

financial aid application

Instructions

Mid-America recognizes the financial pressures of full-time seminary study and does all it can to make such study as affordable as possible. Tuition covers only a small portion of Mid-America's cost of operation. The largest portion is covered by the sacrificial giving of many of God's people. Thus, all students receive a significant amount of financial aid in the form of tuition that is deliberately less than the actual cost of their education. Therefore, **we expect students to do some of their own work in raising funds from churches, family, and other outside sources. We also expect students to utilize their own savings and investments. When possible, student spouses should seek employment.**

Instructions for Financial Aid

1. Fill out the Financial Worksheet using your projected financial situation for next year. Use the completed form and the attached letter to speak with your diaconate about your finances. Your deacons should help you budget if you need help. The Seminary can help estimate cost of living for those who are coming from out of the area. **Please do this promptly so your church can include this in its budgeting process.**
2. Fill out the Financial Aid Application.
 - a. Forms will not be processed until you have been admitted.
 - b. The application deadline is May 1. Any applications received after that date will be considered at a reduced rate based on the availability of funds.
 - c. Aid is awarded for one academic year at a time. The financial aid committee reserves the right to reevaluate aid should your financial situation, degree program, or intended course load substantially change.
 - d. Priority for aid is given to full-time M.Div. students.
 - e. Mid-America offers three types of financial assistance
 - Workstudy – on campus employment in areas such as security and housekeeping. Applications for workstudy can be filled out at registration.
 - Scholarships – awards are based on high academic standing and other criteria as specified. These awards are made in the summer.
 - Grants – awards are based on financial need. These awards can be applied to tuition or in some cases given directly to the student to help with living expenses.
3. Turn in the Financial Aid Application and a signed copy of the Financial Worksheet.

Note that the **scholarship application** is part of the financial aid application. If you would like to be considered for scholarships, but are not requesting a grant, please note that on the form. To be eligible for a scholarship based on financial need, you must fill out all the financial information and outside assistance information.

Financial aid awarded by Mid-America is confidential between the student and the Student Aid Committee. Aid may be discussed with your council or session, but should not be discussed with other students. Any such discussion with students could result in the forfeiture of financial aid.

Personal Information

1. Name _____
Last First Middle/Former

2. Mailing address _____
Number, Street, and Apt # City State Zip Code Country

3. Email address _____

4. Phone numbers _____
Home _____
Cell _____

5. Date of Birth _____
Month / Date / Year

6. Place of Birth _____
City State/Province Country

7. Marital Status
 Married
 Single
 Widowed
 Divorced
 Engaged
Date of wedding: _____

8. Number of children _____

9. Age(s) of children _____

10. Is your family currently expecting a child?
 Yes, due date: _____
 No

Citizenship Information

11. Are you a U.S. or Canadian citizen or permanent resident?
 Yes, U.S. citizen
 Yes, Canadian citizen
 No

12. If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, of what country are you a citizen?

13. Current U.S. visa information (if applicable)
Visa Type F1 Other _____
Visa Exp Date _____ / _____ / _____
Month Date Year

Course of Study

14. What is your degree program?
 Master of Divinity (M.Div)
 Master of Theological Studies (MTS)

15. How many credit hours do you plan to take next year? _____

16. Anticipated date of graduation _____ / _____
Semester Year

17. At the start of the next academic year, will you be a new or returning student?
 New, first time junior
 New, transfer
 Returning student
 junior middler senior

Scholarships

18. Would you like to be considered for all appropriate scholarships? (See catalog, page 72, for scholarship listing.) Yes No

Loans

19. Do you plan to apply for a loan for the upcoming academic year?
 Yes
 No

20. If yes, how much do you plan on borrowing?
\$ _____

U.S. Veteran Benefits

21. Are you a U.S. Veteran?
 Yes
 No

22. If yes, will you receive VA benefits while at Mid-America?
 Yes
 No

23. If yes, have you already set up your educational benefits with the VA?
 Yes
 No

24. Amount you will receive for the coming academic year
\$ _____

Outside Assistance

25. Have you requested support from your home church? Yes No

If yes, what were the results? If no, please explain.

