

**2025-2026 School of Theology Financial Aid Policy**

Financial aid is meant to serve the church's mission by opening the way to excellent theological education to those who otherwise could not afford it, minimizing the burden of additional educational debt carried into ministry, and limiting the drain on personal assets for all students. Thanks to the gifts of many generations, Sewanee has substantial resources for these purposes and is glad to be able to offer generous financial aid to supplement seminary students' own resources and the financial support of the parishes and dioceses that send them.

<b>Policy by Program (Residential)</b>	<b>2</b>
Master of Divinity (M.Div):	2
Master of Arts (M.A.)	2
Diploma of Anglican Studies (D.A.S)	2
Master of Sacred Theology / Anglican Studies (S.T.M./A.S.)	2
Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M)	2
Special Students	2
<b>Non-Residential Programs</b>	<b>3</b>
Doctor of Ministry	3
Master of Sacred Theology	3
Alternative Clergy Training at Sewanee & Certificate Programs	3
<b>Full/Part-Time</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Need Based Awards Policy</b>	<b>4</b>
Households	4
Children	4
Spouses	5
Work Study	5
Debt	5
Required Documents	5
Parish / Diocesan Support	6
<b>Other Funding Opportunities</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Applying for Veterans Educational Benefits</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Asset Change Reporting Requirements</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Cross Cultural Study Grants</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Chancellor's Scholarships</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Loans</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Academic Performance Requirements</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Use Restrictions</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Exemptions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Questions</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Appeals &amp; Complaints</b>	<b>8</b>

## **Policy by Program (Residential)**

### **Master of Divinity (M.Div):**

Offer for first 20 enrolled - Singles and couples will receive \$33,000 regardless of need; Single Parents, 3+ HH size, and two-student households will receive \$35,000 regardless of need. Additional students will be subject to the need-based aid policy as determined by individual financial data as well as institutional enrollment goals.

### **Master of Arts (M.A.)**

Offer for first 10 enrolled - Full tuition and fees regardless of need. Additional students will be subject to the need-based aid policy as determined by individual financial data as well as institutional enrollment goals.

### **Diploma of Anglican Studies (D.A.S)**

Offer for first 5 enrolled - Full tuition and fees and an additional \$10,000, regardless of need. Additional students will be subject to the need-based aid policy as determined by individual financial data as well as institutional enrollment goals.

### **Master of Sacred Theology / Anglican Studies (S.T.M./A.S.)**

Offer for first 5 enrolled - Full tuition and fees regardless of need. Additional students will be subject to the need-based aid policy as determined by individual financial data as well as institutional enrollment goals.

### **Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M)**

Offer for first 5 enrolled - Residential students will receive full tuition and fees, regardless of need. Summer/Online students should consult the non-residential programs policy below. Additional students will be subject to the need-based aid policy as determined by individual financial data as well as institutional enrollment goals.

### **Special Students**

Students who are not enrolled in a degree program are not eligible for financial aid.

## **Non-Residential Programs**

### **Doctor of Ministry**

Students in the Doctor of Ministry program are awarded financial assistance on a per-credit-hour basis. Students must apply for this aid using the financial aid application ([theology.sewanee.edu/financialaid](http://theology.sewanee.edu/financialaid)) for every semester they are enrolled and are seeking financial assistance.

### **Master of Sacred Theology**

Students in the Master of Sacred Theology program (non-residential) are awarded financial assistance on a per-credit-hour basis. Students must apply for this aid using the financial aid application ([theology.sewanee.edu/financialaid](http://theology.sewanee.edu/financialaid)) for every semester they are enrolled and are seeking financial assistance.

### **Alternative Clergy Training at Sewanee & Certificate Programs**

Students in the Alternative Clergy Training at Sewanee (ACTS), Certificate of Ministerial Studies, Certificate of Theological Studies, or Certificate of Advanced Study in Theology are not eligible for financial aid except as determined by individual circumstances on a case by case basis or as needed to achieve institutional enrollment goals.

