

TUITION ASSISTANCE FAQs

- **Does applying for tuition assistance affect my daughter's admissions decision?**
 - No. Tuition Assistance and Admissions decisions are made independently of one another.
- **Who can apply for tuition assistance?**
 - Anyone can apply for tuition assistance; however, we must work within the constraints of our tuition assistance budget to steward our financial resources responsibly and to those families who demonstrate the most need.
 - In alignment with our Sacred Heart [Goals and Criteria](#), Goal IV guides us to allocate funds in ways that support socio-economic diversity within both the admissions process and the daily life of our students. Our tuition assistance program aims to provide access to a Sacred Heart education to those who could otherwise not afford it.
 - As a PK3 – Grade 12 school, Duchesne encourages all families to apply for tuition assistance whenever demonstrated need is present. While families across all grade levels may apply, historically a larger portion of tuition assistance has been awarded to students in Grades 9–12.
- **Is the tuition assistance application separate from the admission application?**
 - Yes, families applying for admissions who wish to apply for tuition assistance must submit a separate tuition assistance application through [Clarity](#)
- **Does Duchesne offer athletic or merit scholarships?**
 - Duchesne does not offer athletic scholarships. We do have merit scholarships for Upper School students as outlined in the section below (Merit scholarships do not require an application and are decided upon by the school Administration).
- **What factors are and are not taken into consideration in my tuition assistance application?**
 - Duchesne's tuition assistance is based on a family's demonstrated need rather than willingness to pay. We utilize the Clarity platform to analyze income, assets, business ownership, expenses, number of students in tuition charging schools, retirement account balances, etc.

- In two parent households with children of school age; non-working parents are assigned a base income.
- Items not considered include, but are not limited to, lifestyle choices that make paying tuition difficult (vacations, pet costs, unique summer camp or extracurricular costs beyond a typical amount, etc.).
- **Do I have to reapply every year?**
 - Yes, families must re-apply for tuition assistance every year; however, it is the school's intention to continue the assistance unless there is a significant change in financial circumstances.
- **Does Duchesne participate in TEFA?**
 - Duchesne will not participate in the Texas Education Freedom Account (TEFA) for the 2027-2028 school year. We will continue to monitor the program's implementation and reevaluate our participation in future years. In keeping with the *Goals and Criteria* of Sacred Heart Schools, we are committed to continuing to provide robust financial assistance and awarded over \$2.5 million in tuition assistance last year.
- **If I enroll without tuition assistance in our first year, can I apply for tuition assistance later?**
 - Duchesne is less likely to grant tuition assistance to families who have first enrolled without applying for financial aid unless there is a significant change in financial circumstances.
- **What other school costs should I keep in mind that my family may pay in addition to tuition?**
 - Please keep in mind there may be incidental charges throughout the school year, in addition to the tuition invoice, that are not typically covered by tuition assistance. Additional fees include but are not limited to: sports fees (\$150-\$350/sport); school uniform costs (or used uniform purchases); technology fees; extended programs; AP exams; school store/coffee shop purchases; etc. In some cases, school assistance is also provided for these expenses.

- **When will I be notified if I received a Tuition Assistance award?**
 - Tuition assistance award letters are included with re-enrollment contracts (for returning families) and with admissions decisions (for new families).
- **Where can I get help with the application?**
 - For help with the application, Clarity has a [Quick Reference Guide \(English\)](#) / [Guía de Referencia Rápida \(Spanish\)](#) and a [Family Application Guide \(English\)](#) / [Guía de Aplicación Para Las Familias \(Spanish\)](#)
 - Clarity also has online, email, and phone support:
 - Select “Get Help” button in the lower left corner for in-app support
 - Email support at support@clarityapp.com
 - Phone support at 206-210-3752
 - For general tuition assistance questions, please reach out to the Head of Finance and Business Management, Beth.Waguespack@duchesne.org, or Assistant Controller, Heather.Minhinnette@duchesne.org