



## Ministry Scholarship Policies

Effective August 19, 2025

### I. PURPOSE

The Arkansas Baptist State Convention (ABSC) desires to assist and encourage students, who are members of a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church, preparing for vocational ministry through this Ministry Scholarship Fund by assisting them in attaining their undergraduate and/or seminary 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 (minimum of 15-hours each semester) must be able to articulate a call to vocational ministry (to include pastoral or preaching ministry, worship ministry, youth ministry, children's ministry, college ministry, or church planting ministry) in a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church.
- B. The church must have responded by affirming the student's call to vocational ministry.
- C. The church must recommend the student for participation in the scholarship program.
- D. The applicant must be a student who is pursuing an undergraduate degree believing that God is preparing them for vocational Christian service. The applicant must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and be in good standing with their university.
- E. The applicant must be employed in a ministry staff position, participating in a residency program, or serving as an intern or ministry volunteer at a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church.
- F. Each university may recommend up to 10 students each semester for the scholarship program.

### III. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

#### Students Attending Other Arkansas Colleges and Universities

- A. The full-time student (minimum of 15-hours each semester) must be able to articulate a call to vocational ministry (to include pastoral or preaching ministry, worship ministry, youth ministry, children's ministry, college ministry, or church planting ministry) in a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church.
- B. The church must have responded by affirming the student's call to vocational ministry.
- C. The church must recommend the student for participation in the scholarship program.
- D. The applicant must be a student who is pursuing an undergraduate degree believing that God is preparing them for vocational Christian service. The applicant must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and be in good standing with their college or university.
- E. The applicant must be employed in a ministry staff position, participating in a residency program, or serving as an intern or ministry volunteer at a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church.
- F. Local churches and BCM's may recommend up to 10 students total each semester for the scholarship program, not to exceed 10 students from any one college or university campus.

### IV. QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

#### Students Obtaining Seminary Education Through The Local Church

- A. The full-time student (minimum of 9-hours each semester) must be able to articulate a call to vocational ministry (to include pastoral or preaching ministry, worship ministry, youth ministry, children's ministry, college ministry, or church planting ministry) in a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church.
- B. The church must have responded by affirming the student's call to vocational ministry.
- C. The church must recommend the student for participation in the scholarship program.
- D. The recipient must be a graduate student seeking a master's degree through a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church and an accredited institution or seminary.
- E. The recipient must be employed in a ministry staff position or actively participating in an intern and/or residency program at a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church.
- F. Each cooperating Arkansas Baptist church offering church based seminary education may recommend up to 10 students each semester for the scholarship program. Any request for additional support will be reviewed by the ABSC Executive Director and Executive Committee.

## **V. SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS**

The ABSC through the funding received from the Cooperative Program will provide specific scholarship amounts for qualified students as indicated below.

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

- \$4,000 per semester for Fall and Spring
- Maximum annual award \$8,000

### **Other Arkansas Colleges and Universities**

- \$2,000 per semester for Fall and Spring
- Maximum annual award \$4,000

### **Church Based Seminary Education**

- \$2,000 per semester/trimester year round
- Maximum annual award \$6,000

## **VI. APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

- A. Applicants pursuing undergraduate degrees should apply through the Arkansas Baptist Foundation.
- B. Students pursuing undergraduate degrees are responsible for securing letters of recommendation from their church and must have the recommendation of the pastor of a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church.
- C. Students obtaining seminary education through a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church shall receive support provisionally by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention working in partnership with the church offering the church based seminary education.
- D. All students are encouraged to serve in a ministry staff position at a cooperating Arkansas Baptist church for at least as many years as the scholarship was awarded to them.

Amended on the following dates: 10-23-84, 10-27-85, 10-28-90, 10-27-91, 7-92, 8-20-96, 8-17-99; 6-3-08; 6-3-14; 4-7-15; 4-5-16; 4-11-17; 4-10-18, Executive Board 08-19-25