

The Daniel and Earlene Vestal Scholarship is the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's highest award valued at \$11,000 with an additional \$1500 travel stipend for attending CBF events throughout the academic year. This scholarship's purpose is to

- Award academic success and scholarship
- Identify individuals with a clear calling to congregational leadership/ministry in the Cooperative Baptist context
- Give recipients a platform for connecting with the Fellowship, generously defined

For the **2024-25** academic year, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship will award two Vestal Scholarships.

Eligible applicants are students who:

- Are enrolled in an ATS accredited divinity/theology school or seminary pursuing a Master of Divinity degree
- Will be enrolled full-time for the academic year seeking funding
- Have at least a 3.5 grade point average
- Demonstrate a deep commitment and ongoing relationship with Christ
- Clearly identify with CBF and espouse core values of CBF, participating in a CBF church, offering campus leadership and showing leadership potential within the Fellowship
- Are pursuing a call to congregational ministry
- NOTE: You do not have to be a current or former CBF Leadership Scholar to qualify.

The following materials are needed to consider your application complete.

- Signed cover page and completed application, including any essay responses on additional pages
- An updated resume
- A letter of recommendation from your seminary's dean or president on school letterhead
- Three completed reference forms with letters of recommendation: one reference from a professor, one reference from the pastor of your church, and one personal reference.
- Official copy of current seminary transcript (to verify GPA qualification)
- High-quality photograph

All applications will be reviewed by the CBF Ministries Council Scholarship Selection Committee. From the pool of applicants, three or four will be selected for interviews by an expanded committee including members from all CBF governance bodies. Final decisions will be determined by **March 1, 2024**.

Instructions for Student-submitted items:

Please send (1) a completed application, (2) your responses to the essay questions, (3) your resume, and (4) a clear photo (jpg) of yourself via email to scholarships@cbf.net. All materials must be received by 11:59 p.m. EST on **January 8, 2024**.

Instructions for Recommender-submitted items:

Please share with each of your references this link www.cbf.net/seminary-resources#vestal and instruct them to send (1) a completed form and (2) a recommendation letter (on letterhead) to scholarships@cbf.net. If your recommender prefers to mail their materials, instruct them to sign their name across the sealed envelope flap and mail to the address below.

Instructions for School-submitted items:

Please request a letter of recommendation from your seminary's dean or president on school letterhead to be e-mailed to scholarships@cbf.net or mailed to the address below. Also, request an official electronic transcript to be sent to **CBF** at scholarships@cbf.net.

We strongly prefer for all application items to be submitted electronically with the deadline of 11:59 p.m. EST on January 8, 2024. However, if you need to mail them, please use the information below. All materials, including recommendations, should be postmarked by January 8, 2024.

Mail: Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
ATTN: Vestal Scholar Application
160 Clairemont Avenue, Suite 500
Decatur, GA 30030

Email: scholarships@cbf.net

Students who are Vestal Scholars are expected to:

- Maintain full-time academic status throughout the 2024-25 academic calendar year
- Spend a day in the CBF Global office in Decatur, GA, learning about the mission and ministry of CBF
- Attend CBF's annual General Assembly where scholars will be announced and presented to the Assembly gathered **June 19-21, 2024 in Greensboro, N.C.**
- Represent CBF on campus and as other opportunities arise
- Submit one blog per semester highlighting your experiences in seminary or within the context of your ministry
- Participate in CBF life using your unique gifts to serve and lead. Examples of opportunities include serving through **StudentServe**, presenting a workshop at General Assembly, etc.
- Become involved in state and regional CBF organizations as appropriate

By signing this form, you acknowledge an understanding of and accept the requirements of the scholarship, if chosen.

Signature of Applicant

Date



Name _____
Last First Middle

Preferred First Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Current Address _____ Permanent Address _____

Cell Phone _____ Home/Alternate Phone _____

Personal (Permanent) E-mail _____ Alternate E-mail _____

Name and address of *current* church participation/membership _____

Describe the relationship of the church to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Seminary or Divinity School in which enrolled _____

Degree Program _____

Year (rising) in Seminary or Divinity School (check one): ____ 2nd year ____ 3rd year ____ 4th year

Anticipated Graduation Date _____

Annual cost of tuition: _____

Annual cost of books, housing, other educational expenses: _____

Expected annual amount of scholarships (school and outside scholarships) NOT including this one: _____

Areas of Ministry Interest: _____

Please attach an updated resume outlining the following involvement:

- Education
- Employment history
- Church ministry involvement
- Extracurricular activities, including leadership positions
- Community service
- Honors/achievements

Please answer the following essay questions (12pt font, double-spaced, max 5 pages):

1. Describe your personal sense of calling to congregational ministry, how you are currently discerning or expressing that call, how your call is being shaped by your seminary experience, and where you have most sensed joy and affirmation of your calling.
2. What leadership qualities are important to you as you have seen demonstrated in other ministers/mentors? How are you growing in your capacity to lead? How have you exercised your leadership gifts to develop something new, improve upon something already in existence, or to positively impact your campus or ministry setting?
3. What is your personal relationship to CBF and how have you meaningfully engaged CBF through your local church, CBF state/region, campus experiences or partners? Describe how you envision investing as a future/current leader within the context of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.
4. Choose one of CBF's theological principles, core values, or attributes and describe why that one is particularly important to you. You can find these on our website: www.cbf.net.