

2018 - 2019 Affordability of a GST Degree

Recognizing that graduate studies can be an intimidating expense, ACU's Graduate School of Theology (GST) is dedicated to helping you pursue a degree without a heavy financial burden. We recently reduced our tuition costs to make the financial investment in a ministry degree at ACU comparable to similar programs at other schools. As of Fall 2018, our tuition rate is \$656 per credit hour. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, on average we are able to award over 75% of our students with scholarships to help cover the cost of tuition. Listed below are various forms of financial aid that can be awarded and applied for when attending the GST.

GST Scholarships

The GST offers generous scholarship assistance to residential and online master's students based on prior academic record, financial need and potential for ministry and further academic research. Scholarship awards are made as applications are completed, and the amounts are determined based on the strength of each application. To apply, complete and submit the GST Scholarship Application form during the application process. For Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) students, merit- and need-based scholarships are available. To apply, complete the D.Min. scholarship application during the application process.

Student Loans

All students who are admitted to the GST may apply for federal financial assistance in the form of student loans. You can complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.gov. During the process, be sure to have FAFSA send us your information by using ACU's school code: 003537.

- Federal Direct Loans- The Federal Direct Loan program consists of unsubsidized loans and is awarded regardless of demonstrated need.
- Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan (GRAD PLUS)- This loan can be used to supplement other financial aid, such as the Federal Direct Loan.

Note: To qualify for federal aid, students must be enrolled at least half-time in the semester for which they are seeking aid. For master's programs, full-time enrollment is defined as 9 credit hours per semester and half-time as 6 credit hours. For the D.Min. program, full-time is defined as 6 credit hours per semester and half-time as 3 credit hours.

Graduate Assistantships

A number of Graduate Assistantships are offered at Abilene Christian University on a competitive basis. Graduate Assistants (GA's) fall into three categories according to major responsibilities: academic support, including clerical work, research, and teaching. In the GST, GA's are required to work 7.5 hours a week and are paid an hourly wage of \$9.50/hour. There are typically other on-campus student employment opportunities here.

ACU Employee Tuition Benefit Program

This benefit program applies to all full-time and half-time employees at ACU and is designed to help employees obtain additional education. ACU employees are eligible to receive a discount on up to 6 hours per semester.



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Church Match Scholarship

Church congregations may send up to a \$500 scholarship per academic year for a full-time master's student (9 hours for graduate students) to ACU, and the funds will be matched. The congregation must send the scholarship check with the completed Church Match Scholarship form (inquire at the GST for this form). This scholarship is available for Fall and Spring semesters only, and forms should be sent with the scholarship check from the congregation between June 1 and September 1 for the Fall semester, or between December 1 and February 1 for the Spring semester.

The Fund for Theological Education

The Fund for Theological Education offers fellowships for first and second year seminary students, which you can find through the FTE Fund Finder. For more information, and links to the applications, visit the FTE website.

Loretta and V.W. Kelly Scholarship

Students who graduate from ACU with their undergraduate degree and stay at ACU to receive their graduate degree may be nominated by an ACU Faculty or Staff member for the ACU Alumni Association's Loretta & V.W. Kelly Scholarship. [Click here to apply!](#)

Endowed Scholarships

The following endowed scholarships are available at ACU. They are awarded to qualified students by the appropriate department. Students do not apply for these scholarships directly.

- [Lynn and Carolyn Anderson Endowed Scholarship](#)

This endowed scholarship provides additional funds to D.Min. students as a way of supporting ministers in the ongoing practice of ministry. Dr. Lynn Anderson was a member of ACU's inaugural D.Min. cohort in 1987. His and Carolyn's remarkable ministry to congregations and to ministers is honored by gifts from the Anderson family and many others. Awards are based on character, academic ability, and financial need, and are used to encourage and promote diversity in the program when applicable.

- [Byrd R. & Lucile W. Lewis Endowed Scholarship](#)

This endowed scholarship provides funds for a full-time student in the GST who shows unusual promise. Students who receive this award must have at least a 3.5 GPA in the three preceding semesters.

- [Prentice & Barbara Meador Endowed Scholarship](#)

This endowed scholarship provides extra funds for deserving students in the GST based on character, academics, service to the Kingdom, community and mankind, zeal, and dedication. This scholarship is also based on individuals financial need.

- [Holbert & Stella Rideout Endowed Scholarship](#)

This endowed scholarship is specifically designated for students who are pursuing graduate level study in religious education.

- [Scott Foundation Endowed Scholarship](#)

This endowed scholarship is designed for pulpit ministers who decided to return to college to enhance their education. These funds can extend help with living expenses in addition to academic expenses.



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- **Charles and Judy Siburt Graduate School of Theology Endowed Scholarship**
This endowed scholarship supplies extra funds to support GST students who are selected as having good character and academic ability. This scholarship also aims to help to students who present a financial need.
- **The Moran Church of Christ Scholarship Endowment for Preaching Students**
This endowed scholarship has been procured by a local congregation for GST students invested in enhancing their preaching skills. This award will award to a student be based on their character, academic ability, and financial need.
- **Lacy and Dorothy Harber Endowed Scholarship**
This endowed scholarship is awarded to students in the College of Biblical Studies based on their character, academic ability, and also their financial need.
- **Ferguson Everett Endowed Scholarship**
This endowed scholarship is gifted to GST students with a strong academic interest in Church History.

For more information about the affordability of our theological master's degrees, please contact ACU's Graduate School of Theology at gst@acu.edu or (325) 674-3735.



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