



Michigan District Student Aid Guidelines and Info

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:37 – 38).

In prayerful response to our Lord's command, the Michigan District, LCMS encourages and supports students from our member congregations who are preparing for a church work vocation (Commissioned or Ordained). The District assists in this need by providing financial assistance to qualified students enrolled at one of our approved Concordia University System (CUS) institutions or one of our LCMS seminaries.

To qualify, students must do the following **annually**:

- Be enrolled in one of the following programs at a school under the **Concordia University System (CUS) or LCMS Seminary**:
 - A pastoral or deaconess preparation program (excludes additional degrees and colloquy work)
 - A full time (12 credit hours or more) **undergraduate** program that focuses on producing future church workers or Lutheran educators
 - Be enrolled in a graduate/ certificate program as approved by the Michigan District
- **Read and follow** all application instructions for the [LCMS District Financial Aid Application](#), including:
 - Have an intention to enter church work
 - marked "YES" on the application form (**includes intended part-time workers**)
 - **Send** applications to the **financial aid office** of the enrolled CUS school or seminary for **section 2 of the form** to be filled out
 - The CUS school or Seminary will mail/email completed forms to the district by **June 1** for those **starting and continuing** their program in the fall or **November 1** for those **starting** their program in the spring **who have never applied for aid before**.
- **Complete and Mail/email** the [Pastoral Verification Form](#) to the **District Office** by the proper due dates:
 - **June 1** for those starting in the fall semester (**and/or requesting aid again**)
 - **November 1** for those enrolled in their first program semester in the spring (**and have never applied for aid before**)
 - **If you wish to email your pastoral form:**
 - Contact the District office 734. 665.3791 for more info.
 - **Mark the box** on the Verification Form

Additional Terms:

- Be enrolled in a program that will provide educational qualifications necessary to be eligible for a **first call as a commissioned worker or an ordained pastor** of the LCMS
- Be a **member** of a Michigan District, LCMS Congregation
- **Maintain eligibility** to remain in the qualifying program of study (maintain GPA, etc.)
- **Agree** that, if the student does not complete his/her program of study for church work and /or does not maintain at least a two-year commitment to church work, **all grant money shall be repaid to the Michigan District**

To see how aid is distributed, please look at the table on the following page.



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The Michigan District sets a base amount each year, and aid is awarded according to the following percentages of the base amount. **As of 2025, all full time qualifying students are eligible for 100 percent of the base amount being offered.** SMP students still receive 150 percent of the base and part-time students now receive 50 percent :

Seminaries

• Traditional Pastoral Route (M.Div.)	100%	4 years max
• Residential Alternate Route	100%	4 years max
• Center for Hispanic Studies		Per individual covenant
• Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology		Per individual covenant
• Pastoral student studying abroad through LCMS seminary	100%	1 extra year
• Deaconess program (full time)	100%	2 years max
• Deaconess program (part time)	50%	4 years max
• Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)	150%	4 years max
• SMP to General Pastoral Certification (GPC)	50%	4 years max

Concordia University System (full time students only)

• Undergraduate at Concordia University Ann Arbor	100%	5 years max
• Undergraduate at Concordia University Wisconsin	100%	5 years max
• Undergraduate at other CUS school	100%	5 years max
• Approved Graduate/Certificate programs at CUS school	30%	2 years max

For an example of how District aid works, say a full-time student receives about \$3,000* dollars from the District to cover two semesters of an academic year at Concordia. If that student continued to ask for aid for all eight semesters of education, and the base amount stayed the same, that student could save up to \$12,000.

*Base amount subject to change annually.

Special considerations and modifications at any time are at the discretion of the Michigan District.

Revised July 2025