## **Full/Part-Time**

Financial aid is available to full-time (12 credit hours per semester) residential students for the normal period to complete a degree or program as listed in the course catalog.

Part-time, degree-seeking residential students may apply for financial aid in the same manner as full-time students. Typically, at least half-time enrollment is required. If aid for a part-time student is approved, it will be on a prorated basis, according to the number of credit hours the student is taking in the semester for which aid is requested. The maximum financial aid granted during the student's program cannot exceed the total of what would have been awarded if completed on a full-time basis.

Part-time students must apply for financial assistance every semester of enrollment and ensure that credit hours taken are reported accurately

Two courses is considered full-time for non-residential students in the Doctor of Ministry program and Master of Sacred Theology during the summer term. Students in these programs may also choose to take advanced courses online during the academic year. Tuition assistance is available for two courses during the summer term and for one course per semester during the academic year. Additional courses must be approved by the associate dean for academic affairs and tuition assistance is not guaranteed. Any support for additional courses will be based on availability of funds.

## **Need-Based Awards Policy**

Need-based University grants are awarded after all sources of income and estimated expenses are identified.

Financial need is calculated for a 12-month period except for the final year when it is calculated for a 10-month period.

Information about all assets must be provided as part of the need-based financial aid application. Ten percent of all assets held by the student and the student's spouse (if applicable) is considered as available annually to help meet the costs while in seminary.

Cost of attendance components in the assessment of need are set by the institution and include tuition and fees, a modest cost of living allowance for food, housing and utilities, and books. In addition, a portion of health insurance premiums and childcare expenses will be added to the cost of attendance within predetermined limits. First-year students may estimate healthcare and childcare expenses until final plans are made and documentation of actual expenses can be obtained. If the documentation of actual expenses varies from the original report, this will result in an award adjustment.

### **Households**

Normally, the University considers only the expense of one household for purposes of financial aid; the expense of a second household, away from Sewanee, is in general not included. In special cases, when a student can demonstrate the necessity of maintaining two households, a limited proportion of the extra household expense may be allowable. Students who purchase a house in the Sewanee area and apply for financial aid must declare the house as an asset.

### **Children**

No educational expenses for children are allowable with regard to financial aid. For students in the Master of Divinity degree program, the University and St. Andrew's-Sewanee School may provide assistance for dependents attending St. Andrew's-Sewanee. Childcare expenses are not considered except for daycare for pre-school children of students who are single parents, "geographically single," or who have spouses employed outside the School of Theology employment programs.

## Spouses

For the purposes of financial aid, financial need for cohabitating couples will be assessed on the same basis as financial need for married couples, and income and assets for all household members must be reported.

The current and anticipated income of a spouse must be included in the application even if the spouse is not living in Sewanee.

There is a minimum amount, annually set, which a student and (if applicable) a student's spouse must contribute toward their own support, irrespective of need or employment. For the current year, the contribution is \$2,000 for a student and \$3,000 for a spouse. That contribution is waived in the case of a spouse caring for children too young to be eligible for Sewanee childcare. To encourage spousal employment, the University will exclude one half of gross earnings beyond the minimum contribution from consideration in assessing need.

If both spouses wish to enroll in seminary and seek financial aid at the same time, they must indicate this intention at the time of their applications. Financial aid will be awarded on the basis of the expenses of a combined household.

## Work Study

The School of Theology Student Employment Program (work-study) is available to eligible seminary students through positions created in various departments of the University and the School of Theology. A full-time seminary student may work up to a maximum of 12 hours per week, depending on availability of jobs. Spouses may seek temporary employment (up to 12 hours per week) through the School of Theology when positions are available.

Work-study income should not be reported. It is paid directly to the student and is not included as part of the assessment of need.

## Debt

Debt and debt service including student loans, cannot be considered as part of a student's financial need, although in some cases liabilities may be set against assets (e.g. house mortgages).

