

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING
THE 2009-2010
SFTS FINANCIAL AID APPLICATION

These guidelines are to assist you in completing the SFTS Financial Aid Application. Please refer to them as you complete the application.

Estimated student expenses for 2009-2010 may be found [here](#).

Couples who are both students at SFTS should apply for financial aid as single students, dividing shared expenses such as rent, food, household supplies, and telephone on their applications.

Couples who are both students at SFTS and who have dependent children should apply for aid as a single, and a single with children, dividing shared expenses as above. If you are expecting a child during the academic year, talk with the Student Support Coordinator to determine which category to use in calculating your expenses.

Section V-Outside Aid Sources

Non-SFTS Scholarships: List any grants or scholarships that you have been awarded from outside sources.

Section VI-Employment Information

In this section, we ask you to compare last year's resources to those you expect to have this year. Be sure to fill out both columns.

Student Earnings: The student is expected to provide a portion of his/her educational and living expenses through income from work. The seminary considers \$4500 net earnings for NC students and \$6,000 net earnings for SC students for the appropriate school year. Liquid assets may be substituted for income from work.

Spouse Earnings: For couples without children, the spouse of the SFTS student is expected to work for pay, and the spouse's earnings will be considered in determining financial need. For couples with children of at least pre-school age, the spouse is expected to be employed at least part-time. Spouses at home with a child who is younger than 2 are exempt from the earnings expectation.

List the expected amount of earnings after deductions. The Seminary considers the following to be the minimum salary contribution from a spouse. (Note: at least the minimum amount is added to the budget of all students, including international students whose spouses may not be eligible to work).

SFTS/SC		SFTS/NC	
No children at home/not a student	\$12,000	No children at home/not a student	\$9000
School age children	\$6,000	School age children	\$4500

Use this figure if actual earnings are not known at this time. You must update the figures when actual earnings are known. Changes in income may affect your eligibility for need-based aid.

Church Support: For most denominations it is understood that the seminarian is in a covenant agreement with his/her home church. This implies financial as well as spiritual support. List the amount promised for the academic year.

Family Support: This includes anyone interested in contributing to your education, such as parents/grandparents, former employers, colleagues, church elders, and others who have an interest in you and the larger Church.

Social Security/SSI: List income you receive from outside sources, such as Veteran's benefits, Social Security or disability. This income may be considered in lieu of that earned from work.

Section VI–Employment Information (cont’d.)

Child Support: List any support you receive in support of dependent children.

Alimony: List any support you receive from a former spouse.

Any unanticipated income, including gift aid of \$500 or more, received during the school year that is not reported on the application must be reported to the Enrollment Office. Ordinarily, the SFTS grant awarded to the student will only be reduced when the cumulative unanticipated amount totals more than \$1500 and there is no unmet need in the SFTS financial aid calculations.

Section VII–Assets and Liabilities

Cash and Savings: List only those liquid assets which you plan to use toward your seminary education. Savings on hand may be reported in lieu of income from work.

Home Equity: Only list any home equity (market value minus mortgage still due) if you intend to liquidate this equity to pay for a portion of your seminary education.

Educational Debt: List all of your and/or your spouse’s previous student loans. Remember to insure that deferments are in place for your loans. List only those payments that must continue to be made during the school year.

Non-Educational Debt: This debt cannot be considered when calculating any federal aid. However, SFTS *may* consider it when determining your institutional aid.

Section VIII–Your Expenses

This section provides specific information about your actual expenses for the school year. Determine the **totals** for the year, rather than inserting **monthly** costs.

The seminary recognizes that a particular student’s circumstances may mandate consideration of other expenses. Those requests should be made in writing to the Financial Aid Officer.

Tuition: The M. Div. tuition for the 2009-2010 school year will be \$9900.00.

Tuition is based on full time enrollment of at least 12 units per semester. Students who receive aid based on full-time enrollment who then change their enrollment to part-time will have their aid reduced based on the number of units taken and the amount of tuition charged.

Fees: An administrative fee of \$100 per semester will be assessed for all students.

Books: List your approximate expense for books and supplies. Textbooks average about \$150 per course.

Health Insurance: If you and/or your family will be signing up for the GTU Kaiser Permanente plan *only*, enter the amount of your full-year premium here.

Rent/Mortgage: Enter the total rent or mortgage payment for your school year.

Section VIII–Your Expenses (cont'd.)

Food and Household Supplies: In determining this amount include the cost of food for your entire family for your school year as well as common household supplies, such as cleaning supplies, toiletries, paper products, etc.

Personal Expenses: Enter the amount you and your family would spend on items such as entertainment, haircuts or pet care. This might also include enhanced cable charges, attending movies or concerts, or short trips.

Utilities: If you must pay for your own utilities (electricity, gas, water), list your yearly cost. You may also include basic cable on this line.

Clothing: Enter the amount you will spend on clothing for yourself and your resident family members during the school year.

Telephone: Enter your approximate cost for telephone expenses.

Computer/Internet: Enter the amount for of internet access for the school year. If you will be buying a computer during this school year, you may also add the purchase price up to \$800.

Health Insurance: If you are *not* signing up for GTU Kaiser Permanente and your premiums are *not* automatically deducted from your or your spouse's paycheck, enter the amount of your monthly premium here.

Transportation: Only normal operating expenses, such as gas, mileage to and from the GTU or an internship site, insurance for school year, and routine maintenance are allowed.

Tithes/Charitable Giving: You may include only up to 10% of your estimated income as charitable giving.

Child Care: If you have a pre-school age child in daycare because your spouse works outside the home, enter your monthly cost for child care. If you have a grade school age child in an after-care program, please provide documentation for this expense and the circumstances requiring this type of care.

IX–Other Information

Use these lines to note any additional information which you feel the Enrollment Director should consider in calculating your financial aid.

X–Certifications

Read all the certifications carefully before signing the application and turning it in to the Enrollment Office. Remember the FA Application is due by April 15th. If you have any questions as you complete your financial aid application, please contact Michelle Walker in the Financial Aid Office at 800.447.8820 x824 or mwalker@sfts.edu.

Note: After you have filed the application, you must report any changes in your financial circumstances, including changes in your or your spouse's income, or gift aid of \$500 or more.

Keep photocopies of all documents you submit for your records!

Your Financial Aid Application is due by April 15th!

Worksheet

Review the "Guidelines for Completing the FA Application" and try the math out here first!

Resources	Yourself	Spouse
Paid Work/Tips	\$ _____	\$ _____
Worker's Compensation	\$ _____	\$ _____
Family Support	\$ _____	\$ _____
Church Support	\$ _____	\$ _____
Social Security/SSI	\$ _____	\$ _____
Child Support (you receive)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Alimony (you receive)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other (explain)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____

Expenses

Total for the Year

Tuition	\$ _____
Fees	\$ <u>200.00</u> _____
Books	\$ _____
Health Insurance (if GTU Kaiser)	\$ _____
Rent/Mortgage	\$ _____
Food and Household Supplies	\$ _____
Personal Expenses	\$ _____
Utilities	\$ _____
Telephone	\$ _____
Clothing	\$ _____
Computer/Internet	\$ _____
Health Insurance (if <i>not</i> GTU Kaiser)	\$ _____
Transportation	\$ _____
Tithes/Charitable Giving	\$ _____
Child Care	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____