

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS of TRIM

*“Count well the cost,” Christ Jesus says, “when you lay the foundation.”* So begins the hymn whose translated words were written by the first leader of the Church of the Brethren, Alexander Mack. Entering TRIM students are encouraged to take these words to heart, for a ministry training program requires time, thought, and a strong commitment of one’s life to Jesus Christ. In addition, there are financial costs whenever one embarks on an educational venture. While God does provide in miraculous ways, TRIM students often have many financial responsibilities in their lives, and so this financial aspect of enrolling in the program is one to consider carefully.

**Application and enrollment fees:** TRIM calls for a substantial investment of resources, some of which come from supporting agencies and some of which come from the students themselves. The direct payments a student makes to the Academy include a one-time enrollment fee and a yearly participation fee, invoiced each January. Call the Brethren Academy for current rates.

**Costs for Units of Study:** Students themselves pay for courses and other units of study. In the end, costs will vary by student because the cost of units varies widely. Students will pay less overall if they enter TRIM having already earned academic credit or completed units of study at another institution that count toward TRIM certification. While enrolled in TRIM, some students will pay more for credits earned at outside institutions and applied to the TRIM program. Also, full-time enrollment is more costly than part-time, but full-time students are eligible for more financial assistance than part-time students. In the end, the total net cost could end up being less for full time students.

**Financial Assistance:** All participants in TRIM are eligible to apply for financial assistance in the form of covenantal grants. TRIM grants do not have to be repaid. In accepting grants, however, applicants commit themselves to supporting the Church of the Brethren in the future through their ministries, contributions to the Church of the Brethren and Bethany Theological Seminary (which supports the Brethren Academy), and their total stewardship of life and resources. The amount of the grant for which a student is eligible is contingent on the number of units the student is enrolling for the year. The maximum annual grant is currently \$1,200. Some additional scholarship funds may be available for those students who take courses through Bethany Seminary. All scholarship funds awarded are to be used for tuition.

**Funding Alternatives:** District TRIM coordinators work with each entering student to determine costs and funding alternatives to help cover expenses. Some districts and individual congregations are also willing to provide funding for ministry training programs. Students should have a conversation with the appropriate person in the district and congregation about this matter.

## GUIDELINES for REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE through TRIM

1. TRIM students may request and receive one award in the fall semester and one award in the spring semester, totaling no more than two awards for the academic year in which the student is enrolled. The fall semester is July 1-December 30; December 1 is the deadline for applying for financial assistance. The spring Semester is January 1-June 30; June 1 is the deadline for applying for financial assistance. Awards are reported as taxable income
2. The amount of an award is determined by the number of units the student plans to complete during that semester to fulfill TRIM credits and by the estimated expense of those units:
  - A. Students enrolling for the minimum required 2 units per semester (on-site, online, or DISU courses) are eligible for an award of up to \$300, or current cost of one course.
  - B. Students enrolling for 3 or more units per semester (on-site, online, or DISU courses) are eligible for an award of up to \$600, or the current cost of two courses.
  - C. Orientation “Introduction to Biblical Studies” and “Practical Ministry Colloquium” are funded by the Brethren Academy, therefore, they cannot count toward total enrolled courses for the purpose of financial assistance.
  - D. Since students are not charged for Independent Study Units, they cannot count toward total enrolled courses.
3. TRIM financial assistance awards may only be used for tuition.
4. Requests for financial assistance will be submitted on the appropriate TRIM form to the district TRIM coordinator, who in turn will submit the form with his or her recommendation. Submission must take place before the semester ends. The fall semester deadline is December 1; the spring semester deadline is June 1. These deadlines will be strictly observed.
5. Each time after the first time that a student requests financial assistance, the student’s transcript will be examined to verify that coursework funded by a grant in the previous period was completed.
6. The Coordinator of English Language Ministry Training Programs of the Brethren Academy will notify the applicant after approving the assistance request.
7. Once the applicant has returned the financial assistance form to the Brethren Academy Office funds will be distributed.
8. The applicant is responsible for all accounting of awards received for tax purposes. Awards received are taxable income.

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Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership  
REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Fall Semester: July 1—December 31, \_\_\_\_\_ year**  
Deadline for application: December 1

**Spring Semester: January 1—June 30, \_\_\_\_\_ year**  
Deadline for application: June 1

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Anticipated Study Program:**

- Space is provided below for you to list event(s), course(s) and Directed Independent Study Units you expect to do during the year for which financial assistance is requested.
- List courses or other units by name.
- Enter the dates that each unit of study will take place.
- Enter the TRIM unit value of each course (One 3-hour semester or one 4-hour quarter course = one TRIM unit).

College/Seminary Courses	Place	Date	TRIM Hours	Units

Academy Level Courses	Place	Date	TRIM Units*
<i>*Since "Orientation" and "Introduction to Biblical Studies" are funded by the Brethren Academy, they may not be included in requests for financial assistance.</i>			

Directed Independent Study Units	Place	Date	TRIM Units

**Total Estimated Tuition Cost for course(s)/event(s) listed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL Course Units Listed** \_\_\_\_\_

**TRIM Covenant Grant Guidelines: (Please check one.)**

- Up to \$300 per semester requested for the minimum 2 units
- Up to \$600 per semester may be requested if you are completing 3 or more units

**Financial Assistance is given directly to an educational institution or for an event registration. If taking more than 1 unit, tell us how to apply your award.**

Make check out to: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$  
Mail check to this address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$  
Mail check to this address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Statement by Student: The information provided on this form is as accurate and complete as possible, and there is financial need for the financial assistance requested.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

**SEND COMPLETED REQUEST TO:**

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership  
615 National Road West  
Richmond, IN 47374  
[academy@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:academy@bethanyseminary.edu)