

Scholarship Guide for Theological Studies

This guide provides scholarship opportunities for students pursuing degrees in theology, ministry, or religious studies. While opportunities change over time, the resources below are actively maintained or widely recognized.

Denominational Scholarships

Many faith traditions offer financial support to students preparing for ministry or service.

- Contact your local church or faith community
- Ask about:
 - Ministerial education funds
 - Scholarships or book grants
 - Conference or diocesan support

Major Denominational Resources

- United Methodist (GBHEM Scholarships) <https://gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships/>
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Financial Aid <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/financialaid/>
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA Fund for Leaders) <https://www.elca.org/fund-for-leaders>
- United Church of Christ Scholarships <https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/justice-local-church-ministries/financial-support/>
- Episcopal Church Scholarships <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/education/scholarships/>
- Disciples of Christ Scholarships <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/clergy/scholarships/>
- Unitarian Universalist Funding Programs <https://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/becoming/funding>

Note: Many denominational scholarships require membership and/or endorsement.

Non-Denominational Awards

- Order of the Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership – This runs by state chapters. Here is Colorado's: <http://oes-colorado.org/Home/Benevolent-Projects-Scholarship-Info/ESTARL-Eastern-Star-Training-Awards-for-Religious-Leadership>

National & Foundation Scholarships

These organizations provide scholarships that can be used for theological study.

- Fund for Theological Education (FTE) <https://fteonline.org/fellowships/>
- American Association of University Women (AAUW) <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund <https://www.hsf.net>
- United Negro College Fund (UNCF) <https://unconf.org/scholarships>
- Korean American Scholarship Foundation <https://www.kasf.org/scholarships/>
- Bureau of Indian Education Grants <https://www.bie.edu/service/grants>
- Association for Jewish Studies Fellowships <https://www.associationforjewishstudies.org/professional-development/fellowships-and-awards>

Scholarship Search Tools

Use these trusted tools to find additional opportunities:

- <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college>
- <https://www.fastweb.com>
- <https://www.scholarships.com>
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx>

Employer & Local Support

- Ask your employer about tuition reimbursement (may be tax-free up to federal limits)
- Check with local community foundations for regional scholarships

How to Avoid Scholarship Scams

Do NOT:

- Pay application or search fees
- Share personal or financial information with unknown organizations

Look for:

- Clear eligibility requirements
- A professional website
- Contact information and application deadlines