- C. If this is the student's first year at an institution, proof of acceptance to the school must be submitted.
- D. Grants are for a maximum of one academic year (September through May) or a corresponding portion of an academic year. Assistance is not provided for summer sessions.

- E. Students must submit a letter of endorsement from the pastor of their home congregation *each year*. (If the pastor is a relative of the applicant or if there is a pastoral vacancy, the endorsement may be made by the congregational president.) All letters must be *signed*; typed signatures will not be accepted.
- F. This assistance is a grant made in the expectation that the applicant will complete his/her studies and enter full-time service in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, committing at least three years to ministry. In the event that he/she does not enter the service of the church or does not complete his/her program, the student is expected to repay the total amount of assistance they have received from the District.
- G. To ensure adequate consideration, all applications and any requested documentation must be received with original scanned or digital signatures in **the District office by 7 June 2024**. Applications received after this date will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to availability of funds.
- H. A Special Task Force administers the Student Aid Program for the Southeastern District. The Task Force operates within the policies and procedures as described in this section of the SED Operations Manual (OM-360). The Task Force meets on or about June 15th each year.
- I. The scale of grant awards will be set by the Student Aid Task Force each year.
- J. Grants are provided for up to four years of undergraduate studies and seminary training. Exceptions will be considered if the respective program of the school requires additional courses and training resulting in five years at a college or university. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA to be considered for grant support.
- K. A recipient may not qualify for grant assistance for more than five consecutive years.
- L. Colloquy and distance education courses will be funded on a one-time basis.
- M. All grants are paid by the District directly to the school in two installments (August and December).

Please send all Student Aid Applications and supporting documents to:

sheetland@se.lcms.org RE: Student Aid Application 2024-2025