



## **Ministry Scholarship Policies**

Revised Policies Effective April 10, 2018

### **I. PURPOSE**

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) desires to assist and encourage students preparing for the pastoral ministry through this Ministry Scholarship Fund by assisting them in attaining their undergraduate degree. Students will not be eligible for more than five (5) years of scholarship aid without special approval.

### **II. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Students Attending Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist University**

- A. The full-time student must have made a public commitment of a call to pastoral or preaching ministry, youth ministry, or church planting ministry in a Southern Baptist church.
- B. The church must have responded by granting the student a "license to the gospel ministry."
- C. The church must have recommended the student for participation in the scholarship program.
- D. Students are responsible for securing a sponsoring Southern Baptist church that will contribute one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per semester to the student's scholarship program. This contribution by church check evidences that the church believes in the student enough to invest in them. This church contribution is in addition to and shall be added to the total scholarship amount provided by the ABSC.
- E. Applications from students are not considered complete until the church-provided funds are received by the ABSC.
- F. First-time scholarship recipients shall attend the Ministry Leadership Development Retreat within the first two years of receiving the scholarship.
- G. The applicant must be an undergraduate student seeking a bachelor's degree with a declared major in Christian studies.
- H. The Dean of the Pruet School of Christian Studies at Ouachita Baptist University and the Chair, Department of Christian Ministries at Williams Baptist University may recommend up to *ten* other ministry students each semester who may not meet some of the qualifications and requirements listed in Section II to the Executive Director of the ABSC.
- I. Exceptions to these qualifications may be considered by the Executive Director of the ABSC.

### **III. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Students Attending Other Arkansas Colleges and Universities**

- A. The full-time student must have made a public commitment of a call to pastoral or preaching ministry, youth ministry, or church planting ministry in a Southern Baptist church.
- B. The church must have responded by granting the student a "license to the gospel ministry."
- C. The church must have recommended the student for participation in the scholarship program.
- D. Students are responsible for securing a sponsoring Southern Baptist church that will contribute one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per semester to the student's scholarship program. This contribution by church check evidences that the church believes in the student enough to invest in them. This church contribution is in addition to and shall be added to the total scholarship amount provided by the ABSC.
- E. Applications from students are not considered complete until the church-provided funds are received by the ABSC.
- F. First-time scholarship recipients shall attend the Ministry Leadership Development Retreat within the first two years of receiving the scholarship.
- G. The applicant must be an undergraduate student seeking a bachelor degree.
- H. The applicant must be employed in a ministry staff position with an ABSC cooperating church.
- I. Verification of full-time enrollment must be provided by providing an official class schedule.
- J. Exceptions to these qualifications may be considered by the Executive Director of the ABSC.

#### **IV. SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS**

The ABSC through the Cooperative Program, and the churches cooperating in the scholarship program, as set forth above, will provide specific scholarship amounts for qualified students as indicated below. The amounts illustrated include all funds provided by the state convention and the churches, and the scholarship monies shall jointly operate as one fund in all scholarship matters.

##### **Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist University**

- \$1,125 per semester for the Fall and Spring
- \$500 per summer semester

##### **Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist University students employed in a ministry staff position with an Arkansas Baptist State Convention cooperating church**

- \$2,125 per semester for the Fall and Spring
- \$950 per summer semester

##### **Other College and University students in Arkansas employed in a ministry staff position with an Arkansas Baptist State Convention cooperating church**

- \$1,125 per semester for the Fall and Spring
- \$500 per summer semester

##### **Non-degree seeking students enrolled through the Delta Institute in coordination with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention**

- \$200 per semester

#### **V. APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

- A. Application forms for scholarship consideration are available at Ouachita Baptist University, Williams Baptist University, and from ABSC College and Young Leaders Team office.
- B. Students at Ouachita Baptist University and Williams Baptist University participating in scholarship programs are responsible for securing licensing, letters of recommendation from their churches, and contributions from supporting churches.
- C. Students at other Colleges and Universities in Arkansas participating in scholarship programs are responsible for securing licensing, letters of recommendation from their churches, and contributions from supporting churches; and they must have the recommendation of the ABSC Collegiate Minister at that campus *or the pastor of a SBC church*.
- D. Students are required to sign a promissory agreement *each semester* agreeing to repay the scholarship to the ABSC if they do not continue in ministry after graduating or completing their studies at the school for at least as many years as the scholarship was granted. In such cases where the person does not, they are expected to repay the full amount as quickly as possible after discontinuing in the Southern Baptist ministry.
- E. Students applying for scholarship funds as non-degree seeking students through the Delta Institute shall submit a completed application form provided by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

#### **VI. SCHOLARSHIP CHARTS**

The following charts illustrate scholarship amounts provided by the ABSC, the sponsoring churches, and the total scholarship award. The scholarship requires full time status, defined as twelve (12) hours for each of the fall and spring semesters and six (6) hours per summer semester. Students taking fewer hours may receive a prorated portion of the scholarship for which they are eligible.

Examples:

- A student enrolled in 6 hours for a fall or spring semester may receive 50% of the scholarship for which they are eligible.
- A student enrolled in 3 hours for a summer term may receive 50% of the scholarship for which they are eligible.

**These hours may be taken on campus, online, or a combination of both.**

## **OBU & WBU Ministry Students**

<u>HOURS ENROLLED</u>	<u>CHURCH'S PART</u>	<u>CONVENTION'S PART</u>	<u>TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP</u>
Fall & Spring 12	\$125	\$1,000	\$1,125
Summer 6	\$ 50	\$ 450	\$ 500

## **OBU & WBU Ministry Students Employed as Church Ministry Staff**

<u>HOURS ENROLLED</u>	<u>CHURCH'S PART</u>	<u>CONVENTION'S PART</u>	<u>TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP</u>
Fall & Spring 12	\$125	\$2,000	\$2,125
Summer 6	\$ 50	\$ 900	\$ 950

## **Other Arkansas Students Employed as Church Ministry Staff**

<u>HOURS ENROLLED</u>	<u>CHURCH'S PART</u>	<u>CONVENTION'S PART</u>	<u>TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP</u>
Fall & Spring 12	\$125	\$1,000	\$1,125
Summer 6	\$ 50	\$ 450	\$ 500

## **Delta Institute Students**

<u>CONVENTION'S PART</u>	<u>TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP</u>
\$ 200	\$ 200

## **VII. MANDATORY MINISTRY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RETREAT ATTENDANCE**

- A. Students receiving scholarships are required to attend the Ministry Scholarship Retreat within the first two years of receiving the scholarship. Students who do not attend the retreat as required must present in writing to the Executive Director of the ABSC acceptable reasons for their absence. Those excused from missing the retreat shall be allowed one opportunity to attend the retreat in the following year.
- B. Students who miss the first two opportunities to attend the retreat may be disqualified from receiving additional scholarship funds from the fund.