

ECCLESIA —COLLEGE—

MATCHING CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Guidelines & Instructions

Please read the guidelines and follow the instructions to determine if your congregation would like to participate. Ecclesia College (EC) will match gifts up to \$750 per semester (for a total of \$1,500 per school year) for each undergraduate student. Students enrolled full-time (12 or more credit hours) will receive the full matching amount, while part-time students (fewer than 12 credit hours) will receive prorated matching funds. Churches from any denomination or independent congregation within the United States are welcome to participate. When a church partners with EC, this can add up to \$1,500 per semester (\$3,000 per year) towards the student's Financial Aid Package.

Submission Deadline

EC encourages a submission deadline of April 1. Student Award Forms received by April 1 of the year preceding enrollment are assured a matching scholarship. Forms received after April 1 will be considered based on remaining funds availability. There is no cost to the church to enroll.

Program Participation Guidelines

- **Eligibility Restrictions:** This scholarship is not stackable with athletic or performance scholarships, as the program is designed to recruit non-athlete students. Students must be pursuing a bachelor's degree and must be enrolled either full-time or part-time in a traditional undergraduate program. Full-time students will receive the full match, while part-time students will receive a prorated amount based on enrollment hours. The scholarship duration is limited to eight semesters, with a possible extension to ten semesters for approved extenuating circumstances. Students enrolled in associate degree programs or adult/continuing education programs are not eligible.
- **Establish a Local Church Scholarship Committee:** The committee will promote the scholarship program in your church, determine which students will receive funds, and decide the amount each student will receive per semester. Early action by the Church Scholarship Committee can make the difference between receiving and not receiving an Ecclesia College Matching Church Scholarship.
- **IRS Regulations:** The IRS does not allow the use of the Matching Church Scholarship Program to channel funds from family members to EC students. All funds donated through this program must be from persons or sources that are "detached and of disinterested generosity" as defined by IRS regulations. Specifically, this means that funds from a student's parents or the student recipient cannot be used to fund awards. Additionally, the IRS does not allow a charitable income tax deduction if a donor names a specific student as the recipient of their contribution. EC also cannot provide matching funds for such targeted gifts.

Steps to Participate

1. **Complete the Church Enrollment Form:** This is a one-time requirement for churches to register for the program. The form must be signed by the pastor or an authorized church official.
 2. **Submit the Annual Student Award Form:** This form is required each year for each student being supported by the church. The Church Scholarship Committee or Pastor must complete, sign, and mail the form to Ecclesia College. Committees are encouraged to make equal awards to all participating students.
 3. **Scholarship Certificate:** Upon request, a Scholarship Certificate from Ecclesia College can be sent to the Church Scholarship Committee. Congregations are encouraged to present these certificates publicly to inspire others to participate in helping fund students' educations through the Matching Church Scholarship Program.
 4. **Encourage Donor Participation:** Increase your church's scholarship account by encouraging donors who work for companies with corporate matching programs to donate directly to your church's scholarship account at Ecclesia College. The donor may not designate a specific student recipient, but may designate that their gift be placed in the church's scholarship account. This money can be used for awards for students from their church as determined by the scholarship committee.
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Payment Deadlines

Payments are due on August 1 (fall semester) and December 1 (spring semester). Scholarships are awarded on a semester basis and are not refundable if a student's eligibility changes mid-semester (e.g., joining an athletic team).

Questions?

Concerns regarding the program's church account balance, student awards, or general information should be directed to the Business Office by calling 479-248-7236 x 210 or emailing development@ecollege.edu. You may also write to the Matching Church Scholarship Program, Ecclesia College, 9653 Nations Dr., Springdale, AR 72762.