

Understanding the Four Types of ELCA Fund for Leaders (FFL) Scholarships

Common Criteria: • May be used at any ELCA seminary; scholarship follows student. • To be eligible, student must remain in good academic and candidacy standing; applicants awaiting a positive entrance decision from their candidacy committee may be offered a provisional scholarship. The provision will be removed provided a positive entrance decision is received before the end of the first semester of study.

	Full-Tuition	Mission Developer	Federal Chaplaincy	Synod/Congregation
Application Process	Centralized. <i>Open Nov. 18-Feb. 17.</i>	Seminary nominates. <i>Open Dec. 4-Feb. 5.</i>	Self-selected. <i>Open Feb. 15-March 15.</i>	Synod/congregation nominates. <i>Open May 17-June 7.</i>
Selection	Fund for Leaders Selection Committee (ELCA churchwide)	Mission Developer Selection Committee (ELCA churchwide)	Federal Chaplaincy Ministries Selection Committee (Federal Chaplaincy program volunteers)	Synods/congregations select candidates.
Number available per year	Varies based on available FFL funds	Approx. 5-8 (based on available FFL funds)	Approx. 1-3 (based on available Federal Chaplaincy Ministries funds and committee decisions)	Varies; determined by each synod/congregation based on selection decisions and endowment value.
Value of scholarship	Full tuition = \$19,000 per academic year starting fall 2021	\$10,000-\$18,000 M.Div.; \$4,000-\$8,000 TEEM (Award amounts vary yearly.)	Varies; selection committee determines number and value of scholarship each year.	Varies; determined by each synod/congregation based on selection decision and available funds.
Length of scholarship	Follows student through academic program	Up to two academic years; second year awarded automatically if student maintains eligibility and enrolls for additional year of study	One year. Recipients are eligible to reapply.	One year. Synod/congregation may choose to award scholarship to previous awardees, but this is not automatic.
Student status	Entering students (no more than one semester of seminary courses completed); automatic renewal if student remains eligible	Second or third academic year; nominated by seminary; automatic renewal if student remains registered and eligible	Any academic year	Any academic year
Are TEEM candidates eligible?	No	Yes	No	Yes
Must student be considered full-time?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Additional eligibility requirements	Please note this scholarship is provisional until a positive entrance decision is received by synod bishop and candidacy.	Seminary nomination, promise to participate in Congregational Vitality training, and additional interviews required. Synod Authorization Forms required with application signed by synod bishop.	Chaplain candidacy or one unit of CPE. Please note this scholarship is provisional until a positive entrance decision is received by synod bishop and candidacy.	Chosen by synod/congregation
Required roster plans	ELCA Pastor or Deacon	ELCA Pastor or Deacon	ELCA Pastor	ELCA Pastor or Deacon
Can scholarship be added to FFL full-tuition scholarship?	N/A	No	Yes (note tax implications for scholarships beyond tuition, books and fees)	Yes (note tax implications for scholarships beyond tuition, books and fees)