

FRIENDS CENTER SCHOLARSHIP POLICIES

Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends
(Revised October 2010)

The NWYM Friends Center exists to help provide effective leadership for Friends in the setting of the local congregation. The stated mission goals of the Friends Center are:

- To serve the Friends Church by educating, training, mentoring and equipping those who have been called to leadership, especially pastoral leadership within NWYM.
- To partner with GFES and the NWYM in providing graduate theological programs for emerging Friends leaders by offering courses, activities, and relationships that will give students experiences of leadership development in Friends contexts.
- To call forth the godly and gifted to become transformational leaders in the Friends Church by being biblically based, culturally sensitive, and practically skilled church leaders.
- To provide scholarship support for Friends students by raising funds and developing scholarship programs.
- To cultivate healthy relationships with the Friends church locally, nationally and internationally by coordinating joint ventures in ministry and education.
- To serve the NWYM by providing continuing educational opportunities and leadership development programs.
- To support the leadership development activities of GFU and the NWYM by coordinating these activities as needed.
- To develop and implement internship opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills and abilities.

With these goals in mind and when there are no other controlling guidelines from donors, the following policies will serve to guide the process in making scholarship awards from Friends Center funds:

I. Call to Ministry:

We expect applicants for scholarship assistance to witness to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a sense of calling to Christian ministry.

II. Long-term commitment to Friends:

We expect applicants for scholarship assistance to have demonstrated long-term commitment to the Friends Church. Further, we expect the applicant to be able to express an informed commitment to the Faith and Practice of Friends of NWYM.

All students who receive financial aid through Friends Center are required to take the course "History and Polity of the Friends Movement." In addition, students must take at least one Friends-specific course (including Intensive short-courses) during each academic year for which they receive financial aid.

III. Financial Need and Scholarship Requirements:

A request for scholarship assistance should be based upon financial need. Applicants for scholarship assistance must be registered for a minimum of 12 credit hours per academic year. One Friends-specific course must be taken each year scholarship funds are received. There will be at least one Friends course offered in the Fall and Spring. One or two will be offered in the summer. A scholarship recipient must take the Quaker History & Polity course at some point in his/her seminary program. Financial assistance may be awarded in amounts up to 50% of the student's tuition cost per semester.

IV. Priorities of Distribution:

We expect to make distribution of available funds with preference given to:

- Members of NWYM congregations over members of other Friends groups.
- Those with announced ministry goals over those “exploring” various ministry options.
- Those enrolled in degree programs over certificate programs.
- Those enrolled in professional degree programs over those enrolled in academic programs.
- Those involved in initial preparation for ministry over those involved in continuing education.

V. Awards Process:

Scholarship awards for Friends Center funds will be determined by a Scholarship Committee comprised of the Director and two appointed members of the Friends Center Sub-committee.

Applications, including letters of recommendation from the applicant's pastor and recent teacher are due by May 1. Interviews may be requested with some applicants. Awards for the upcoming academic year (fall and spring semesters) will be announced in June and distributed in August.

Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee for students beginning their program mid-year. In the case of such an exception, paperwork would be due December 1 with any award being distributed in January.