26. What other efforts are you making to secure support (family, outside scholarships, other)?

Current Financial Information

27. How much debt do you (and your spouse) have?

Student Loans \$ _____
Other \$ _____

28. Do you anticipate working off campus while attending Mid-America?

Yes, _____ hours per week
 No

29. Are you seeking on-campus employment?

Yes My spouse would like to be considered for
 No on-campus employment

30. If married, will your spouse be working?

Yes, \$ _____ (estimated annual income)
 No

31. How much assistance do you need? \$ _____

32. Please use information from your completed **Financial Worksheet** to answer the following question.

Total monthly income: _____

Total monthly expenditures: _____

Monthly deficit: _____

Total assets: _____

U.S. Resident Certification

I certify that I have accurately reported my finances and all other information in this application and that I will notify the Seminary of any subsequent changes. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of facts shall be considered sufficient cause for revocation of aid.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Non-U.S. Residents (incoming first year students only)

This form must be completed before Mid-America can issue a visa eligibility document (Form I-20). The amount of money you certify as being available to finance your studies must, along with your financial aid request, equal tuition plus living expenses for 9 months. All sources of support must be shown in U.S. dollars. Certification of funding must be submitted in English. All letters of support must be for Mid-America and not some other institution. If the Seminary finds your application for admission, financial aid application and other documentation complete, we will issue you an I-20, which you must bring with you to the U.S. Consulate.

33. Are you able to contribute to the cost of your travel and education?

- Yes
- No

34. Are various agencies in your home country able to contribute to the cost of your travel and education?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes to question 33 or 34, please answer the next 4 questions; otherwise, skip to question 39.

35. In case of emergency, are there sources of additional funds available to you once you arrive in the United States?

- Yes
- No

36. Does your government currently impose restrictions on the exchange and release of funds for study in the United States?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe _____

37. A certification of funds in the form of a letter from a bank is required. This letter from the bank

- is enclosed
- will be sent separately

38. An official letter from any sponsoring organization or church is required if you have received a definite notice that you will receive a financial award to study in the United States. This sponsor letter:

- is enclosed
- will be sent separately

39. What are your career goals and how does this degree program help you to accomplish them?

40. Do you plan to return to your country of origin at the end of your studies? Yes No

If no, please explain _____

Non-U.S. Resident Certification

I certify that I have accurately reported my finances and all other information in this application and that I will notify the Seminary of any subsequent changes. I understand that misrepresentation or omission of facts shall be considered sufficient cause for revocation of a scholarship.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

To the Diaconate,

A student from your church is applying for financial aid from Mid-America Reformed Seminary. In order to be eligible for financial assistance from the Student Aid Fund, students must first seek financial aid from their local churches, and, if necessary, from the regional church.

Mid-America recognizes the financial pressures of full-time seminary study and does all it can to make it as affordable as possible. Tuition covers only a small portion of Mid-America's cost of operation. The largest portion is covered by the sacrificial giving of many of God's people. Thus, all students receive a significant amount of financial aid in the form of tuition that is deliberately less than the actual cost of their education. A limited amount of additional financial aid is available through our Student Aid Fund to assist students who demonstrate financial need.

The vocational calling of a minister of the Word is unique compared to that of, for example, an accountant. The calling of a minister is observed and confirmed by the church, and it is the church that oversees and shepherds the student in his preparation for gospel ministry. The seminary serves as a resource for the church to help the student in his preparation for the ministry (i.e. we do not take the place of the church). Since ministerial preparation is a function of the church, the church has primary responsibility for ensuring the student's welfare while he prepares for the gospel call.

Mid-America's Student Aid Fund is intended to help "bridge the gap" between what resources the church and the student are able to provide and the cost of preparation for the gospel ministry. The Student Aid Fund has been endowed over many years by the faithful giving of God's people who are devoted to seeing students prepared to propagate steadfastly the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Student Aid Fund has limited resources to allocate to students with financial need and should be considered the final source of financial aid.

To assist you in understanding the student's financial needs we have provided a budgeting worksheet that the student should fill out and review with you. In meeting with the student, you may want to address some of the following:

- How money will be provided (for tuition, for living expenses, etc.).
- How often money will be distributed (per semester, monthly, etc.).
- How the student will be held accountable (budget submission, regular meetings, etc.).

Please be sure to sign off on the budgeting worksheet as the student will submit a copy with his financial aid application.

Sincerely,

The Student Aid Committee
Mid-America Reformed Seminary