

Gateway Scholarship Program

Background and Purpose

The Gateway Scholarship Awards Program is created to support individual members of Gateway Community Church who choose to pursue undergraduate and graduate post-secondary education at one of the colleges/universities that are supported by the Christian Reformed Church in North America denomination. As per the "Ministry Shares, Minister' Pension, and Other Resources for 2021" these institutions include:

- Calvin University,
- Calvin Theological Seminary,
- Calvin Institute for Christian Worship,
- Dordt University,
- Institute for Christian Studies,
- The King's University (Edmonton, AB),
- Redeemer University,
- Kuyper University/College, and
- Trinity Christian College, (Chicago)

Funding

The funding for the Gateway Scholarship Awards Program will be determined on a year-by-year basis.¹ The funds would not be a *use-it-or-lose-it* allotment. These funds would be placed in the "Gateway Scholarship Program Fund" each year, able to grow to as much as \$100,000 before it reaches its cap.

If/once a cap is reached, the allotment for "the Gateway Scholarship Fund" would decrease.

Mission & Philosophy

The Program is created as a way to be focused and intentional with our Ministry Shares contributions to denominationally supported post-secondary institutions by providing financial support and encouragement to members within our Gateway community who choose to live, study, and learn full time at one of these institutions and to further encourage the faith formation and Christian worldview of these individuals as they pursue their vocation and calling. The desire is to encourage students to consider Christian post-secondary education and to help offset the additional costs involved with such a decision.

The Gateway Scholarship Awards Team oversees the Program and will be made up of a combination of a Pastor, a member of Council, and a lay member of Gateway. The Gateway-Governing Council approves the total amount of income available for student awards on an annual basis, based on the existing Gateway Scholarship Awards program policy and Gateway Ministry Shares philosophy.

No member of the team shall have any relationship to an applicant. In an instance where any team member is related to an applicant, they shall remove themselves from the team and be replaced.

Eligibility

As stated in the Mission and Philosophy, students must live, study and learn full time at one of the 9 eligible universities stated above and be members in good standing of Gateway Community CRC. And must fit all other criteria as laid out in this policy document.

¹ Though the goal is to provide \$20,000 per year to this fund. When this started in 2021, the goal was to use the assigned "percentage" [24% in 2021] of denominational ministry shares distributed to recognized "accredited universities." For example, Gateway Community Church committed to contribute a maximum of \$150,000 in denominational ministry shares. In 2021, the "accredited university" portion was 24%, or \$36,000. Thus, \$36,000 was given. These numbers change year-by-year, but the goal at this time is \$20,000 per year, or more, as determined by Governing Council, and supported by the congregation via the budget.

Exemptions

Should an applicant not fully meet the requirements laid out, an application for an exception shall be made by the GSAP Team confidentially to the governing council providing all information. The Governing Council will make the final decision, and the GSAP will honour and be unified in that decision.

Additional information

1. Award Funds are made available to Gateway members in good standing with a valid Social Insurance Number.
2. The Scholarship Awards Team will consist of a Pastor, one council member, and one lay member of Gateway. Gateway Governing Council will appoint members to this team. Any conflicts of interest between applicants and team members must be reported to the Governing Council.
3. Funds enable eligible students to continue their education. The Gateway Scholarship Awards are not based on academic merit or “ranked” by financial need. Students need only demonstrate financial need up to, or in excess of, the requested amount (up to \$4000). All individuals who meet the stated criteria and who provide the required documentation will be eligible. Award recipients will be awarded at the discretion of the Gateway Scholarship Awards Team.
4. Applicant Eligibility: Individuals must complete the following steps to be considered eligible to receive a Gateway Scholarship Award:
 - a. Confirm membership of Gateway (baptized or professing)
 - b. Submit a complete application form including tuition expenses (attach link to form)
 - c. Submit a completed pastoral reference form (attach link to form)
5. Individuals may not contribute to the Gateway Scholarship Award fund.
6. The Gateway Scholarship Awards Team will make an annual call for applicants to the Program through an application process. Individuals may apply once per year, and must reapply each year. There is no cap on how many years a student may receive an award. The team will also ensure that all applicants are familiar with this policy, and the team will ensure adherence to this policy.
7. Eligible students may not receive more than \$4,000 per year. [A scholarship provided in any given year is not a promise or assurance of the same amount being provided in future years. Assessments are made each year based on both “eligibility” and “the number of applicants.”]
8. The Gateway Scholarship Awards Team will notify all applicants of their decision.
9. Successful recipients are required to complete a claim form that includes verification that they are enrolled in one of the approved post-secondary institutions and information regarding how the institution will receive payment towards that individual's tuition amount.
10. In the event the successful recipient withdraws from his or her studies, if the award money was already sent to a post-secondary institution, the institution is responsible to immediately return any funds not spent to Gateway.
11. Privacy of Information in Award Applications: The Committee only shares information submitted with the permission of the applicant. Personal information with respect to names and addresses of students will never be shared without specific permission. Other than with team members and the Governing Council.