

Scholarships & Awards





Funding Your Future

Aquinas Institute of Theology is committed to educating the next generation of theologically well-formed ministers to serve the US Church in fulfillment of our mission to educate men and women to preach, to teach, to minister, and to lead. We know that for most students, the cost of graduate school can seem daunting and out of reach and that incurring significant debt is a hardship.

We do not want finances to keep you from answering your call to ministry and we are committed to helping you fund your education.

Aquinas Institute is proud to offer several merit-based scholarship awards for academically qualified lay men and women who have demonstrated a commitment to theological studies and ministerial service. Whether you are just embarking on your journey toward ministry in the Church or currently serving in a ministerial role, you may be eligible for financial support for your Aquinas education.

We welcome applications from lay students who have demonstrated potential for academic achievement, theological scholarship, and ministerial leadership. We encourage those from underserved populations to apply.

Our scholarship awards are named in honor of Dominican saints – St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Martin de Porres, St. Catherine of Siena, and St. Albert the Great – whose love for God and neighbor represent the best of the Catholic tradition. Each of these saints preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed in their own time and place and their lives are an inspiration to the Aquinas community.

Degree Program Options

Students applying to one of our three core degree programs will be considered for merit-based awards.

Master of Arts in Theology (MA)

This intellectually rigorous, 36 credit hour course of study provides a strong academic foundation for students interested pursuing advanced theological studies and for those who desire an academic grounding for teaching, pastoral ministry, and Church leadership.

Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS)

The 48 credit hour program prepares students with the skills and competencies to be effective ministers and lay leaders in different ecclesial settings.

The MAPS curriculum offers a learning experience that seamlessly integrates a strong theological foundation and ministerial formation. Recognizing that the complex demands of ministerial work requires ministers who are personally and spiritually mature, an important component of the MAPS program is an emphasis on personal and spiritual growth.

Master of Divinity (MDiv)

This 81 credit hour program provides a rigorous academic education designed to prepare theologically informed and professionally competent ministers for service to the Church. Our theological orientation is guided by and built upon the work of our great patron Thomas Aquinas whose study of the Word of God led him to search for the Truth by expansively engaging the world. An integrated approach to academic coursework, human and spiritual formation, and supervised ministry experiences ensures students gain the tools and skills for ministerial leadership.

Preach • Teach • Minister • Lead

Why Aquinas Institute?

Part of the world-wide Order of Preachers, Aquinas Institute of Theology is a Catholic, Dominican sponsored graduate school of theology. Our theological orientation is shaped by the 800-year-old intellectual tradition of Order of Preachers and the legacy of our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas. As a community of learners, we seek the Truth of Christ as it has been revealed in the Holy Scriptures and the tradition of the Church through study and dialogue. As St. Dominic did in his own time, Aquinas Institute's theological mission finds its home *in medio ecclesiae* so as to reach out to others in all directions.

Aquinas Institute offers multiple graduate degrees and certificate programs. Our core programs include a Master of Arts in Theology, a Master of Pastoral Studies, and a Master of Divinity, and we are known nationally for our health care mission programs and our Doctor of Ministry in Preaching. We serve diverse, yet complementary constituencies: Dominican student brothers preparing for ordination to the priesthood and pastoral ministry, as well as priests, religious sisters, and lay men and women preparing for careers in service to the Christian community or for advanced studies.

We are a close-knit community where students and faculty learn from each other in a supportive environment. As members of the Dominican family, our students share life together at liturgy and worship, at meals and social events.

Aquinas Institute is located in St. Louis – *affectionately referred to as the Rome of the west* – and our city has many social and cultural offerings. Our campus is situated adjacent to the large and beautiful campus of Saint Louis University. Through a partnership agreement, Aquinas students have access to all the resources of a large Jesuit university including cross-registration, library privileges, student services, recreational center, and campus transportation system.



“When I came to Aquinas to teach I felt at home. I really appreciate the equal emphasis on academics and ministry and formation that this institution values.”

STEWART CLEM, PHD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
MORAL THEOLOGY

Aquinas Scholar Award

Established in honor of our patron, St. Thomas Aquinas, this award is offered to lay men and women and provides full tuition, housing stipend, book award, and work-study opportunities for two or three years, depending on the student's degree program.

Applicants may apply to one of the following programs:

- Master of Arts in Theology (MA)
- Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS)
- Master of Divinity (MDiv)

Eligibility and Requirements

To qualify for this Award, an applicant must be:

- A new, full-time student admitted to the MA, MAPS, or MDiv
- A graduate of an accredited college or university with a GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Have experience in a ministerial setting and a strong interest in and commitment to ministry and leadership in the Christian community
- Make a commitment to reside in St. Louis full-time for the duration of the program



Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274)

Dominican friar,
Doctor of the Church,
Prolific writer.
Known as one of
the greatest theologians
in Christian history.

“There is such a range of experience among people at Aquinas Institute. It is wonderful to be in this environment because you know everyone wants to be here and is invested in it.”

MARY RAQUEL SCHULENBERG, 2020 AQUINAS SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENT

Scholarship Award Opportunities

St. Martin de Porres Award

Established in honor of St. Martin de Porres, this award is offered to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and provides up to 100% tuition for students admitted to the MAPS or MDiv programs.



St. Martin de Porres (1579-1639)

Dominican lay brother of mixed race. Known for his humility, love for the poor, and extraordinary healing powers.

St. Catherine of Siena Award

Established in honor of St. Catherine of Siena, this award is offered to women who have a demonstrated interest in the intellectual life and scholarly pursuits. This award provides up to 100% tuition for their study in the MA program.



St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

Dominican laywoman, Doctor of the Church, Italian Medieval mystic and spiritual writer. Known for her service to the poor and commitment to Church reform.

St. Albert the Great Award

Established in honor of St. Albert the Great, this award is offered to lay men and women with an interest in the Dominican charism and intellectual pursuits that engage theological studies and diverse disciplines. This award provides up to 100% tuition for students admitted to the MA, MAPS, or MDiv program.



St. Albert the Great (1207-1280)

Dominican friar, Doctor of the Church, and brilliant polymath in multiple disciplines including theology, philosophy, and the natural sciences. Known as teacher and mentor to his star pupil, Thomas Aquinas.

Do you feel called to...

Explore the riches of the Dominican intellectual life?

Undertake an expansive and integrative study of the Word of God?

Pursue Truth in community through the practice of mutual listening and dialogue?

Then Aquinas Institute might be the place for you!

How Do I Apply?

To be considered for our scholarships and awards, simply complete and submit the online application for the program to which you are applying (MA, MAPS, or MDiv program).

A separate application for scholarship awards is not required. By completing and submitting your application, you will automatically be considered for any awards or scholarship for which you may be eligible.

When writing your personal assessment and reflection paper for your application, we suggest that you specifically describe and offer examples that explain how your background and experience meets the criteria for a particular award or scholarship. If appropriate, this information could also be included in your letters of recommendation.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 28th

The Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas

Questions? Clarifications?

Please don't hesitate to contact us at admissions@ai.edu or **314.256.8801**

