

The Sewanee Pledge Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Pledge?

We pledge to help Sewanee graduates secure good jobs and spots in top graduate programs by providing funding for a summer internship or research opportunity.

We pledge to help Sewanee students find their place in an increasingly interconnected world by providing students with access to a semester-long study-abroad program at no additional tuition cost.

We pledge that students will graduate (with one major) in four consecutive years. If a student otherwise meets the requirements of the Pledge but is not able to graduate, Sewanee will provide up to one additional year of study tuition-free.

Throughout this document, the definitions of “student classification” (i.e., first-year, sophomore, junior, and senior) as stated in the College Catalog apply. (See <http://e-catalog.sewanee.edu/arts-sciences/academic-policies-procedures/student-classification-progress-status/>.) The Pledge applies to students entering in the fall of 2018 or later; transfer students are included in the guarantee of an internship or assistantship and in the study-abroad experience.

What are the details?

Internship & Research Opportunity

We guarantee that students entering Sewanee in the fall of 2018 or later will be able to receive funding (approximately \$375 per week for six to eight weeks for an internship and four to eight weeks for an assistantship) for one summer internship or research assistantship. Students must identify and secure the opportunity through a competitive process. To be eligible for funding, the internship/assistantship must be unfunded or underfunded by the sponsoring organization. A student must meet minimum College GPA standards for “good standing” and not be on institutional probation through the Office of the Dean of Students. Internship opportunities facilitated by the Sewanee Career Center and fully funded (i.e., at most \$375 per week) by the sponsored organization will be considered to have fulfilled the guarantee.

What is being promised?

Funding for one approved unfunded or underfunded summer internship or research assistantship during a student's four years at Sewanee.

Does this apply to incoming first-year students only? What about transfers?

This benefit of the Sewanee Pledge applies to all students who are entering Sewanee for the first time in the fall of 2018 or later, including transfer students.

What is the student's responsibility?

To receive funding through Sewanee, students must secure an unpaid internship, either with the help of the Sewanee Career Center or independently, and submit a funding proposal by the deadline. Additionally, students must not be on institutional probation (as defined in the EQB Guide) or on Academic Warning (as defined in the Catalog). Students placed on institutional probation may forfeit internship/assistantship funding available through the Sewanee Pledge. Other than being in good academic standing, no minimum GPA requirements exist after the first year, but first-year students who apply for funding must attain a GPA of 3.25 or higher in their first semester.

Is funding available only for internships offered through Sewanee?

No. Funding is available for summer internships posted through Sewanee's proprietary database, Handshake, and for internships secured directly by students.

Is funding available only for research assistantships with Sewanee faculty?

No. Sewanee students may pursue a summer research assistantship with Sewanee faculty on campus or an approved research opportunity supervised by faculty at other institutions.

Can a student receive funding for more than one internship or assistantship?

The Sewanee Pledge guarantees funding for only one summer internship or assistantship, and Sewanee will not provide funding for any additional internship or assistantship. A student who secures external funding or seeks an unpaid internship / assistantship may of course pursue such at their own expense.

How much funding is available per student?

Funding is \$375 per week for six- to eight-week summer internships or four- to eight-week research assistantships.

Are there any restrictions for international students?

International students are subject to federal regulations with regard to their visa status. If their visa status allows them to have an internship, the Pledge applies.

Does funding differ based on location, length of program, etc.?

No. Funding is \$375 per week for six- to eight-week summer internships or four- to eight-week research assistantships.

Can the funding be received the summer prior to enrolling at Sewanee?

No. The Sewanee Pledge is available only to enrolled students, with priority given to rising juniors and seniors. This restriction does not apply to students who participate in the Sewanee Research Bridge; students who receive Research Bridge funding are still eligible for the Pledge internship or research.

How long is this guarantee planned to run?

An end date has not been specified.

Study-Abroad Experience

We guarantee that students entering Sewanee in the fall of 2018 or later will be able participate in an approved semester-long study-abroad program as a junior at no additional tuition charge except for travel and expenses.

Students must apply and then be accepted into an approved program, meet any GPA requirements, and be in good social standing.

What is being promised?

One semester-long program away from Sewanee in an approved program.

Does this apply to incoming first-year students only? What about transfers?

This benefit of the Sewanee Pledge applies to all students who are entering Sewanee for the first time in the fall of 2018 or later, including transfer students.

In which study-abroad programs can a student enroll?

The current lineup for approved programs can be viewed at <http://www.sewanee.edu/academics/about/global-citizenship/studyaway/programs/>. Approved programs may change from year to year.

