

EPIC

Education Partners in Covenant

What EPIC is

Education Partners in Covenant (EPIC) is a cooperative matching grant venture between congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Wartburg College.

EPIC demonstrates to students that their home congregations and the ELCA are interested in their education. EPIC grants from congregations are matched up to \$750 by the college and provide tangible, direct financial assistance to all qualified students. This covenant relationship serves as a visible sign that ELCA congregations share a commitment to the youth of the church and to quality education. EPIC affirms the importance of higher education in the context of the church as preparation for a life of mission and service in the world.

How EPIC works

EPIC is a voluntary program for congregations. A covenant is formed when the congregation chooses to participate with Wartburg in a matching grant program. Iowa congregations file an EPIC agreement card with their respective synod offices. Out-of-state congregations send the enrollment card to Wartburg. The card is attached to this brochure.

1. A congregation may join EPIC by June 1 prior to the academic year in which the student will enroll at Wartburg. This agreement continues until the congregation withdraws from EPIC. The congregation does not need to re-enroll each year.
2. Congregations elect to support students with EPIC grants of various whole-dollar amounts, with Wartburg matching each grant—up to \$750 per year for up to four years. A student could receive as much as \$6,000 in EPIC awards during his/her four years at college.
3. Students must list the name of their home congregation on their application for admission to Wartburg. They should indicate that their church is enrolled in EPIC. Once the college is aware the student is a member of an EPIC congregation, the Financial Aid Office will arrange the matching award. We also encourage the church to recognize EPIC students through a presentation or an announcement in a bulletin or newsletter.
4. EPIC awards can be submitted in two installments. The first half of the award is sent prior to the beginning of the fall term, Sept. 1, and the remaining amount prior to the winter term, Jan. 1. Checks should be sent to the Wartburg College Financial Aid Office. The money from the congregation and the matching grant from the college are then credited to the student's account. Both awards will be considered part of the student's aid package.
5. Students must meet two requirements to qualify for EPIC:
 - Be a confirmed member of a participating ELCA congregation.
 - Be accepted and enrolled as a full-time Wartburg student.

EPIC imposes no other requirements, either of financial need or academic merit. (Wartburg College offers additional financial aid based on need or merit.) Specific financial aid information can be obtained from the Wartburg Admissions Office.

If you have specific questions about EPIC, contact:

Church Relations
Wartburg College
100 Wartburg Blvd.
P.O. Box 1003
Waverly, IA 50677-0903

Phone: 1-800-772-2085, ext. 8217



The Enrollment Process

WHAT IS EPIC?

It is a matching grant award program in which a congregation and Wartburg College form a cooperative financial team in support of students.

ARE THERE TWO EPIC PROGRAMS?

No, but there are two possible enrollment procedures. Congregations outside of Iowa enroll directly at Wartburg College. ELCA congregations within Iowa may enroll through the college or with their respective synod office.

HOW DOES MY CHURCH ENROLL IN EPIC?

The enrollment form is downloadable from this Web site.

IS THERE A DEADLINE FOR ENROLLMENT?

Yes. The deadline is June 1 prior to the academic year in which the student will attend.

DOES IT COST ANYTHING FOR A CONGREGATION TO ENROLL IN THE EPIC PROGRAM?

No, there is no enrollment fee. EPIC enrollment in no way obligates a church to send money to the college over an extended period. Each year, the enrolling church decides whether or not to continue support of its college student(s). Enrollment in EPIC simply ensures that the college will match a congregation's support up to \$750 per student per year.

DOES MY CONGREGATION NEED TO RE-ENROLL FOR EACH NEW STUDENT?

No. The congregation completes the enrollment form only once. In subsequent years, the supporting church provides a contribution form.

The Contribution Process

HOW MUCH WILL THE COLLEGE MATCH?

The college will match every dollar up to \$750 per student per year.

HOW MANY YEARS CAN A STUDENT RECEIVE EPIC?

A student is eligible to receive EPIC funds for a maximum of eight semesters.

SHOULD CONGREGATIONS REQUIRE A CONGREGATIONAL APPLICATION PROCESS?

Many congregations require an application as part of an organized scholarship process. It is a good way to ensure clear communication.

IF STUDENTS ARE NOT MAKING SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS, CAN THEIR EPIC MATCH BE TURNED DOWN?

Yes. The college determines this and may suspend all financial aid until progress is made.

CAN THE COLLEGE REFUSE TO MATCH FUNDS?

Yes. The college can refuse funds for unsatisfactory academic progress or if the program is used improperly and the contribution is a diverted family tuition payment that has gone through the church in order to receive personal tax benefit.

DOES MY CONGREGATION HAVE TO SEND IN THE FULL AMOUNT AT ONE TIME?

No. We prefer that the congregational award and the Wartburg match are divided equally between the fall and winter terms. Payment received by September 1 for fall term and January 1 for winter term will maintain the student's account in good standing.

HOW MUCH MATCHING FINANCIAL SUPPORT CAN A CONGREGATION PROVIDE THROUGH EPIC?

Support levels for Wartburg students may range from \$50 to the full cost of education. However, the college will match amounts up to \$750 per year per student.

WARTBURG'S MISSION STATEMENT

*Wartburg College is dedicated
to challenging and nurturing students
for lives of leadership and service
as a spirited expression
of their faith and learning.*