



CENTER FOR SACRED STUDIES

Ministerial Training

PO Box 4266, Sonora, CA 95370
css.ministrytraining@gmail.com

CSS Ministry Training Program Student Finance Assistance Program and Creative Resourcing Guidelines

The Center for Sacred Studies Ministry Training Program was brought into existence in 2007 – birthed from a vision of bringing the teachings of earth-based ways of prayer and ministry to a broader base of interest, without the limitations of travel and classes held in a physical location. While being offered online, our intentions were to create a sacred alchemical container of learning and support for students from our community of heart-centered instructors and service workers. Our community has been in existence for over 20 years growing our global reach. This program and you are an important part of this growth process

Our Ministry Training is in its eighth year of existence. To create the high quality of content that a 2-year online training program, with audio and video of both senior instructors and Elders (48 all told), and the effort to design a really unique offering - there was much initial cost associated with this endeavor. **Yet our tuition has not increased since our first year of offering the training!** We are not in the 'profit' business, with most of the tuition going towards making MTP a sustainable model for those that are offering their wisdom to many. We stand firmly behind the quality of our training program, and hear from our students that what they received from MTP went far beyond what they expected. It's largely a labor of love and devotion on everyone's behalf to offer a level of intimacy not found in many of the various trainings and offerings available today.

The MTP Scholarship Program Fund was created in 2013 through the generosity of our Ministry community, comprised of students, alumni and in-kind donors aligned with our mission. This scholarship fund was established to make this training accessible to those who otherwise may not be able to afford to attend. Each year in May we assess our ability to offer award to those who have completed our application process and exhibit a sincere desire to attend the training. We also offer our time in consultation with applicants for what we call creative resourcing – looking at all the resources an applicant may already possess that could easily lead to creative ways to fund their dreams. We employ a very small staff and because of this, our time and effort to process scholarship applications and track available funds is precious. Your consideration of this is appreciated.

We also have the Auditing track, which for some students is a viable alternative to attending at our full tuition rate. As Auditor you have access to all the online content and conference calls, but with fewer requirements. *Note: this does not include mentoring and does not lead to ordination.*

Guidelines for Applicants

Our Financial Assistance program embodies the Center for Sacred Studies commitment to enter into relationship with you and support your process while attending the training. Please consider that this training is a significant activation process, and may create situations that test and take you into deep study around your relationship to work and sustainability. Timing can play an important

part in this process, as well as alignment to right livelihood. It may be in your best interest to wait until another time when you can more comfortably afford the various expenses.

Please note: Awards will not cover the costs for the Retreats in California and four required breathworks (we assist in helping you find local options). Many of the books that are required reading can be gotten from libraries, but some will require purchase.

We will hold your application until we have had time to know what we can be offering for the year you are applying. We have had students who prefer not to wait for this process to unfold, and take initiative to fund themselves through various crowd-funding campaigns and social media outlets. We have students who are available to assist you with information on how to do this based on their own experiences. Also are there resources within your community to consider – friends and family can get excited about supporting you, they just need to be asked.

One student shares:

My journey, with the support that I have had through the crowd-funding- has been beautiful and has even more weight to it, that I have all of these people that I have that believe in me and what I am doing...even when I am not so sure myself! This keeps me on track- it tells me that people get it and it ripples out in sweet ways! It makes my commitment stronger.

* * * *

Consideration Questions

To be considered for assistance in attending the training, we ask candidates to complete the MTP Application and submit the \$45 non-refundable application fee. In addition to your application, we ask that you send us a one-page letter of consideration that answers the following questions:

What can you afford to pay?

What are sources of funds? (living on fixed income, unemployment, support from other sources).
Size of household?

What is your approximate monthly income? (optional to answer, but can help us with consideration of your circumstances)

What is your history of social activism and/or community and/or spiritual work?

Are you prepared to place your Ministry education high on your list of financial priorities, at the exclusion of other training programs and travel, and to stay current with your adjusted tuition award to the best of your abilities? (with understanding unforeseen circumstances may arise)

What are your creative resources currently? Name all – talents, passions, things that you can easily do to generate energy and creative juices. Things that get others excited about what you hope to do with your Ministry and where you are thinking it will take you in the future. (Be broad and expansive in your consideration of anything and everything!)