

**Office of Financial Aid for Students
American Baptist Churches USA
Office of Financial Aid for Studies**

Frequently asked questions

- ❖ How am I going to pay for college?
 - Through scholarships, grants, and loans.
 - Scholarships and grants do not have to be repaid. Loans do.

- ❖ What are the eligibility requirements for an American Baptist Undergraduate Scholarship?
 - Student must be a member of an American Baptist church.
 - Student must be a U.S. citizen.
 - Student must be preparing to enter an accredited institution in the USA or Puerto Rico as a full-time student (fall of 2017).
 - A minimum grade point average of 2.75 is required.

- ❖ How do I apply for an American Baptist Scholarship?
 - Complete the application form, write the required essay, and prepare a one page résumé of your high school activities (see application for details)
 - **We accept original applications only – facsimile (fax) submissions will not be accepted. E-MAIL and e-mail attachments will not be accepted.** Only complete applications will be considered.

- ❖ Do I need to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in order to apply for an American Baptist Scholarship?
 - Yes, all of our programs require that the applicant demonstrate financial need. The application is available at www.fafsa.ed.org.
 - Scholarships are awarded on the basis of financial need as determined by the school's Financial Aid Director (information obtained from the FAFSA form). Award amounts vary.

- ❖ What does the deadline date really mean?
 - The deadline date of **May 31 is a FIRM date**. All materials must be received in Valley Forge, PA prior to that date. We will not accept any application materials by fax or email attachment. If you fail to mail all required documents on time, the application will be considered late. With limited scholarship funds we are unable to accept late applications.

- ❖ Need based? What does that mean?
 - The need rationale that we use in the Office of Financial Aid for Studies is cost of attendance minus the expected family contribution, free forms of aid and the maximum subsidized Stafford loan whether the student accepts the loan or not.
 - It is unfortunate, but our financial aid decisions are predicated on the notion that all students will absorb some educational debt. Our priority is to assist students whose need exceeds what is generally available from the subsidized Stafford program.

- ❖ What is the expected family contribution (EFC)?
 - The expected family contribution or EFC is a figure that is a product of the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). It represents the family's contribution to a student's education for calculating financial aid, most typically where free forms of aid such as scholarships are concerned.

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- ❖ How do you determine who receives a scholarship?
 - A scholarship committee will review the applications,
 - Applicants are screened on the basis of their
 - ✓ Personal qualities of character and leadership as reflected in their contributions to church, school, and community,
 - ✓ Academic achievements as reflected in their secondary school records,
 - ✓ Recommendations from school and church,
 - ✓ Written essay

- ❖ When will I know if I received a scholarship?
 - Students will be notified in mid June.
 - Awards are disbursed directly to the college or university in two equal installments (August 15th for fall and February 15th for spring).
 - If you transfer to another institution the award is not guaranteed.

- ❖ How do I renew my scholarship?
 - Renewal applications are mailed annually to the address designated on your original application. You may anticipate receiving the renewal application packet by 2/1/2017.
 - Scholarships are renewable for up to four years of undergraduate work, based on the student maintaining a 2.75 GPA (must submit a transcript) and the recommendation of the Financial Aid Director.
 - Renewal applications MUST include official signed and sealed transcript from the school you are attending.
 - Renewal Applicants must also provide a current essay, in keeping with the guideline listed on the application.
 - Monetary amounts may vary form year to year depending on the available funds.

- ❖ If I qualify to apply for more than one grant program with American Baptist Churches USA, can I receive more than one grant?
 - Students are limited to one scholarship per year.

- ❖ Will the scholarship award be sent directly to me?
 - Payments are sent to your college/university and applied to your account. The funds are designated for educational expenses. The scholarship award is divided into two payments (fall and spring)

- ❖ Are international students eligible for undergraduate scholarships?
 - We do not have funding available for international students. We suggest you visit the following Web sites: www.fastweb.com or www.scholarships.com

- ❖ Suggestions
 - Make copies of the blank Certification of Church Membership and College/University Financial Aid Office forms before you give them to others to be completed.
 - Make a copy of the application form that you completed for your records.

Additional questions may be addressed to the:

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