

ELCA Fund for Leaders

for this church and for our future

Guidelines for Full-Tuition Scholarship Applicants 2026

Application Cycle December 1st, 2025- February 20th, 2026

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be selected for an ELCA Fund for Leaders (FFL) Full-Tuition Scholarship students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Have been offered admission by at least one ELCA seminary or anticipate receiving an offer of admission by application due date.
- Plan to enroll as a new, first-year ELCA seminary student in the fall of the coming academic year 2026-2027. Students who will have completed no more than one semester of seminary coursework by the start of the upcoming fall semester are also eligible to apply.
- Pursuing a Master of Divinity or Master of Arts.
- Seeking to become a rostered minister (Word and Sacrament or Word and Service) in the ELCA and enrolled in the candidacy process with an ELCA synod. If applicants have not received a positive entrance decision at the time of application submission, applicant's synod bishop must give permission for FFL to consider their application.

Those planning to pursue the following types of seminary programs ARE eligible to apply:

- Residential or non-residential
- Enrolled in MDiv (deacon or pastor candidates) or MA (deacon candidates) degree program
- Wartburg's Collaborative MDiv
- Attending full or part-time

Those planning to pursue the following types of seminary candidates are NOT eligible to apply:

- TEEM students, see guidelines for FFL's TEEM specific scholarship.
- Studying at non-ELCA seminaries
- Students affiliating for Lutheran Education Year

SELECTION PROCESS

- All eligible students may apply directly to the ELCA Fund for Leaders through ELCA GrantMaker.
- The ELCA Fund for Leaders Selection Committee reviews all applications and makes award decisions. *Please note: this scholarship is provisional until a positive entrance decision is received, which must occur before the end of the awardee's first awarded semester.*
- Full-tuition scholarships are renewable for a student's entire course of study – the equivalent of 2 years for MA candidates and 3 years for MDiv candidates. Students planning to study part time are welcome to apply. *Note that scholarship funds used to cover costs beyond tuition, books, and fees (such as room and board, insurance, etc.) will count as taxable income to students.*
- Renewal is automatic, provided student remains eligible and in good standing with their ELCA seminary (*academic probation will be considered on a case to case basis after conversations with seminary and synod*) and moving forward with the ELCA candidacy process.
- Once awarded, the scholarship will follow the student to whichever ELCA seminary they attend.

2026-2027 SCHOLARSHIP TIMELINE

Dec. 1, 2025	Application process opens in ELCA GrantMaker (elca.fluxx.io)
Feb.20, 2026	Application process closes in ELCA GrantMaker (<i>All applications must now be complete!</i>)
Feb.-Mar. 2026	Selection committee review and deliberation
April 2026	All applicants notified of status between by the middle of April 2026
Apr. 27, 2026	Deadline for recipients to complete FFL Scholarship Agreement #1
July 10, 2026	Deadline for recipients to complete FFL GrantMaker Agreement #2
Sept. 2026	FFL makes fall payment to seminaries (1/2 of yearly award)
Jan. 2027	FFL makes spring payment to seminaries (1/2 of yearly award)

TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

1. Applying is a multi-step process! Give yourself enough time!

- a. First, go to elca.fluxx.io to create a new account and register.
 - i. Select Domestically for receiving FFL funds
 - ii. Which ELCA grant class - select Fund for Leaders
 - iii. Select the scholarship type **“Direct Full-Tuition Scholarship.”**
 - iv. When the application asks, “Are you applying as an individual or on behalf of an organization?” you should select “Individual.”
 - v. Submit your registration.
- b. When your registration is approved (generally within two days – please be patient!), you should receive an email from ELCA GrantMaker with the subject “New User Information.”
- c. Set your password by clicking the URL in that email and following the instructions. *(Be sure to use the same email address – and check it regularly!).* You will receive a password reset email with a unique link to finalize your password.
- d. After you set your password, you can log in to the portal using your username (found in the “New User Information” email) and new password. Using Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge, access the portal at <https://elca.fluxx.io>.

2. Now you can complete the application.

- a. Read the instructions first! Then in the menu at the left, click on “Applications.” Go to **“ELCA Scholarships: ELCA Fund for Leaders”** and choose Direct Full-Tuition Scholarship. When you complete the application, ***remember to save and submit!***

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Detailed instructions for students applying through ELCA GrantMaker can be found at [ELCA.org/fundforleaders](https://elca.org/fundforleaders) (click on “Apply Now”)
- Any other questions? Please contact is at FundforLeaders@elca.org or 773-380-2936. We are happy to help!