What are the additional costs to the student?

The only additional costs are travel expenses to and from the program location, books and other supplies, and any incidental, personal expenses. During the semester away, students continue to pay Sewanee's comprehensive fee and continue to receive the same financial aid they would receive if they stayed at Sewanee. Sewanee will pay for approved programs up to the cost of Sewanee's comprehensive fees; students will bear program costs beyond Sewanee's comprehensive fees.

Do students continue to receive non-need, tuition exchange, tuition remission, or merit-based aid if they study abroad in an approved program?

Yes.

Who can go?

Juniors who meet minimum GPA requirements and who are in good academic and social standing.

What is the minimum GPA requirement?

Students are automatically eligible to study away if they have at least a 2.70 grade point average. A student whose GPA is below 2.70 and above 2.50 may petition the Office of Global Citizenship to study away. Individual programs may have higher requirements.

What is considered good social standing?

Students must not be on institutional probation as defined in the EQB Guide.

Can the student choose which semester during the junior year to study away?

Students can express a preference, but the University cannot guarantee that a student's preference for a particular semester will be granted.

Is there any cap on how many students can study abroad each semester or other system to avoid most of the campus leaving at the same time?

The associate dean of global citizenship will balance the number of students abroad each semester with other institutional factors.

Does this include a summer study-abroad program?

No. Only approved semester-long programs are part of the Sewanee Pledge.

Is there a refund if the selected program is less expensive than Sewanee tuition?

No. The home-fee system allows Sewanee to provide an abroad experience for more students.

May a student study abroad for more than one semester?

The Sewanee Pledge guarantees financial aid for a student going abroad for one and only one semester, as outlined above. A student may apply to study abroad for a second semester, but the University will offer no financial support to the student for the second (or subsequent) semester.

How long is this guarantee planned to run?

An end date has not been specified.

Graduate in Four Years

We guarantee that students entering Sewanee in the fall of 2018 or later will graduate (with one major) in four consecutive years. If a student otherwise meets the requirements of the Pledge but is not able to graduate, Sewanee will provide up to one additional year of study tuition-free.

What is satisfactory academic progress and how does that affect the Pledge? What are the responsibilities of the student?

Students must meet the following expectations:

1. Declare and be admitted to a major by the end of the sophomore year. A student may change majors, and if the student can still meet the requirements of the new major and graduate within four calendar years, then the Pledge will still apply.
2. Remain in good academic standing at the University. Students who are placed on Academic Warning for a semester but recover their good standing are still eligible for the Pledge.
3. Complete 128 semester hours (an average of 32 semester hours each year for four years) as required by the college and major, and meet all degree progress checkpoints.
4. Meet with their faculty advisor and/or department chair prior to registration each term to review their course plan and monitor progress.
5. Register for courses within the assigned registration period.
6. Enroll in available courses needed for the program of study; accept any available section that can be accommodated in your course schedule.
7. Make timely annual application for all necessary financial assistance to avoid registration problems.
8. Actively monitor their own progress toward degree completion (by checking their transcript, utilizing SODA, seeking assistance from their advisor and/or the Registrar, etc.).
9. Notify their faculty advisor and/or department chair if they are unable to register for a required course needed in the major or for graduation.
10. Settle all accounts on time and in full.

What is being promised?

Students who meet Sewanee's academic and social standards will graduate (with one major) in four consecutive years. If a student otherwise meets the requirements of the Pledge but is not able to graduate, Sewanee will provide up to one additional year of study tuition-free.

Does this apply to incoming first-year students only? What about transfers?

The four-year graduation component applies to first-time first-year degree-seeking students starting with those who are entering Sewanee in the fall of 2018 or later. This aspect of the Pledge does not apply to transfer students.

What is considered good social standing?

Students must not be on institutional probation as defined in the EQB Guide.

What if a student voluntarily withdraws or is suspended for a semester?

A student who voluntarily withdraws from Sewanee or otherwise takes a semester away forfeits the four-year guarantee. In cases of a departure for a documented illness, the dean of students must confirm the withdrawal with the student and will communicate any conditions for departure and reinstatement that would allow the student to remain under the Pledge. In any case, a student who is suspended from Sewanee for honor, academic, or disciplinary reasons forfeits the four-year guarantee.

How many minors can I have?

While many students graduate in four years with one or more minors, the four-year graduation component of the Sewanee Pledge does not guarantee a minor in addition to a major. It covers only one major.

How long is this guarantee planned to run?

An end date has not been specified.