



ELCA Fund for Leaders Leadership Initiative Scholarship Information and Application Instructions

Thank you for your interest in the ELCA Fund for Leaders Leadership Initiative Scholarship program. Below are the scholarship eligibility requirements and instructions for completing your application. Online applications must be submitted with all supporting materials by February 28, 2017.

Qualifications: Leadership Initiative (L.I.) candidates must have received an offer of admission from one or more ELCA seminaries. Applicants must also:

- Be passionate about Jesus Christ, spiritually grounded, ecumenically oriented, and committed to growing in their capacities to lead in an increasingly complex world.
- Demonstrate outstanding leadership potential and be exceptionally gifted for ministry (not necessarily students with the highest GPAs, but those who exhibit innovation, creativity, and other qualities that will make them successful leaders for a changing church and world).
- Plan to enroll as a full-time first year (junior) student at an ELCA seminary in the fall of 2017.
- Have a positive entrance decision through the ELCA Candidacy process (or be in progress).
- Be pursuing rostering in the ELCA as either a minister of word and sacrament or a minister of word and service.

Award terms: L.I. scholarships will be for full-tuition and, depending on the degree program (MA or M.Div), will be granted from the time of the award for the equivalent of up to two or three full years of coursework (internship and CPE excluded), provided students remain eligible (enrolled full-time, pursuing rostered ministry, in good standing with seminary and candidacy process). Once awarded, L.I. scholarships will “follow the student” should the student choose for any reason to transfer to another ELCA seminary (if the transfer is approved by the seminary of choice.)

BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR APPLICATION:

Before you begin your application, you will need to prepare the following materials. NOTE: We do not currently have the capability to allow you to save a partially-completed application and return to it. You will need to complete the entire application in one session and upload all your attachments at once. Therefore, we urge you to prepare these application materials *first*, save them all into one folder, and then begin the online application. You will need:

- An [ELCA Community Login](#) (username and password – see instructions below)
- An essay (up to 1,000 words) in which you describe your life’s faith journey, to include the events and factors that formed your faith and nurtured your sense of call to public ministry. Your seminary admission essay may be used for this requirement provided it does not exceed the 1000-word limit. Please save this essay as a PDF.

- A video essay, no longer than 5 minutes, during which you describe what the word “leader” means to you, how that definition shapes your ability to collaborate with others and engage the gospel, and how your leadership skills and experiences can be of use in addressing the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing the ELCA in the next 10 years. You will need to record and upload this video to a sharing service such as [YouTube](#) or [Vimeo](#) and be ready to paste the video URL into the application. Do NOT attach a video file with your application. Note that you can choose to adjust your privacy settings from within the video sharing sites.
- A copy of an offer of admission letter from every ELCA seminary you are considering attending (Leadership Initiative scholarships may only be used at ELCA seminaries from which you have received an offer of admission). Please save these in PDF format.
- If you have already received a positive decision from your synod of candidacy, you will need to have a (PDF) copy of this notification ready to upload to the application.

Other supporting materials required for the application, but which do not have to be prepared before you begin the application, include the following (NOTE: The Feb. 28 deadline applies to these supporting materials as well; please plan your time accordingly.):

- If you have not yet been entranced in the ELCA candidacy process, a [verification form is available for download](#) with instructions on how to send to your synod.
- Letters of recommendation are required from two people (not relatives): 1) a pastor and 2) a layperson who know you and can speak about your leadership experience and potential. A form to submit to your recommenders is [available to download here](#) with instructions for them to submit on your behalf.

ACCESSING THE ONLINE APPLICATION

In order to complete and submit your scholarship application online, you will need an ELCA Community account (ELCA Login). If you already have a username and password from your ELCA Candidacy application process on <https://community.elca.org>, you will use the same login information to complete the Fund for Leaders application. If you forgot your login or password, go to <https://community.elca.org> and click on the “Forgotten password” link and follow the prompts. If do you not yet have an ELCA Community Login, go to <https://community.elca.org/>, click on “New user registration” and follow the instructions provided for establishing your account. Make sure to take note of your username and password, which will be used again later to log in to myelca.org. Once logged in, follow these instructions:

- From the ELCA Community “Welcome” page, click on “I’m interested in becoming an ELCA Rostered Leader” found under the “Leader Portal” section.
- On the Leader Portal page under the “Fund for Leaders” heading, click the “Submit Leadership Initiative Scholarship Application” link as shown below (*Figure 1*).
- When prompted to log into <https://my.elca.org> use the “ELCA Login” option and use the same ELCA Community Login credentials, as shown below (*Figure 2*).

Once you have your login, [you can also use this link to access the application directly.](#)

If you encounter any problem accessing your account on elca.community.org, contact Constituent Support at constituent.support@elca.org. Use "ELCA Community Login" in the subject line.

Leader Portal

From this portal, individuals can submit an application for candidacy or create/update their Rostered Leader Profile.

By using this portal, you agree to the ELCA [website Privacy Policy](#).

Candidacy Process

- [Candidacy Process](#)
- [Candidate Assignment Paperwork Form \(pages A, B, R, Commentary\)](#)

Fund for Leaders

- [Submit Leadership Initiative Scholarship Application](#)



Mobility/Call Process

- [Call Process](#)



Figure 1



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Figure 2

COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION

1. After logging in at <https://my.elca.org>, you should be directed to the application form. If you don't see it, click the "ELCA Fund for Leaders Scholarship Application" link in the left-hand navigation.
2. Make sure the supporting materials for your application (essay, video essay URL, and candidacy and seminary admission documentation) are ready before you begin.
3. Download the [Fund for Leaders Recommendation Form](#) and send it to each of the two people providing recommendations on your behalf. Make sure to indicate whether you elect to waive your right to see what is written about you on the form.
4. If you have not yet received a positive entrance decision, download the [Synodical Candidacy Verification form](#) and send it to your synod office for them to complete and submit on your behalf.
5. When you have completed the application online, hit "Save" to submit. Do NOT hit Save before you are ready to submit your application.
6. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Juliana Glassco at FundforLeaders@elca.org.

