February 2025

Dear Student,

The Student Body President’s Cabinet invites you to apply for the Hostetter Grant as you are a qualifying recipient! The Hostetter Grant is specifically for first-year, first-generation students. The grant will be awarded during the spring 2025 semester and applied to your account during your sophomore year, 2025-2026. This grant was established by the 2015-2016 SGA Cabinet in honor of D. Ray Hostetter. O**ne** **recipient** will receive **$1,250** that will be directly applied to their outstanding balance.

We would like to receive your application by February 26th, by 11:59pm. Please feel free to use any campus resources that are available to help you: advisors, writing center, etc. If you have any questions, please reach out to **Rebekah Haner**, the Vice President of Engagement, via [SGA@messiah.edu](mailto:SGA@messiah.edu). Applications can be submitted to SGA via email, [SGA@messiah.edu](mailto:SGA@messiah.edu), or by dropping it off at our office located on the second floor of the Larsen Student Union.

Looking forward to your essay!

Sincerely,

**Student Government Association**

Hostetter Grant Information

**Background**:

“Far beyond the name on the chapel at Messiah College, the Hostetter legacy has left a tremendous impact on the life and education of every Messiah University student, regardless of whether or not they realize it. The late D. Ray Hostetter, Messiah College’s sixth president, followed in his grandfather’s and father’s footsteps to provide leadership to the school for three extraordinary decades. Overseeing enrollment and campus expansion, and forming partnerships with Temple University in Philadelphia and Daystar University in Nairobi, President Hostetter embodied the gracious hospitality Messiah College is known for to this day as he created an environment where students could thrive in their individual pursuits, while being captivated by a larger vision, that of God’s kingdom.

“The Messiah University Student Government Association (SGA), along with the dozens of student-led organizations under its wing, still attempts to embody the Hostetter Legacy as we work to provide all students the opportunity to pursue their passions and develop as student leaders, regardless of background. In order to encourage student involvement and leadership development, advance the college’s goal of increasing student retention, and honor the legacy of one of Messiah College’s great leaders, the 2015-2016 Student Body President’s Cabinet established the D. Ray Hostetter Memorial Leadership Grant.”

**Qualification**

Current first-year, first generation college students (as defined by the current College working definition)[[1]](#footnote-1) may apply for the Hostetter Grant for their sophomore year.

The Hostetter Grant application and essay are due no later than Wednesday, February 26th, by 11:59pm. Once all applications have been received, they will be reviewed by our Hostetter Grant Committee. Five finalists will be selected and notified by March 5th. The finalists will each participate in an interview with our Student Body President’s Cabinet during the week of March 17th. The recipient of the Hostetter Grant will be notified by no later than March 26th.

Applications can be submitted by email to [SGA@messiah.edu](mailto:SGA@messiah.edu) or can be dropped off at our office located on the 2nd floor of the Larsen Student Union, room 202.

Any questions regarding the application, grant, or process can be directed to **Rebekah Hayner** via [SGA@messiah.edu](mailto:SGA@messiah.edu).

Hostetter Grant Online Application 2025

**Name**: Click here to enter text.

**Major**: Click here to enter text.

**Email**: Click here to enter text.

**Please answer the following essay question on a separate sheet of paper. The essay should be between 500 and 1,000 words:**

Where have you seen or how have you exhibited healthy leadership traits? Describe those traits and how you see yourself applying them to your life in meaningful ways?

Leadership Opportunities on Campus

Areas to get involved here on campus:

* Student Clubs & Organizations (Over 70 clubs)
* Residence Life
* Agape Center
* Student Ministries
* Multicultural Council
* Student Government
* Orientation Leader
* Student Activities Board
* The Pulse
* For more information regarding the above opportunities and others, visit <http://www.messiah.edu/info/21331/student_involvement>

Many of the above opportunities can qualify for a student’s Experiential Learning Initiative (ELI) credit. To learn more about the ELI Leadership credit, visit the Student Involvement and Leadership page on Messish.edu or follow this link: <http://www.messiah.edu/info/20885/student_involvement_and_leadership_programs/3119/eli_leadership_options>.

For more information visit the Student Involvement & Leadership Programs’ desk located on the second floor of the Larsen Student Union.

1. Both parents have high school as the common denominator for the highest level completed for a “first-generation” designation (03/30/2016). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)