



E A R L H A M  
SCHOOL of RELIGION

*Thomas J. Mullen Scholarship*

The Thomas J. Mullen Scholarship is a full tuition scholarship for the final 30 credits of the M. Div. degree or for 9-18 hours to complete the M.A. degree. Any Cooper scholar in good standing may apply for the Mullen scholarship in the year in which they will successfully complete 48 hours of the M. Div. or 21 hours of the M.A. degree. Up to 4 Mullen Scholarships will be offered each year, as funds permit.

**Criteria:**

1. This is first and foremost a merit scholarship available only to fulltime degree-seeking, residential students. Essays and letters of support will be evaluated for:
  - a. Clarity of ministerial identity and growth in understanding of the applicant's call to ministry (preference is not given to a particular type of gift or ministry).
  - b. Self-awareness of the processes involved in the applicant's own spiritual formation.
  - c. Evidence of meaningful engagement in community life at ESR and in one's chosen external faith community (e.g., involvement in worship, committees, or other community activities).
  - d. Potential for continued leadership and/or service through one's gifts of ministry, as perceived by those providing letters of support.
2. Applicants must be in good standing academically and with fulfillment of the Cooper covenant at the time of application.
3. Financial need will be considered only to decide between equally deserving applicants.

**Application:**

A full application will include all of the following:

1. An essay of not less than 1250 words in which the applicant articulates his or her current understanding of their own ministerial identity, supported by the call and gifts for ministry they have come to know.
2. An essay of not less than 1250 words in which the applicant reflects upon her or his personal spiritual formation during their time at ESR.
3. A letter of support from the faith community in which the applicant has participated while a student at ESR. This letter should come from an officially recognized body such as monthly meeting or ministry and oversight, should note leadership and ministry abilities observed by the community, describe ways the applicant has been involved with the community, and speak to the applicant's potential for future ministry.
4. A letter of support from an ESR faculty member that addresses the student's potential for leadership and ministry, as demonstrated in class *and* the ESR community.

**Process:**

1. Full applications are due no later than March 11<sup>th</sup> to ESR Business Office.
2. Letters of reference may be submitted with application on institutional letterhead in sealed envelopes or mailed directly to ESR, c/o Business Office. It will be the applicant's responsibility to ensure that reference letters arrive before the deadline.
3. Applications will be reviewed by a committee, appointed by the dean.
4. Awards will be announced by April 15<sup>th</sup>.