## Required Documents

It is the responsibility of the student to provide the required information, including:

- financial aid application
- Form 1040 federal income tax return from the last completed filing year (including W2s), if applicable
- Forms verifying diocesan and parish support

### *Parish / Diocesan Support*

It is our belief that the Church needs to financially support those it raises up for ministry. Any amount, large or small, will be helpful in creating a positive financial reality for you and your family. Students preparing for ordination will be required to submit the following supplemental forms:

- Congregational Support Form
- Diocesan Support Form
- Financial Aid Disclosure

Please note, these forms are required for ordination track students in order to complete an application for financial aid, even if the parish or diocesan support is \$0.

### **Other Funding Opportunities**

While it may be possible for students to graduate from the School of Theology debt free, it is our expectation that you are actively seeking to supplement our aid with outside resources. It is the responsibility of all applicants for need-based financial aid to show evidence of submitting applications for scholarships from at least three outside sources in addition to diocese and parish. You'll find a list of resources on our website as a place to begin your search. Additionally, it is recommended that you begin soliciting contributions from family, friends, other individuals, the sending parish, and the diocese.

### **Applying for Veterans Educational Benefits**

Denise Barry ([dbarry@sewanee.edu](mailto:dbarry@sewanee.edu)) is the primary point of contact regarding VA benefits. Please follow the instructions at "<https://www.va.gov/education/how-to-apply/>."

### **Asset Change Reporting Requirements**

Residential students receiving financial aid must report significant changes in their financial situation as they occur during the course of an academic year. In cases where the change impacts the assessment of need, the financial aid award may be increased or reduced. Such adjustments will be made as soon as possible after changes are reported.

### **Cross Cultural Study Grants**

Residential students may apply for grants for cross-cultural study from special funds at the School of Theology. See the Director of Contextual Education for more information.

## **Chancellor's Scholarships**

The School of Theology annually awards a small number of Chancellor's Scholarships to some residential students of exceptional promise preparing for distinctive ministries in The Episcopal Church, showing exceptional academic merit, and occasionally (as determined by the dean) to meet certain goals related to strategic initiatives that serve the School's mission. Applications for this scholarship will be solicited based on academic records, future plans for ministry, and other strengths identified during the process of admission. Recipients are selected prior to entering seminary and must provide the need-based financial information even if they are not applying for need-based aid. Chancellor's Scholarship recipients will continue to receive their award for the normal period of the degree program if their performance is deemed adequate by the faculty, and are restricted to full-time residential students.

## **Loans**

A Sanford Fund loan of \$1,000 is available to residential School of Theology students for extraordinary circumstances. Students may borrow no more than this amount from the Sanford Fund during their seminary years. No justification is required for a Sanford Loan as long as the student meets the loan requirements. In the event of emergency need students should first request a loan from the Sanford Fund. The dean may designate funding from other sources if that fund has been used and the student presents evidence of need due to extraordinary circumstances.

If you anticipate the need for a federal loan, submit your FAFSA to the University Office of Financial Aid, 735 University Avenue, Sewanee, Tennessee, 37383-1000. Any questions regarding federal loans and federal loan eligibility should be directed to that office at 931.598.1312, or by email to [finaid@sewanee.edu](mailto:finaid@sewanee.edu). University loan professionals will process your loan application and determine your loan eligibility based on federal guidelines.

## **Academic Performance Requirements**

A student whose performance is evaluated by the faculty of the School of Theology as "inadequate" is not eligible to receive financial aid for the following year. Reinstatement of aid is dependent upon re-acceptance into the graduate program of the School of Theology and a new application for financial aid.

## **Use Restrictions**

Financial aid may not be used for study at other institutions.

## **Exemptions**

Requirements may be waived based on individual circumstances and/or institutional priorities and enrollment goals.

## **Questions**

Questions regarding the financial aid application should be directed to Walker Adams ([hwadams@sewanee.edu](mailto:hwadams@sewanee.edu)) or Jessica Gunn ([jagunn@sewanee.edu](mailto:jagunn@sewanee.edu)).

## **Appeals & Complaints**

Appeals and complaints concerning financial aid should be directed to the director of operations, Connie Patton ([crpatton@sewanee.edu](mailto:crpatton@sewanee.edu) or 931.598.1340).