



ST. BERNARD'S

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information

Categories of Financial Aid

St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry offers various forms of financial assistance for lay students (students who are not in a Diocesan Diaconate program or Pre-seminary program) who are unable to bear the full expense of graduate education. Financial assistance is available to students in a variety of ways:

Benefactor Scholarships:

St. Bernard's has established scholarship funds raised from contributions from various benefactors to support theological education. These scholarships are awarded to cover tuition costs for full-time or part-time study during an academic year and are renewable upon reapplication and review.

Diocesan Tuition Assistance:

Roman Catholic students who reside within the Dioceses of Rochester, Albany, Buffalo or Syracuse, are eligible for tuition assistance from their respective diocese. This aid covers a percentage of the tuition cost for one or more courses taken during a specified academic year. The exact percentage depends on the policies of the individual dioceses.

All Scholarship & Financial Aid Opportunities

St. Bernard's School of Theology & Ministry recognizes the significant financial expense of graduate education. In order to assist students who are otherwise unable to bear the full financial burden of graduate study on their own, St. Bernard's offers several forms of financial assistance:

Benefactor Scholarships:

In support of our strong commitment to excellence in preparing men and woman for leadership within the Church, endowed scholarships have been established through the support of wonderful individuals. Eligibility for scholarships is varied, based on benefactor restrictions. Not all scholarships may be open to all students and the Director of Admissions & Financial Aid will determine your eligibility after you have completed the Financial Aid Application. The following Benefactor Scholarships are available to matriculated and non-matriculated students:

Basilian Scholarship

G. Marion Kinget Memorial Scholarship

O'Neil-Hennessey Scholarship

Joan Pearson Scholarship

James and Carolyn Russell Endowed Scholarship

Grace Carnes Scholarship

Bishop Matthew Clark Scholarship

Knights of Columbus Scholarship



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External Scholarships:

External scholarships are offered by benefactors not associated with St. Bernard's. Applications, procedures, requirements, and deadlines for external scholarships are unique to the individual scholarship. These scholarships can be found through a number of search engines including: Fast Web Scholarship Search, CollegeNet Scholarship Search, Peterson's Graduate Scholarship Search, and Open Education Scholarship Database.

Diocese of Rochester Tuition Assistance:

Students who reside in the Rochester Diocese (DOR) are eligible for tuition assistance from the Roman Catholic Diocese. This aid covers up to 25% of the tuition cost for one or more courses taken during an academic year. Eligibility for DOR tuition assistance is processed through the Financial Aid Application

Diocese of Albany Tuition Assistance:

Students who reside in the Albany Diocese (RCDA) are eligible for tuition assistance from the Roman Catholic Diocese. This aid covers up to 25% of the tuition cost for one or more courses taken during an academic year. Eligibility for RCDA tuition assistance is processed through the Financial Aid Application.

Diocese of Syracuse Tuition Assistance:

Students who reside in the Syracuse Diocese (DOS) are eligible for tuition assistance from the Roman Catholic Diocese. This aid covers up to 1/3 of the tuition cost for courses taken during an academic year. Eligibility for DOS tuition assistance is processed through the Financial Aid Application.

Jordan Parish Assistance Program (JPAP):

Students who reside in the Buffalo Diocese are eligible for the Jordan Parish Assistance Program (JPAP). This program is open to all Buffalo students, matriculated and non-matriculated, regardless of religious denomination. This aid covers 50% of the tuition cost for courses taken during an academic year, while the student's parish covers 25%, leaving the student with 25% of the cost. Students are required to submit a new sponsorship form from their parish each academic year. Eligibility for the JPAP is processed through the Financial Aid Application.

Other Financial Aid Options

Veteran's Benefits (GI-Bill):

Educational benefits in the form of grants are available for veteran students studying full-time or part-time at St. Bernard's. Benefits may also be available to spouses and/or children of disabled/deceased veterans as well as those in the National Guard/Reserve. For more information on Veteran's Educational Benefits go to www.gibill.va.gov.

Federal Student Loan Program:

Students who are matriculated and enrolled in at least part-time study may apply for long-term, low-interest Federal Direct Stafford Loans. To learn more about the Federal Stafford Loan Program please visit: <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/loans/subsidized-unsubsidized>. Contact the Director of Admissions & Financial Aid before applying.



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NY State Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) Tuition Benefits Program:

St. Bernard's also participates in the CSEA benefits program whereby eligible State employees receive \$285.00 per credit of graduate work up to a maximum of 4 credits per semester. Educational Advisement Services are available to CSEA-represented NYS employees by calling (518) 486-7814 or (800) 253-4332.

Extended Payment Plan:

Students may arrange an agreed upon payment plan with the Finance & HR Manager and the Director of Admissions & Financial Aid. Contact Mr. Tom Kubus at tom.kubus@stbernards.edu for more details.

Applying for Financial Aid

Eligibility Requirements:

In order to qualify for funds from a benefactor scholarship or diocesan tuition assistance an applicant must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Engage in full-time or part-time study within a graduate program as a lay student.
 - Full-time study = 9 credits or more per semester
 - Part-time study = 3 to 8 credits per semester
- Complete and submit the Financial Aid Application [[enter link](#)].
- Give evidence of academic promise, determinant of the Admissions Committee.

Financial Aid Application Process:

- Submit a completed Financial Aid Application to the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid by the respective semester's deadline (This is to be completed once every academic year).
- Complete the FAFSA, found at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.
- Returning students are required to meet with their assigned advisor before completing the Financial Aid Application for that academic year in order to accurately project the total number of courses that they will enroll in, which will impact their future awards.
- Once all Financial Aid Applications are reviewed, each applicant will receive notification via Populi, our student information system, on any award decision.

Questions relating to Financial Aid may be referred to Mr. Matt Brown, Director of Admissions & Financial Aid at matthew.brown@stbernards.edu or 585-271-3657 (ext.2)