



## Financial Aid Policy 2020 – 2021

### **Mission Statement of United Lutheran Seminary:**

*Unifying, Learning, Serving: United Lutheran Seminary is a welcoming and diverse learning community equipping people to proclaim the living Gospel for a changing church and world.*

Throughout their existence, the Lutheran Theological Seminaries at Gettysburg and Philadelphia have worked to provide financially viable ways for students to receive theological education at many levels. Now as United Lutheran Seminary, we have affirmed we are “a community of saved and forgiven people of God ... called to minister with and affirm all people, knowing that the world is often a place of alienation and brokenness.” (See our [Welcome and Equity Statement](#)).

It is the policy of United Lutheran Seminary not to discriminate against any student applicant for academic acceptance on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, parental status, family medical history or genetic information or any other non-merit based factor in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and other school-administered programs. Background checks are required of all applicants prior to admission.

Given the generosity of benefactors and well-wishers, we find ourselves stewards of resources coming from the past, including from legacies. Our mission continues to be affirmed by the ongoing generosity of many donors. Hence, at this point, we feel blessed to be able – on the basis of funds available and the availability of faculty and staff resources – to support all degree seeking students, including those in our first theological degrees, namely Master of Divinity (MDiv), Master of Arts (MA), Master of Arts in Public Leadership (MAPL), and Master of Arts in Ministerial Leadership (MAML), and our Graduate Programs (currently Master of Sacred Theology (STM) and Doctor of Ministry (DMin), continuing the policy that was put in place for the 2020 – 21 academic year.

To clarify – if a student receives scholarship funding from non-ULS sources and it is not designated, that funding will be put toward tuition. ULS will then cover the gap up to the full

amount of the tuition charges which vary according to the type of student enrollment. If the donor wishes to designate this funding for housing, living, books, etc., the donor simply needs to indicate this when they send the gift so it will be properly designated. Our aspiration in inviting additional tuition funding for the seminary is to ensure that the maximum number of enrolled students can benefit from all the financial aid we can offer.

### **ULS Financial Aid Guidelines**

#### **Admissions:**

1. Eligibility for financial aid is predicated on admission to a ULS degree program no later than July 30<sup>th</sup> for the Fall semester/January term or November 30<sup>th</sup> for the Spring semester/Summer term. Completed applications for all degree programs must be received by the ULS Admissions Office by July 15<sup>th</sup> or November 15<sup>th</sup> respectively.
2. All applications will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee based on the criteria of undergraduate and/or graduate GPA, references, statement of faith/ application essay as well as judicatory/candidacy status.

#### **Financial support for First Theological Degrees:**

1. The full-time flat tuition rate for the academic year 2020- 2021 is set at \$21,500 for the year/\$10,750 per semester for full time students. Full time enrollment is considered a minimum of 8 courses (24 credits) per year and a maximum of 10 courses (30 credits). If a student takes more than 10 courses, the student is financially responsible for paying for these courses. Students are expected to seek and utilize all available funding support from personal, familial, congregation, judicatory, and/or external agency resources. Beyond these funds ULS will provide additional support up to full tuition.
2. The part-time tuition rate is \$2,150 per 3 credit course. Students are expected to seek and utilize all available funding support from personal, familial, congregation, judicatory, and/or external agency resources. Beyond these funds ULS will provide additional support up to the tuition owed.
3. Housing for full time residential students who bring in full funding from outside sources and Co-op students may be subsidized on a case-by-case basis. No housing funding will be provided for part time or Distributed Learning students.
4. The Vice President for Student Services/Dean, in consultation with the President, will have oversight of scholarship funding.

5. All students must complete the financial aid application process by submitting both the Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and ULS Institutional Financial Aid Application every academic year while enrolled at the seminary.

**Financial Support for Graduate Degrees:**

1. All graduate students in the Master of Sacred Theology and the Doctor of Ministry programs are expected to seek and utilize all available funding support from personal, familial, congregation, judicatory, and/or external agency resources. Beyond these funds ULS will provide additional support for no more than two courses (6 credits) a semester.
2. The Director of the Graduate School, along with the Vice President for Student Services/Dean and the President, will have oversight of scholarship funding.
3. All students must complete the financial aid application process by submitting both the Free Application of Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and ULS Institutional Financial Aid Application every academic year while enrolled at the seminary.
4. International students are very welcome, and we recognize their invaluable contribution to the life of the seminary. Such students will need to come with support from other organizations to cover their studies. After the first year, tuition assistance could be considered for a limited amount on a case-by-case basis.