



### **Church Matching Scholarship Program Guidelines**

East Texas Baptist University will match designated Christian church gifts for ETBU students up to, but not exceeding \$2,000 per academic year per student. The following is a list of scholarship provisions and requirements for the ETBU church matching scholarship program which must be completely reviewed and followed by each participating church and student:

1. The scholarship program applies for both graduate and undergraduate students.
2. The scholarship program only matches funds from Christian churches that hold Jesus Christ to be Lord and Savior. Gifts from denominations (e.g. Baptist General Convention of Texas, United Methodist Conference, etc.) or para-church organizations (e.g. Campus Crusade for Christ, BSM, Focus on the Family, etc.) are not included in this matching gift program. This is a matching scholarship program for individual churches only. The recommended student must be an active member or student member in the church providing the scholarship.
3. Scholarships under this policy are limited to a \$2,000 ETBU match per academic year (fall and spring semesters) per student. The ETBU matching scholarship can only be used to cover current actual costs charged to the student account with the current academic year and not for past bills. Any unused matching gift portion of the scholarship may be moved forward to another semester with the same academic year, but cannot be transferred to another future academic year. ETBU scholarships, including church match, may not exceed the cost of tuition.
4. Scholarship funds given to ETBU should be managed by the church and cannot originate with the student, the student's family, or with friends who give to benefit a specific student, creating a "pass through gift" situation. ETBU's Church Matching Scholarship Program is consistent with federal Internal Revenue Service regulations that restrict donors from financially supporting individuals through scholarships for the purpose of obtaining a tax benefit. The church should explain these limitations to individuals who contribute to the scholarship fund. Contributions to the scholarship fund for which a tax benefit will be sought should not be motivated by a desire to assist a specific student, but rather a general desire to assist students from the church who are pursuing their education at ETBU. Any questions regarding this issue should be independently directed to a competent attorney, CPA, or tax consultant.
5. Before a scholarship gift is made to ETBU, the church must determine that this scholarship program is within its benevolent and charitable purposes. Funds cannot be designated by the donor for a specific student and then expect to be matched by ETBU. Once the church has determined that it desires to set up a scholarship fund, the pastor, treasurer, or other church designee may recommend a specific student (or students) to receive the scholarship.
6. A check for each Church Matching Scholarship disbursement should be made payable to East Texas Baptist University and sent to the Financial Aid Office. Notation should be made on each check identifying the student who is recommended to receive the scholarship by name and student ID or SS#, as well as the semester to which the scholarship is to be applied. A church check is preferred. If payment is made in the form of a non-church check, wire, cashier's check or money order, it must be accompanied by a letter on church letterhead denoting the above information. Cash and credit card payments cannot be accepted, and all funds must be paid in U.S. dollars.
7. The Financial Aid Office reserves the right to request additional documentation from the churches participating in ETBU's Church Matching Scholarship Program to verify eligibility. ETBU will have final say related to questions of eligibility for a specific student or church.

*Please note that no provisions of this policy constitute or may be relied upon as legal advice to a church or individual.*



FINANCIAL AID

## 2025-26 Church Matching Scholarship

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ ETBU Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Scholarship ETBU will match is \$2,000 per year (\$1,000 per semester)

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church City \_\_\_\_\_ Church State \_\_\_\_\_ Church Zip \_\_\_\_\_

We the members of the above named church have met in accordance with our church's governing policy and have agreed to support the student named on this form in the pursuit of a Christian education at East Texas Baptist University. These funds are supplied by the church out of our operating funds and are not supplied by the student's family. The amount of the scholarship that we will provide for the 2025-2026 year is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and will be divided equally between the fall and spring semesters. At the institution's discretion the full amount of funds may be allowed to be awarded in one semester.

We also understand and acknowledge the Church Matching Scholarship Guidelines on page 1.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deacon or Church Clerk's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Matching funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Please return this completed application no later than June 1, 2025 to ensure availability of matching funds. Scholarship checks do not need to accompany this application, but should be mailed by August 1, 2025.

Return this form and any attachments to:

Office of Financial Aid – East Texas Baptist University | One Tiger Drive, Marshall, TX 75670 | Phone: 903-923-2138

Email: [financialaid@etbu.edu](mailto:financialaid@etbu.edu) | Fax: 903-934-8120