

# HELP OUR SEMINARY STUDENTS GRADUATE WITH NO TUITION DEBT!



Erskine Theological Seminary is proud to offer our Partners Scholarship Program. This program provides a 100% tuition scholarship to educate students for service in the Christian Church. In addition to the financial award, the Partners Scholarship Program provides our students with the opportunity to strengthen relationships with their church and their community; it enables them to share their calling to the ministry.

The student also agrees to pledge \$40.00 per month for 12 months (September through August) to the Partners Scholarship Fund each year he/she participates in the program.

Erskine Seminary contributes the difference of up to \$2,000.00 per year in scholarship funds. All contributions are tax deductible.



## How do I apply for the Partners Scholarship Program?

To apply for the scholarship, complete a Partners Scholarship Application, found on our website: [www.erskine.edu/seminary](http://www.erskine.edu/seminary). Select the *Admissions* tab, *Financial Aid* from the pull down menu, and scroll down the left to select *Partners Scholarship Program Application*. Once accepted into the program, you will be requested to provide the names and addresses of your “sponsoring or supporting team.” This team consists of you, your home church, and your individual sponsors. These are individuals who understand and support your calling to ministry, who will offer prayer for you, and who are willing to contribute financially to the scholarship fund to help you pursue your calling and commitment.



## QUALIFICATIONS

The student must enroll fulltime. Since we offer this Scholarship for all our degree programs, fulltime status varies. Please refer to our catalog for the number of credit hours required for fulltime status for each degree. Credit hours are calculated from September through August and include J Term and Summer Term courses.

The student solicits sponsors who agree to pledge at least \$40.00 per month for 12 months (September through August) to the Partners Scholarship Fund. The number of sponsors required varies depending on the degree the student is seeking. Please refer to our website for further details: [www.erskine.edu/seminary](http://www.erskine.edu/seminary). Select the *Admissions* tab, *Financial Aid* from the pull down menu, then scroll down to select *Partners Scholarship Program Informational Document* from the left side of the page.

In addition to recruiting individual sponsors, the student’s sponsoring church must agree to pledge \$500.00 per year, each year the student participates in the program.

## Who are the Sponsors?

Sponsors are individuals you know, such as relatives, neighbors, friends, and parishioners who agree to become members of your “sponsoring or supporting team.” They agree to contribute at least \$40.00 per month for 12 months (September through August) to the Partners Scholarship Fund. Of course, it is hoped that most sponsors will renew their agreement each year that you participate in the program.

## How much will I receive in the scholarship award?

As a Partners scholarship recipient, you will be awarded a full tuition scholarship for an academic year. You must renew your application and recruit sponsors each year that you participate.



## How does the money given by my sponsoring team get to me?

The support given by your sponsoring team is directed to a restricted fund for the Partners Scholarship Program. Instead of you receiving direct support from your sponsoring team, you are given a full tuition scholarship for your participation in the Partners Scholarship program. This way, your sponsoring team is able to give on a tax-deductible basis, and you receive the award in the form of a scholarship.



## What are the selection criteria for the program?

The scholarship recipients are selected based on their individual commitment to the local church, academic excellence, their calling to ministry, and their proven leadership in ministry.

## Are there other obligations I must meet?

Yes. Once every quarter you are asked to write a half to full page thank you note to your sponsors updating them on your studies at Erskine Theological Seminary. These updates are included with the quarterly reports mailed to your sponsors.

## Am I able to combine the Partners Scholarship with other scholarships?

Most scholarships at Erskine Theological Seminary can not be combined with other institutional scholarship awards. However, students of the following denominations may combine their denominational scholarship with the Partners Program to make up the tuition difference: Associate Reformed Presbyterian, Presbyterian Church in America, Reformed University Fellowship, and Presbyterian Church (USA). The number of required sponsors is fewer because of the denominational scholarship. Please refer to the *Partners Scholarship Program Informational Document* found online for specific details.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

[WWW.ERSKINE.EDU/SEMINARY](http://WWW.ERSKINE.EDU/SEMINARY) 864.379.6596

# INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR?

## What is the Partners Scholarship Program?

This exciting program began at Erskine Theological Seminary in 2006 as a way to address the alarming national trend of escalating debt among seminary students. This program awards participating students a full tuition scholarship.

The program works this way: the student solicits a certain number of sponsors to contribute at least \$40.00 per month for 12 months (the number varies depending on the degree program in which the student is enrolled). The student's church also commits to sponsor \$500.00 per year for each year the student is in the program. The student contributes \$40.00 per month as well. The student must meet these requirements each year he/she participates in the program. The seminary makes up the tuition difference; our Development Team solicits this difference from Alumni and Friends of the Seminary. There are academic requirements the student must meet as well.

## Why don't my contributions go directly to the student I am sponsoring or into his/her tuition account?

In order for contributions to be tax deductible, contributions cannot go directly to the student or into the student's account. If the student meets all the program requirements, including the sponsorship requirements, he/she automatically receives a full tuition scholarship.

## Why must the student solicit sponsors? Why aren't these scholarships awarded through endowed funds?

The Seminary does use endowed funds to award scholarships to students! However, the endowed funds do not generate enough income to provide full tuition scholarships to the vast majority of our students. Most students receive partial scholarships this way. Erskine feels strongly about providing a method for students to receive full tuition scholarships to prevent them from graduating with large amounts of debt that they may find difficult to repay.

## Partners Scholarship Program

**To apply**  
or to learn more about  
the program

please contact:

Mary Stephens  
Director of Partners Scholarship  
800.770.6936 or  
stephens@erskine.edu

LaShelia Wyatt  
Director of Financial Aid  
800.770.6936 or  
lwyatt@erskine.edu

[www.erskine.edu/seminary](http://www.erskine.edu/seminary)



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PARTNERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES