



**The Bureau of Indian Education
Higher Education Grant Program**

**Information for Prospective
American Indian College Students**

Academic Year 2015 - Fall Edition

An Introduction to the Bureau of Indian Education's Higher Education Grant Program

The Bureau of Indian Education's (BIE) Higher Education Grant Program is not an entitlement program. It is important for you to become familiar with the requirements of the BIE's Grant program college admission requirements, as well as your tribe's eligibility terms and the relationship between these programs and offices. Completing admission and financial aid packages is time-consuming and requires your undivided attention to successfully complete them. The information below is intended to help you understand the resources available to you.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT?

The purpose of the BIE's Higher Education Grant Program is to provide supplemental financial assistance to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native scholars entering college who are seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree from a nationally accredited institution.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT?

Students seeking assistance must comply with the following eligibility criteria:

1. Must be a member of, or at least one-quarter degree Indian blood descendent of a member of an American Indian tribe which is eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States through the Bureau of Indian Affairs because of their status as Indians. See the Tribal Leaders Directory at the following website:
<http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/TribalGovernmentServices/TribalDirectory/index.htm>
2. Must be accepted for admission to a nationally accredited institution of higher education which provides a course of study conferring the Associate of Arts or Bachelor of Arts or science degree.
3. Must demonstrate financial need as determined by the financial aid officer of the collegiate institution.

WHERE CAN I OBTAIN A GRANT APPLICATION?

The BIE does not award these grants. The grant application is only available from the education officer of the tribe in which you are affiliated or possess membership. Please call your tribe for more information. (See the Tribal Leaders Directory at the following website:
<http://www.bia.gov/idc/groups/xois/documents/text/idc002652.pdf>.)

While you are waiting for your application, you should start to request all available financial aid information from your selected college to be sent to you. Be sure to inform the Financial Aid Officer that you are an American Indian and will be submitting the grant application along with

other financial aid applications. Many colleges know about the BIE's Grant Program and can refer you to a knowledgeable counselor. However, be sure to check with your college because not all colleges will automatically transfer your paperwork. There are still a few colleges and universities that are not aware of the grants specifically available to American Indians or Alaska Natives.

GRADUATE STUDENT RESOURCES

The BIE administers a grant program through the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) that offers supplementary financial assistance for students pursuing post-baccalaureate degree programs.

The criteria for a student to apply for a grant are:

1. Be an enrolled member of a federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribe in the United States.
2. Pursue a masters or doctorate degree as a full-time student at an accredited graduate school in the United States.
3. Apply for campus-based financial aid through the federal financial aid process at the college by June 1st.

Since 1969, the AIGC has served American Indian graduates in all fields of study. First time applicants are assessed a non-refundable application fee of \$15. Applications must be received within the AIGC's required timeframes. Additional information is available from the following address and telephone number: American Indian Graduate Center, 3701 San Mateo Blvd NE, Suite 200, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110, (505) 881-4584 or toll free at 1-800-628-1920. Additional information is available on the AIGC website: www.aigcs.org.

LAW STUDENTS

Law students seeking opportunities to enhance their academic success will want to contact the American Indian Law Center, Inc. This organization conducts an eight-week session to prepare potential Indian law students for the rigors of law school. There is an emphasis in the development of skills necessary for success in study habits, legal research and legal writing. This program is primarily for those students that have been accepted into an accredited institution.

For additional information regarding the program and application process, please contact the American Indian Law Center, Inc., P.O. Box 4456, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196 or call (505) 277-5462.

TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Tribal colleges and universities were founded in recognition of the tremendous importance of postsecondary education to tribal economic development, cultural preservation and tribal sovereignty. These institutions represent the most significant and successful development in American Indian education history. There are over 30 tribal colleges and universities in the United States educating over 26,000 American Indian students that represent over 200 American Indian tribes. Additional information about these institutions can be found by contacting them directly.

