

Richard M. Elseroad Scholarship Team Guiding Principles

Statement of Purpose

The sole purpose of the Richard M. Elseroad Scholarship is to glorify God. To that end, the primary goal is the training of individuals in God's Word so that they may be equipped to serve Him. Therefore, to encourage, foster, and support those in this endeavor, the objectives of this scholarship include, but are not limited to, providing financial assistance to individuals enrolled at a Concordia University System (CUS) school and pursuing an academic degree/certification in a church-related career, or attending a LCMS seminary.

The Guiding Principles Are:

GP 1 Eligibility Requirements

Priority will be given to individuals who are members of Grace Lutheran Church. If no individuals apply in any one year, and should funds be available, applications from other LCMS churches in our district, or beyond, could be considered for support. Supporting a LCMS seminarian receives priority considerations over all other applicants.

GP 2 Application Process and Requirements

2a. Each applicant is required to submit an Application Form. Deadline to receive a completed scholarship application for an anticipated **Fall** enrollment is **March 15**; for an anticipated **Spring** enrollment is **September 15**.

2b. Other than a LCMS seminarian, individuals must be enrolled as a full-time student at one of the ten (10) CUS campuses and major in a professional church work academic program. These are: Pastor, Teacher, Deaconess, Director of Christian Education, Director of Christian Outreach, Director of Family Life Ministry, Director of Parish Music, and Lay Minister.

GP 3 Financial Support Undergraduate

The amount of financial support granted to qualifying individuals for undergraduate study in any one year will be determined by the funds available. The student may be enrolled at any class level (freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior), and will be considered for continued annual support subject to satisfactory academic performance, an annual re-submission of an application, and available funds. Financial support is limited to a maximum of four years or when 120 academic semester credit hours has been earned, whichever comes first.

GP 4 Academic Scholarship

4a. The Richard M. Elseroad Scholarship recipient is expected to demonstrate academic excellence in his/her chosen field of church-related studies. To be considered eligible for continued annual financial support, a minimum GPA of 3.0 is to be maintained at the end of each academic term. Should the GPA fall below that level, one additional academic term will be granted with available financial support to again achieve a minimum GPA of 3.0. If this does not occur, further scholarship support will be withdrawn, until when/if a cumulative 3.0 GPA is achieved.

4b. Should such academic progress not be achieved as described in 4a, due to extenuating circumstances, an exception can be granted by special petition submitted by the student, and upon review by the team and subsequent recommendation to the Administrative Team for approval.

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GP 5 Scholarship Recipient - Congregation Contact

At the end of each academic school year and prior to the following start of another academic year, the recipient of a Richard M. Elseroad Scholarship is to either (a) make a brief verbal statement to the Grace Lutheran Church congregation (all worship services) or (b) submit a letter to Grace Lutheran Church, stating their progress, experiences, and acknowledgment of the support that has been given to make their academic studies a successful one.

GP 6 Financial Support - Seminarian/Graduate Studies

The minimum amount of financial support in any one year for an individual enrolled in a LCMS seminary will be determined by funds available. This also applies to an individual engaged in graduate level studies leading to a degree/certification in an approved church-related professional academic program. An application form must be submitted each year, and satisfactory academic performance must be demonstrated.

GP 7 Non-Church Related Academic Studies

7a. The Richard M. Elseroad Scholarship has as its primary objective one of preparing individuals for church-related careers. However, the Concordia University System (CUS), with its ten (10) college campuses across the United States, also offer over 200 other academic majors and programs, and do so in a Christ-centered educational environment.

7b. To financially support a Grace Lutheran Church applicant in attending such a school, regardless of intended major and career path, a scholarship could be offered to eligible recipients. This would be subject to satisfactory academic performance, re-submission of an annual application, and available funds. **GP 4** and **GP 5** also apply.

GP 8 Application Form

Scholarship application forms are available in the church office. A website link also may be available that will permit the application to be downloaded, completed, and directly submitted online to the church office.

GP 9 Application Review and Approval

Upon receipt of a completed application, the Richard M. Elseroad Scholarship Team will evaluate the applicant, determine eligibility, and make a recommendation to the Administrative Team for either approval or denial. When approval is recommended, the Administrative Team will determine the amount of scholarship to be awarded based on available funds.

GP10 Scholarship Recipient Contact

Each scholarship recipient will be assigned to a Scholarship Team Member. This will provide a contact for communication throughout the year(s) that the student receives financial support from the scholarship fund.

GP 11 The team can recommend changes to these Guiding Principles for approval by the Grace Lutheran Church Board.