

Thinking about College? Don't know where to start? Try here!

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Federal and State Grants

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is REQUIRED to be submitted by most institutions in order to be considered for any other financial aid. It is also the application for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, a need-based state grant for Oregon residents. The application opens October 1st of each year. Apply online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm>. Awards will be prioritized based on financial need. Don't wait – apply now!

OSAC: The Oregon Student Access Commission administers *over 450 scholarships*, all of which are accessed by filling out one on-line application. Students will automatically be considered for any grants for which they qualify. The application and further information is available at <http://oregonstudentaid.gov/>. The OSAC site is also where to apply for **Oregon Promise** grants, a state grant program that covers some or all of the tuition at an Oregon community college. Oregon Promise is for recent Oregon high school graduates and GED recipients who enroll in an Oregon community college within six months of graduation.

College Goal Oregon – Get Help with FAFSA and OSAC!

Each January, Chemeketa Community College hosts this free workshop to assist families with the FAFSA and OSAC applications. The workshop is for students applying for college financial aid for next year and their parents, no matter what college they may be planning to attend. When this school year's date is scheduled, the information will be available at <http://www.collegegoaloregon.org/>.

Tribal Scholarships

Tribal Scholarships: Are you an enrolled member of a tribe? A number of tribes help fund college education. If you need the contact information for your tribe, contact the Indian Education office at 503-399-5512 and ask for Cheryl or Lon.

Private Scholarships

The following partial list can be supplemented by doing internet searches for Native scholarships and searches by specific major; for example, engineering scholarships.

PLEASE NOTE: Scholarship opportunities on the web may need to be checked periodically as *some only post information during the time the application is open. CHECK OFTEN!*

Truman Picard Scholarship is for Native students going into a natural resources field. For more information, check on-line at http://www.itcnet.org/about_us/scholarships.html. Deadline is usually in January.

Cobell Scholarship is available to students who are enrolled in a federally-recognized tribe, and who are or will be enrolled full time in any nationally, regionally and industry accredited non-profit, public or private, institution. Applicants must be pursuing a vocational certificate or diploma, associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctoral or professional degree, or certificate. Find out more at <http://cobellscholar.org/>.

Horatio Alger Scholarships requires a 2.0 GPA or higher and demonstrated financial need. The deadline is in October. Apply at the following site:

<https://scholars.horatioalger.org/scholarships/>

Nellie Thompson-Dorothy Patch Fund awards monies to Salem-Keizer students of color who plan to continue their education beyond high school. Criteria emphasize extra curricular activities and future academic and career goals. The deadline is usually in December. Call the office at 503-399-5512 to request an application.

Association on American Indian Affairs

<http://www.indian-affairs.org/scholarships.html>

American Indian College Fund

http://www.collegefund.org/students_and_alumni

American Indian Graduate Center currently has one scholarship for undergraduates: The Accenture American Indian Scholarship. Information is available at

<http://www.aigcs.org/scholarships/undergraduate-scholarships/>.

Indian Health Services (Health, Engineering and Accounting)

<http://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/>

Daughters of the American Revolution American Indian Scholarship Fund

<http://www.dar.org/national-society/scholarships>

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) has a general scholarship website at <http://www.aises.org/scholarships>. AISES sponsors the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Foundation Scholarship. Each year when information regarding the application is available, it will be found on their website.

Catching the Dream awards scholarships for degrees in Math, Engineering, Science (which includes all the medical fields), Business, Education, and Computers. There is also a scholarship for tribal business fields.

<http://www.catchingthedream.org/>.

More Scholarship Resources

Each college and university has specific scholarships listed on their websites. Be sure and check their scholarship listings to see which ones you might be eligible for, including diversity scholarships, minority scholarships, scholarships for first generation college students, etc.

BetterChance.org: <http://www.abetterchance.org/abetterchance.aspx?pgID=1082>

National Indian Education Association: <http://www.niea.org/for-students/support/scholarship-opportunities/>

Scholarships.com:

<https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarships-by-type/minority-scholarships/american-indian-native-american-scholarships/>

Tuition Help

According to the Native American Rights Fund, "Twenty-four (24) states have enacted laws that provide for scholarships, tuition waivers and grant programs to Native Americans who attend state universities, community colleges and other state schools." These offers are usually based on treaties or laws. **In Oregon**, students who are members of tribes originally based in some part of Oregon receive in-state tuition, regardless of their current state of residence. In addition to the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon, this list includes some tribes from Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California and one from Oklahoma. To see if your tribe is included, view the list at <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/oog-tribal-residency.aspx>. **In Washington**, students from federally recognized tribes whose traditional boundaries included portions of Washington State, or whose tribe has a reservation within Washington, can receive in-state tuition if they lived in Washington, Oregon, Idaho or Montana for one year prior to enrolling at a Washington institution of higher education. This includes the Warm Springs and Umatilla tribes of Oregon.

