

**Diocese of Western Massachusetts  
Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants  
Guidelines for Application (for Academic Year 2012-2013)**

(Previous applicants in particular, please note that these guidelines have been updated since last year.)

**The Bement/Waterfield Grants**

Grants in this program are made to help young people in the parishes of this diocese pursue post-secondary school education. Grants may be used at accredited two- and four-year undergraduate colleges, and at accredited training and technical institutions.

In making these grants, the committee of clergy and lay members of the diocese appointed by the Bishop considers [1] the place of your faith in your life, [2] what difference your education is making in your life, and [3] your financial need.

The application process is in two stages: a written application, and an interview.

**1. Written application**

To apply for a Bement/Waterfield Grant, submit an application containing the following six items to Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants Committee, 37 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01103.:

1. A completed **Application Form** (provided).
2. An **essay** discussing the place of faith in your life, and your educational goals. This should not simply be a list of activities. We are interested in your thoughts about who you are, and how your faith and education fit into your life.
3. A reference from the rector or vicar of your home parish on the **Clergy Reference Form** provided. If your parish is currently without a rector, please ask the senior warden either to complete the reference form or designate another parish member who is familiar with your parish involvement, past and present.
4. One reference on the additional **Reference Form** provided.
5. A copy of your **academic transcript** for the most recent term of study completed.
6. A copy of the **Student Aid Report (SAR)** from your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). FAFSA application forms are available from [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

To be considered for funding for the academic year 2012-2013, complete applications must be received no later than **March 1, 2012**. We regret that we are unable to consider incomplete or late applications.

**2. Interview**

Soon after your complete application has been received, a member of the committee will contact you about scheduling an interview at a mutually convenient time (but no later than May 15). If students are studying abroad or otherwise unable to be in Massachusetts, it may be necessary to arrange an interview by Skype or telephone, but the committee strongly prefers in-person interviews whenever possible. If any information has changed since competing your written application (e.g., for high school seniors, decision about what college to attend, change in your financial situation, or more recent academic transcript), the interviewer will ask you to bring copies of the updated information to the interview.

**Award decisions**

The committee will meet in May after all interviews are complete. We will inform you of final award decisions as soon as possible after the last committee meeting.

**Note:** These grants are made possible in part by income from a generous bequest of the late Miss Mary Bement many years ago.

In 1998, William S. Waterfield, Jr., left a bequest to the Diocese to provide additional funds for educational grants. Mr. Waterfield was a lifelong member of St. John's Parish in Worcester. When the original St. John's Church was razed to make way for interstate highway construction in 1962, he created the design for the replacement structure incorporating significant architectural features of the original church.