



Scholarships for Outstanding Students in Physics

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and its Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities are pleased to announce the opening of the Rossing Scholarships in Physics competition for the 2026 – 2027 academic year. Thanks to generous gifts from Dr. Thomas D. Rossing, which established The Rossing Fund for Physics Education Endowment, outstanding students of physics may apply for competitive scholarships of up to \$10,000. Interested students are invited to apply for awards for the 2026 - 2027 academic year. Eligibility and application requirements are set forth below.

Eligibility

Applicants must be enrolled in an ELCA or ELCIC-related college or university, must be currently classified by their college or university as a sophomore or junior, must have declared their intention to graduate with a major in physics, and must have completed at least one course in physics at that college or university. A student who received an award as a sophomore may apply again by submitting a complete application. Students applying again are encouraged to submit new application materials that demonstrate progress in their physics program and interests.

Application Requirements for 2026 - 2027 Awards

The applicant must submit:

- A letter that (1) addresses their interest in and experience with the study of physics; (2) describes current plans for their academic and vocational future; (3) states when they expect to graduate, and (4) provides full contact information, including summer 2026 contact information; and,
- Two letters of recommendation, one by a physics professor and one by another professor of physics, a professor of another natural science, or a mathematics professor; and,
- An official copy of the student's transcript that includes all grades through at least December 2025.

Applications must be emailed to grace.marcus@elca.org by April 25, 2026, to guarantee full consideration.

Advice for Applicants and Recommenders

Applicants and the recommenders should be aware that the members of the awards committee are knowledgeable in physics. Applications should therefore be specific in describing an applicant's interest and work in physics, such as personal motivations, meaningful experiences, creative contributions to courses, independent study, or research projects. Evidence of breadth of accomplishment outside of physics is also considered. Letters of recommendation should address these criteria in offering a broad description of the applicant.

If a college or university has more than one applicant, the chair of the physics department of that institution is asked to rank order the candidates, using the criteria in the "advice" paragraph as a guide.

Applicants are urged to contact Grace Marcus via email grace.marcus@elca.org or telephone (704)-773-8419 to confirm proper receipt of materials. Awards will be announced as soon as possible after the application deadlines. Notice of award decisions will be sent to all applicants, writers of recommendation letters, and all ELCA college and university physics departments.