Aaniih Nakota College

PO Box 159
Harlem, MT 59526
(406) 353-2607

Blackfeet Community College

PO Box 819
Browning, MT 59417
(406) 338-5441

Chief Dull Knife College

PO Box 98
Lame Deer, MT 59043
(406) 477-6215

Dine College

Box 126
Tsaile, AZ 86556
(928) 724-6670

Fort Peck Community College

PO Box 398
Poplar, MT 59255
(406) 768-6300

Iisagvik College

PO Box 749
Barrow, AK 99723
(907) 852-1820

Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College

PO Box 519
Barage, MI 49908
(906) 353-4600

Leech Lake Tribal College

PO Box 180
Cass Lake, MN 56633
(218) 335-4600

Little Priest Tribal College

POB 270
Winnebago, NE 68071
(402) 878-2380

Bay Mills Community College

1214 West Lakeshore Drive
Brimley, MI 49715
(906) 248-3354

Cankdeska Cikana Community College

PO Box 269
Fort Totten, ND 58335
(701) 766-4415

College of Menominee Nation

PO Box 1179
Keshena, WI 54135
(800) 567-2344

Fort Berthold Community College

PO Box 490
New Town, ND 58763
(701) 637-4738

Haskell Indian Nations University

155 Indian Avenue
Lawrence, KS 66046-4800
(785) 749-8497

Institute of American Indian Arts

83 Avan Nu Po Road
Santa Fe, NM 87508
(505) 424-2300

Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Comm. College

13466 West Trepania Road
Hayward, WI 54843
800-526-6221

Little Big Horn College

PO Box 370
Crow Agency, MT 59022
(406) 638-3100

Navajo Technical College

PO Box 849
Crownpoint, NM 87313
(505) 786-4100

Nebraska Indian Community College
PO Box 428
Macy, NE 68039
(402) 837-5078

Northwest Indian College
2522 Kwina Road
Bellingham, WA 98226
(360) 676-2772

Oglala Lakota Community College
PO Box 490
Kyle, SD 57752
(605) 455-6000

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College
2274 Enterprise Drive
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
(989) 775-4123

Salish Kootenai College
PO Box 70
Pablo, MT 59855
(406) 275-4801

Sinte Gleska University
PO Box 105
Mission, SD 57570
(605) 856-8100

Sisseton Wahpeton Community College
PO Box 689
Sisseton, SD 57262
(605) 698-3966

Sitting Bull College
HC1, Box 4
Ft. Yates, ND 58538
(701) 854-3403

Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
9169 Coors Road, NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
(505) 346-8401

Stone Child College
Rocky Boy Rte, Box 1082
Box Elder, MT 59521
(406) 395-4313

Tohono O'odham Community College
PO Box 3129
Sells, AZ 85634
(520) 383-8401

Turtle Mountain Community College
PO Box 340
Belcourt, ND 58316
(701) 477-7870

United Tribes Technical College
3315 University Drive
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701) 255-3285

White Earth Tribal and Community College
210 Main St. South
Mahnomen, MN 56557
(218) 936-5610

INDIAN ANCESTRY

The burden of proof of American Indian ancestry rests with the individual. Neither the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) nor the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) maintains comprehensive lists of persons possessing Indian blood or enrollment data of every federally recognized Indian tribe. However, copies of census and membership rolls may be on file in BIA field offices. A list of these offices can be obtained from the BIA Tribal Leaders Directory found at the following website: <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/TribalGovernmentServices/TribalDirectory/index.htm>.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH.

How to begin. The Federal Government does not perform family research, nor does the National Archives collect or preserve family trees. Books or family history and genealogy are collected, compiled, and published by private individuals who do so because they are interested descendants.

As the depository of the Federal Government's records deemed of permanent value for historical purposes, the National Archives houses many records that can be helpful to persons who wish to trace their ancestry. However, the search cannot be completed at the National Archives alone. Many other depositories should be consulted. The following are suggestions for individuals who are interested in tracing their ancestors.

START WITH YOURSELF. You are the beginning "twig" on the vast family tree. Start with yourself, the known, and work toward the unknown. You should find out all the vital information you can about your parents, write it down; then find out about your grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.

NAMES, DATES, PLACES, AND RELATIONSHIPS. You will be concerned with pulling from the many and varied documents of recorded history's four key items. These are the tools of the family researcher. People can be identified in records by their names, the date of events in their lives, the places they lived, and the relationships to others either stated or implied in the records.

HOME SOURCES. The first place begins at home. You can find a lot of information in family bibles, newspaper clippings, military certificates, birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, diaries, letters, scrapbooks, backs of pictures, baby books, etc.

RELATIVES AS A SOURCE. Visit or write those in your family who have information, particularly older relatives. More often than not others before you have gathered data about the families in which you are interested. You should write a letter, make a personal visit, or conduct a telephone survey to find out about such persons and what information is already collected.

FINDING DISTANT RELATIVES. Before launching your research program in libraries and archives, search for distant relatives who may have already performed this search. Advertise in the local genealogical bulletins where your ancestors lived.

BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH RECORDS. Some states began to keep records of birth and death earlier, but for most of the United States, birth and death registration became a requirement around the turn of the century, about 1890-1915. Before that time these events will be found recorded generally in church records and family bibles. Marriages will be found recorded in most counties, dating often as early as the establishment of the country.

CHURCH RECORDS. A few churches have records of important events in the lives of members but many do not. Investigate the possibility of finding genealogical data in the records of the church in which your ancestor belonged.

DEEDS AND WILLS. Records of property acquisition and disposition can be good sources of genealogical data. Such records are normally in the county courthouses. Often the earliest county records or copies of them are also available in state archives.

FEDERAL RECORDS. The National Archives in Washington, D.C. has records of use in genealogical research. The federal census records are also available on microfilm in the National Archives regional branches located in 11 metropolitan areas throughout the country. The National Archives also has military service and related records, passenger arrival records and others.

LIBRARIES, SOCIETIES, ARCHIVES. Visit the state, regional, local institutions in your area. Libraries, historical and genealogical societies, and archival depositories are all good sources for genealogical and family history data.

HIRING A RESEARCHER. If you wish to hire a researcher to research your genealogy, write to the following organization that will provide you a list of contacts: Board for Certification of Genealogists, POB 14291, Washington, D.C. 20044.