



UST AT 400

The Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas, the Catholic University of the Philippines, will celebrate its 400 long and glorious years of existence in 2011. Through God's unending grace, the University, reputably the oldest academic institution of higher learning in Asia, continues to offer quality Catholic education and excellent training in various disciplines as attested by a number of its curricular programs that have been granted by the Commission on Higher Education the titles of Centers of Excellence and Centers of Development. UST's prominence is evident in the exceptional performance of its graduates in the licensure examinations, its prized research output and meaningful community development programs that have positively transformed lives in more ways than one. The home of saints, heroes, businessmen, government and church leaders, artists and servant-leaders in various fields of endeavor, the University carries on the tradition of forming competent professionals - outstanding men and women of culture and conscience. Inspired by the ideals of St. Thomas Aquinas and guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church, the University of Santo Tomas will forever be a bastion of truth in light of the Tria Haec - faith, hope and love.

"Invest in the future of Philippine education. Pay tribute to UST at 400. Offer thanksgiving to God's unending grace."

TEACHER EDUCATION AND CATHOLIC FORMATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (TECFSP)

Rationale

The University of Santo Tomas, through the College of Education, embarked on a scholarship program with the end in view of forming an esteemed group of Thomasian educators who shall be the living monuments to UST's glorious past, its grateful present and grace-filled future. This endeavor is a reaffirmation of the university's mission of education and evangelization.

Eligibility and Maintenance Requirements

Aptly called the Teacher Education and Catholic Formation Scholarship Program (TECFSP), the program aims to build a pool of well-trained and values-oriented teachers who would become catalysts in the moral renewal of Philippine basic education. It offers an academic scholarship grant leading to a degree in Bachelor in Secondary Education (BSE). A number of hopefuls who come from underprivileged families were screened based on a rigorous set of criteria which include an IQ of 100 and above, an overall grade of at least 85 in the UST Entrance Test, an average of at least 88% in the high school report card, and a conduct grade not lower than 90% (very good). Eligible applicants were interviewed and the list was trimmed down to 36 individuals, presented in the Academic year 2007 - 2008 as the Quadracentennial scholars.

To continually enjoy the benefits, the recipients are required to maintain good academic standing (minimum general weighted average of 2.50) and must observe proper decorum at all times. **As of AY 2008-2009, twenty-nine (29) students retained their scholarship for adequately meeting the minimum established standards of quality. Majority of these scholars hail from the nearby provinces of Batangas (24%), Bulacan (17%) and Rizal (14%), a few reside in Metro Manila, and a handful come from far-flung areas like Nueva Ecija to as far south as Romblon. All twenty-nine scholars are expected to graduate in 2011.**

Objectives of the TECFSP

The UST TECFSP aims to:

- Develop competent, compassionate and values-oriented mentors who will create an impact on the country's basic educational system;
- Form exemplary Christian educators to serve the public and private schools; and
- Organize the graduates of this scholarship program towards assuring and paying forward the continuous assistance to the succeeding batches of intellectually gifted but underprivileged students who wish to go into the teaching profession.

Scholarship Coverage

The TECFSP shall cover the cost of tuition, books, uniforms and monthly allowance of Php1,500. The total cost to complete the program is estimated at Php15.24 million which is around Php424 thousand per scholar, **or roughly P53 thousand for every student per semester.** As of the present, there is an urgent need to raise funds to ensure the fulfillment of the program and the scholars' aspirations.

Curriculum

The Bachelor in Secondary Education (BSE) is a four-year program that provides academic and clinical preparation for prospective teachers of secondary education through appropriate courses in general education (63 units), professional education and field study/practice (51units), and field of specialization (60 units). Majority of the Quadracentennial scholars are specializing in Mathematics (37%) and Biological Science (31%). The rest are distributed in four other majors: Social Science, English, Religious Education, and Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health (MAPEH).

On top of the academic requirements, regular classes of catechism are conducted. To achieve holistic development, involvement in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is encouraged.