



Distinguished Faith and Learning Scholarship

Last Updated 12/19/2025

Application Deadline: February 1, 2026

Campus Interview Day: March 2, 2026

Purpose and Overview

This scholarship will recognize prospective students who demonstrate strong academic performance, spiritual maturity, leadership potential, and a desire to integrate faith with learning throughout their college experience.

The goal is twofold:

- Recruitment Pipeline Enhancement: Distinguished Faith and Learning Scholars will serve as high-impact students who deeply resonate with York University's Christian identity.
- Student Formation: Scholars will experience faculty engagement, spiritual life programming, and community-building activities that showcase what it means to thrive academically and spiritually at York University.

Scholarship

Two Award Tiers

- Presidential Award: Full-tuition scholarship awarded to up to four students per year.
- Dean's Award: \$15,500 scholarship awarded to up to four students per year.

Applicant Criteria

- Be admitted to York University
- Earn a minimum ACT score of 24 or SAT score of 1180
- Maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher after completing your junior year
- Be a first-time college student
- Complete the Distinguished Faith and Learning Scholarship application and submit reflective essay by **February 1, 2026**
- Participate in a required on-campus interview on **March 2, 2026**. This will be a full-day event, and the schedule will be updated in January 2026.

Application Structure

To be considered for the Distinguished Faith and Learning Scholarship, your application must include the following items submitted via the application [form](#) by **February 1, 2026**. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the committee. Additionally, the following materials should be included:

1. A thoughtful well-written essay responding to, “How do you intend to integrate your Christian faith with your learning and leadership on campus and your future career?”

Strong essays will include:

- A personal faith story or testimony
- Experiences that have shaped your spiritual life
- How your faith influences your academic goals
- An understanding of what it means to learn in a Christ-centered environment
- How you hope to growth your faith during college
- Your career vision and how faith guides it.

2. Resume

- Leadership Roles (school, church, community, work)
- Service activities and volunteer work
- Church or ministry involvement
- Extracurricular activities
- Awards, achievements, and recognitions
- Employment experience

3. Include a letter of recommendation from one of the following:

- Church leader
- Educator
- Employer

Interview Structure

Distinguished Faith and Learning Scholarship Day, held on **March 2, 2026**, will serve as a hallmark event demonstrating York University’s deep commitment to integrating Christian faith and academic excellence. During the day, each finalist will complete a 30-minute individual interview with the committee.

Interview Criteria and Evaluation Rubric, categories scored 1–5:

- Faith Commitment
- Leadership and Service
- Academic Preparation
- Communication Skills
- Alignment with York University’s Values

Renewal Requirements

The Distinguished Faith and Learning Scholarship recognizes students who demonstrate academic excellence, spiritual maturity, leadership, and a commitment to integrating Christian faith with their education. Because this scholarship represents both financial investment and formation value, recipients must meet annual expectations to continue receiving the award.

In addition to maintaining the required minimum cumulative GPA set by the Financial Aid Office, all Distinguished Faith and Learning Scholars must complete the following ongoing requirements each academic year:

1. Faith and Learning Scholars are expected to engage consistently in academic and spiritual growth activities, including. Scholars must meet the university's chapel attendance requirement.
2. Annual Faith Development Reflection
 - Scholars should submit a 500-word reflection each spring (prior to the end of the school year) to the Financial Aid/Retention Committee office for renewal describing the following:
 - How their faith grew over the year
 - Areas of spiritual struggle
 - Leadership and Service Requirements
3. To maintain the scholarship, students must demonstrate ongoing leadership and service aligned with York University's mission.
 - Complete 10–20 hours of documented service each academic year (approved campus, church, or community service).
4. Leadership Participation
 - Serve in at least one of the following per year:
 - Campus Ministry Team
 - Participate in Study Abroad
 - A student leadership group (RA, club officer, Choir Officer, Student Government, FBLA etc.)
 - Leadership in a local congregation or youth ministry as an intern or teacher
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5. Academic and Professional Development
 - Scholars enroll and actively participate in the annual Distinguished Faith and Learning Seminar, led by a designated faculty and the Student Success Office which includes:
 - Discussions on Christian worldview
 - Academic and faith integration sessions
 - Service-learning components
 - Guest speakers and faculty-led workshops
 - Maintain Academic Integrity
 - Students must remain in good standing with the Academic Affairs Office and have no academic integrity violations.
 - Updated resume

Annual Committee Review

The Distinguished Faith and Learning Scholarship Committee evaluates:

- Academic GPA
- Attendance and participation commitments
- Leadership and service completion
- Conduct record
- Faith integration growth evident in reflection and seminar work

Students who meet expectations will have their scholarship renewed for the following academic year.

Renewal Appeal

If a student falls short in an area, the committee may offer:

- A semester-long probation plan
- Required mentoring with Campus Ministry or Student Life staff
- Additional service or formation assignments

Students may appeal decisions by submitting a written statement and meeting with the committee.