Two colleges with full tuition waivers for American Indian/Alaska Native students are Fort Lewis College in Colorado and University of Minnesota at Morris.

Fort Lewis College: <https://www.fortlewis.edu/financialaid/nativeamericans.aspx>

University of Minnesota:

<http://onestop.morris.umn.edu/aid/scholarshipswaivers/americanindiantuition/>

The eight Ivy League schools are now tuition free for honor students from low income families (usually an income of approximately \$60,000). See the websites of specific colleges for more information.

A list of **Tuition Free Colleges** can be found at

http://learningpath.org/articles/10_Colleges_and_Universities_with_0_Tuition.html.

Pathway Oregon: A program at University of Oregon helps cover tuition and fees for lower income Oregonians starting as freshmen next fall. Details are available at

<https://pathwayoregon.uoregon.edu/>.

Chemeketa Community College has the Chemeketa Scholars Program, providing free tuition for qualifying high school graduates for up to two years. You must live in the Chemeketa district, have a GPA of 3.5 or better, and meet entrance test requirements. For more information, check their website at

<http://www.chemeketa.edu/earncertdegree/payingforcollege/aidtypes/scholars/>.

Trade School Scholarship

Interested in a vocation or trade? The Verl and Dorothy Miller Native American Scholarship awards \$1500 to \$3000 for up to four years. Applications and instructions are available in the scholarship section at the Oregon Community Foundation website at

<http://www.oregoncf.org/grants-scholarships/scholarships?tab=3>.

Free College Tuition for Foster Youth in Oregon

Thanks to a law passed in January 2012, if you were or are a foster child who spent 12 or more months in foster care between the ages of 16 and 21 you are eligible for free college tuition at Oregon community colleges or public universities. In order to access this money, you must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You must also enroll in college within three years of leaving foster care or earning a diploma/GED, **whichever came first**. More information can be found at <http://oryouthconnection.org/resources/> under

“Education”. Here you can also find additional financial aid resources for foster youth, including resources to help with living expenses. Another resource for foster students is the **Chafee Grant**. Check <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/chafeeetv.aspx> for further details.

Tribal Colleges

Tribal colleges are another option for lower cost college education. Check <http://sites.ed.gov/whiaiane/tribes-tcus/tribal-colleges-and-universities/> for more information. Two of these colleges are operated by The Bureau of Indian Affairs and provide higher education for Native American students that include campus housing options. Both are accredited and only require minimal fees to attend, which include tuition, housing, meals, and books. Eligible students must be a member of a federally recognized tribe or a descendent with ¼ blood quantum. The two schools are:

- **Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute**
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) is a two-year school in Albuquerque, NM. It operates on a trimester system and offers a number of vocational programs. It has programs in business, technology, and unique vocational programs like vision care and early childhood development. It also offers a Liberal Arts degree for those who would like to get their pre-requisites done before moving to a four-year school. Their website is <http://www.sipi.edu/>.
- **Haskell Indian Nations University**
Haskell Indian Nations University is a four-year college in Lawrence, KS. Lawrence is also home to the University of Kansas, making Lawrence a wonderful college town. Haskell is over 100 hundred years old and has grown from a vocational/high school, to a junior college, to a four-year institution. It has a number of two-year degrees and has Bachelor programs in Business, American Indian Studies, Environmental Science, and Elementary Education. Check their website at <http://www.haskell.edu/>.

Northwest Indian College is the only tribal college located in the Pacific Northwest. Located on the Lummi reservation, it offers in-state tuition to students who are members of a federally recognized tribe or to students who can demonstrate Indian ancestry and who live on or near an Indian Reservation. The campus includes student housing.

Humboldt State College in Northern California, while out of state, has in-state fees for members of qualifying Pacific Northwest tribes. Humboldt State University also has some outstanding Native American student service support programs. The Indian Natural Resource, Science & Engineering program (INRSEP) provides support to students pursuing degrees in the science and natural resource disciplines, including biological sciences, chemistry, computer information systems, environmental engineering, environmental studies, fisheries, forestry/watershed management, geology, mathematics, natural resources planning & interpretation, nursing, oceanography, physics, range management, and wildlife management. To learn more about INRSEP, please call (707) 826-4994. The Indian Teacher & Education Personnel Program (ITEPP) provides support to students who are pursuing degrees that will lead to careers in education, social services, and tribal services. To learn more about ITEPP, please call (707) 826-3672. The website for Humboldt is <http://www.humboldt.edu/>.

Native American Studies programs are available at a number of universities. A list can be found at <http://www.niea.org/students/native-american-studies.aspx>.