



Variable Tuition Frequently Asked Questions

What is Variable Tuition?

Variable Tuition is a need-based tuition assistance program similar to those used by many private schools, colleges, and universities. This program allows families to apply for reduced tuition that is right for their families' financial situation. Thus, this makes a Moses Lake Christian Academy education affordable to many qualified students who could not otherwise join our school community. As a result, our students represent a broad range of socio-economic backgrounds, enhancing the learning experience for every MLCA student.

How does Variable Tuition work?

Any family (current or new) of a full time kindergarten through twelfth grade student may apply for Variable Tuition if they are concerned about affording the full tuition rate at Moses Lake Christian Academy. Many factors are considered when determining the tuition amount a family is able to pay, including income, assets, unusual expenses, and the size of the family. The resources available for the family in a given year must also be considered in light of the Variable Tuition awards available at Moses Lake Christian Academy.

Should every new Moses Lake Christian Academy family submit an application for Variable Tuition?

No. Only families who feel that they are not able to pay full tuition should submit an application.

Should every returning Moses Lake Christian Academy family submit an application for Variable Tuition?

No. Only families who feel that they may not be able to afford a high quality, Christian education should submit an application.

Will currently enrolled students receive priority over new students applying for Variable Tuition?

Yes. Current Moses Lake Christian Academy students will have priority over new applicants provided all deadlines are met. FAST will provide an evaluation via an online application, which must be completed each year. Tax returns are required. No aid will be awarded without a completed application. Failure to do this will result in a tuition payment at the highest level.

Do I need to apply for re-enrollment separately from applying for Variable Tuition?

Yes, the processes are separate, but can be done simultaneously.

Do I need to apply for Variable Tuition every year?

Yes. Priority is given to re-enrolling families and FAST online accounts must be updated each year. The online application must be resubmitted each year along with the appropriate tax returns and other documents



If I do not qualify for the program this year, can I apply again next year?

Yes. A family that does not qualify is welcome to reapply the following year.

Do I need to apply for admission separately from applying for Variable Tuition?

Yes. For new students, the admission process is separate from the financial aid process. We encourage families to apply for admission at the same time.

Will applying for Variable Tuition hurt my student's chance of being admitted to the school?

No. Admission applications and Variable Tuition applications are evaluated separately. Families should not hesitate to apply for tuition assistance out of concern that it might impact their child's acceptance into our school.

What kind of economic situation is typical of a family who qualifies for Variable Tuition?

Family circumstances range widely. Aid is awarded based on need. Factors such as sources of income, expenses, number of students in the family and cost of living in our area are considered. While some families can afford only minimal tuition, others can afford to pay around the midpoint or almost at the top of the tuition level. Our goal is to make a high quality, Christian education affordable to as many families as possible.

Are some families awarded full tuition?

No. Every family is required to make a financial investment in their child's education. Our commitment to providing Variable Tuition means that we are sharing in that investment with you. In fact, no family awarded variable tuition will receive more than a 50% discount.

Are all admitted students offered Variable Tuition if the family qualifies?

No. Unfortunately, the school does not have the ability to offer Variable Tuition to every student who qualifies for both admission and Variable Tuition. A student may be admitted to the school but placed on a waiting list for Variable Tuition. It is recommended that families apply for Variable Tuition as early as possible.

If I am eligible am I assured enrollment for my student?

All new students must meet conduct and academic standards for admissions. Each applicant must go through the application process, testing, and interview. Admission standards will be the same for all students regardless of the financial aid application process.

What expenses are there other than tuition?

Even with reduced tuition, families will still be responsible to pay the \$150 per child school application fee. Each student will incur expenses such as extracurricular activities, school supplies, field trips, extended learning (7th – 12th grade), dress code compliant clothing, school lunch, sports fees and Cub Club, if applicable.



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Will Moses Lake Christian Academy offer tuition assistance to students because they excel in athletics?

Moses Lake Christian Academy does not single out any particular group. We do not give athletic scholarships. Everyone is afforded the same opportunity to apply for and potentially receive Variable Tuition. Acceptance goes through a third party and their recommendation guides our Variable Tuition process. The entire Variable Tuition Program is a need-based program that relies solely on the family's ability to pay. Some of our students receiving Variable Tuition may be athletes but their athletic ability is not the reason for the award.

Is Moses Lake Christian Academy giving tuition away and bending over backwards to boost enrollment?

We do have space in some classrooms and grades, but only students who fit our enrollment requirements will be considered. Potential students must still meet our behavioral and academic standards to be admitted.

Will the addition of new students lead to larger classes and lower levels of instruction?

No. Moses Lake Christian Academy has established preferred maximum class sizes. Within those limits, we will continue to accept qualified students. If we get more students at a grade level than our preferred ratio allows, we will start a waiting list and may open an additional section. We are committed to not overfill classrooms to the detriment of instruction.

What will my Variable Tuition amount be?

It is not possible for a family or the school to estimate the tuition level for which a family qualifies without the completion of a Variable Tuition application. Applications are submitted directly to FAST, a third-party agency. FAST evaluates the application based on criteria set by the school and makes a recommendation to the school's Variable Tuition team. Families are notified of the tuition level for which they qualify from the school's admission office.

My student is currently receiving financial aid. How does this work for Variable Tuition?

Moses Lake Christian Academy no longer provides financial aid. Variable Tuition replaces the financial aid program.

Where can I go for more information?

Visit www.mlca.us and follow the links for information under the "Admission" tab.

Upon completion of my Variable Tuition application, when will I receive confirmation of my Variable Tuition?

Typically within 2 weeks of providing all required information to FAST, our confidential third party service.



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Who should I contact with questions about Variable Tuition?

Questions about Variable Tuition should be directed to:

Darci Homesley, Business Manager

dhomesley@mlca.us

509-765-9704

or

Stephanie Voigt, Director

svoigt@mlca.us

509-765-9704

How Do I Apply for Variable Tuition?

Visit our website at www.mlca.us then click on the “admissions” tab. Follow the link for Variable Tuition.

How to Submit Required Documents:

Your Variable Tuition application will not be processed unless all required documents have been submitted to FAST.

Tax documents may be mailed to:
Independent School Management
ATTN: FAST Processing Center
1316 North Union Street
Wilmington, DE 19806

What if I haven't yet filed my tax return for last year? May I submit my return for the previous year?

Yes, you may submit your last tax return. However, when your most current tax return is complete, submit those documents to FAST and they will update your current information.