MDiv Cohort Scholarship

Revised Fall 2026

Purpose

The purpose of the MDiv Cohort Scholarship is to assist financially in the formation of ministers for ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. The Master of Divinity degree has historically been the cornerstone of theological education for ministers in the Presbyterian tradition, so these funds are directed to such students.

Scope

The MDiv Cohort Scholarship covers the entirety of a student's tuition per trimester, as well as the library fee. Additional costs, such as travel to Gatherings, are not included in the scholarship

Eligibility

The MDiv Cohort Scholarship is intended for students engaged in the ECO Ordination Process and who intend to serve ECO churches in the future.

MDiv Cohort Scholarship recipients must be accepted into the ECO Ordination Process by the end of the trimester when they are accepted into the Cohort. Recipients provide the FIT Registrar with acknowledgement of acceptance. A recipient who fails to be accepted into the Ordination Process will be asked to repay the cost of courses during that trimester.

Provisional students may apply for the MDiv Cohort Scholarship once they have completed FIT501 with a minimum grade of B-.

Scholarship recipients will complete a Master of Divinity degree through the Flourish Institute of Theology within a 6-year period. This typically requires a minimum of two courses per term. Understanding that family and ministry obligations may vary over the course of study, a student may request permission to reduce to one class per trimester or take a leave of absence for up to one trimester. Requests will be made to the Student Advisor prior to the beginning of the trimester from which the student is reducing coursework or taking leave. These reductions and leaves of absence do not extend the 6 year period for completion of coursework.

Recipients who fail to adhere to any of these eligibility requirements must repay the cost of courses taken during the trimester in which non-adherence takes place. Students who are removed from the MDiv Cohort will be required to re-apply and demonstrate their willingness and ability to remain in the Cohort through graduation.

Application Process

In addition to FIT's Student Application, applicants will respond to the following questions:

1. What makes the church a unique institution? When the church is at our best, what can we do that no other institution can? (600-800 words)
2. Describe your three most formative leadership experiences in the church/parachurch setting and why they were meaningful to you (800-1200 words).
3. Tell us about your sense of call to ministry (800-1200 words).
    a. How have you experienced the inner sense of call? When did you first experience it?
    b. Who has affirmed your sense of call and how?
    c. Why do you feel called to be ordained specifically in ECO
4. How will acceptance into the MDiv Cohort support your call to ministry? (200-400 words)

Service to the Church

Recipients will pursue an ordained ministry position in ECO after completing their degree and remain in it or another ordained ministry position in ECO for a minimum of 5 years. Students who do not enter ordained ministry in ECO or who leave ordained ministry in ECO before five years will be asked to repay the cost of all classes taken.

FIT MDiv Cohort Scholarship Application

Name: Date of Birth:
Mailing Address:
Email:
Preferred phone: Secondary phone:

Narrative Questions

Please answer and submit your answers on a separate document.

1. What makes the church a unique institution? When the church is at our best, what can we do that no other institution can? (600-800 words)
2. Describe your three most formative leadership experiences in the church/parachurch setting and why they were meaningful to you (800-1200 words).
3. Tell us about your sense of call to ministry (800-1200 words).
    a. How have you experienced the inner sense of call? When did you first experience it?
    b. Who has affirmed your sense of call and how?
    c. Why do you feel called to be ordained specifically in ECO
4. How will acceptance into the MDiv Cohort support your call to ministry? (200-400 words)

Cohort Commitments

By applying for this cohort, you are committing to:

- Completing a Master of Divinity degree through the Flourish Institute of Theology within a 6-year period. This is equivalent to averaging two courses per term. Understanding that family and ministry obligations may vary over the course of study, a student may request permission to reduce to one class per trimester or take a leave of absence for up to one trimester. Requests will be made to the Student Advisor prior to the beginning of the trimester from which the student is reducing coursework or taking leave. These reductions and leaves of absence do not extend the 6 year period for completion of coursework.
- Application in the ECO Ordination Process by the end of the trimester that you are accepted into the cohort. Please contact ordination@eco-pres.org for more information about the process and contact records@eco-pres.org to request the ECO Ordination Application.
- Acceptance into and satisfactory continuation of the ECO Ordination Process according to agreed timelines as administered by the ECO Ordination Team (see page 18 of the ECO Ordination Manual).

- Obtaining a ministry position in ECO after degree completion, and remaining actively ordained in ECO for a period of no less than five years. This will require regular contact with the Alumni department.

Failure to adhere to any of these commitments will require repayment of the cost difference of all courses taken. Thus, if a student has paid half tuition by taking two courses on average, the other half will be due when a student is deemed non-compliant after a reasonable warning conversation and the period of time has elapsed.

Scholarship Details

The scholarship will be paid in full per enrolled course. Hence, students must be enrolled in two courses per trimester and maintain an active status to receive this scholarship. This scholarship covers the cost of tuition and the library fee only. Additional costs, such as travel to Gatherings, are not included in the scholarship

Applicant's signature: Date: