



# **Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri In Kansas and Nebraska Tribal Programs \* Tribal Museum**

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## **HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

### **I. BACKGROUND**

The Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska (hereinafter referred to as the "Nation") is committed to the enhancement and advancement of its tribal membership through education and training opportunities.

The Higher Education Assistance Program is designed to provide qualified tribal members that are either full time students or part time students completing their final semester of degree requirements with scholarships to an accredited college or university. The funds received through these scholarships may be used for tuition, subsistence, room and board, required fees, textbooks, tutoring, and other miscellaneous expenses related to attendance at a college or a university.

It shall be the policy of the Sac and Fox Nation to support members in their effort to attain higher education in the understanding that more educated members will not only fare better in today's workforce and reach financial independence, but will also sustain the Nation in future leadership and economic development ventures.

### **II. HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING**

The Nation's Higher Education Assistance Programs is funded through two separate sources, the Consolidated Aid to Tribal Government contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Tribal Gaming revenues.

#### **A. BIA Contract Funding**

The Nation has assumed the administration and management of the Educational Assistance Program from the BIA in May 1992 through adoption of Tribal Resolution R-25-92 to contract their portion of educational assistance funding. A portion of the monies under the Consolidated Aid to Tribal Government contract is budgeted for the Higher Educational Assistance Program for tribal members.

A set amount of this funding will be made available to tribal members attending an accredited college or university as a full time student or a part time student completing the final semester of degree requirements. The U.S. Department of Education publishes a "Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs" at <http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>. Funding for Higher Education Assistance from the Consolidated Aid to Tribal Government contract is

determined on a year to year basis. The amount allocated per applicant is based on the number of approved scholarships per semester. The funding is limited to the fall and spring semesters of each academic year and is separate from any available tribal funding. **Attendance during a summer semester is not funded.** The total funded amount established for the Higher Education Assistance Program is divided equally for the spring and fall semester. The number of approved scholarships for the semester serves as the denominator for that funding cycle, with each awardee receiving an equal share of the semester amount.

### **B. Tribal Gaming Revenues**

By General Council action in 2003, the Nation approved supplemental funding for the Higher Education Assistance Program by allocating a portion of Tribal Gaming Revenues to this program. **This funding is limited to the fall and spring semesters of each academic year for full time attendance at an accredited university or college; a part time student may receive partial funding if completing the last semester of degree requirements or completing the graduate program. Attendance during a summer semester is not funded.** The current approved fund amount for a full time student is \$4,000 per semester, or \$2,500 per semester for a part-time student completing the final semester of degree requirements, or graduate school requirements, not to exceed \$8,000 per academic year based upon available funding to be determined each year. The maximum number of academic years that a tribal member can receive funding is a total of five (5) years, so that the maximum amount a tribal member can receive is \$40,000 through this source of funding.

**Students who drop any classes during a semester resulting in less than 12 credit hours being taken must repay the tribe for those dropped credit hours at the rate of \$350 per credit hour dropped.**

### **III. HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CRITERIA**

The Nation has set a policy to award scholarships from the BIA Consolidated Aid to Tribal Government contract and through Tribal Gaming Revenues to eligible tribal members that meet the qualifications of the Higher Education Assistance Program. Scholarships are not based on financial need. However, the Nation does require all students to complete the FAFSA or PELL grant from their respective institutions and submit the results with the application to the tribe's Education Coordinator.

## **IV. HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PROCEDURES**

### **A. Application Procedures**

Tribal members must complete the Higher Education Assistance Application Form available from the Nation's office for each semester. The following supporting documents are required for consideration:

- A copy of the Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB), Tribal Identification of Certificate of Enrollment as issued by the Nation.
- A copy of the Letter of Acceptance from the accredited college and university to be attended for every academic year.
- A complete and certified High School Transcript/GED or the most recent College Transcript if you have previously attended a college, university, or technical school.
- Copy of prior semester report card.
- Copy of submitted FAFSA or PELL grant and results from the institution.
- A Personal Letter from the student seeking the scholarship

**The completed application with all accompanying documentation must be received by the Education Coordinator no later than October 15th for the fall semester and February 15th for the spring semester. The tribe will not reimburse students for expenditures incurred prior to receipt of the application, (or after these dates), so the student is strongly encouraged to apply early-before the start of the semester.**

### **B. Eligibility Procedures**

In order for a student to continue receiving a higher educational assistance scholarship, the following conditions must be met:

- To receive the full funding amount, students must be enrolled full time in at least twelve (12) credit hours per semester for a period specified by the accredited college or university or completing the final semester of courses required for a degree.
- Must maintain an overall 2.5 (or "C+") grade point average (GPA) for the semester.

In the event that a scholarship awardee does not meet the above-cited conditions for the number of credit hours or a 2.5 GPA, the student will be placed on financial probation for the next semester. If the student achieves a 2.5 GPA in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours in that semester, the probation will be lifted. In the unfortunate event that the student fails to obtain at least a 2.5 GPA for a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours, the scholarship will be suspended. The student will not be eligible for additional scholarship funding until successfully completing a semester (12 or more credit hours) with at least a 2.5 GPA on their own.

### **C. Approved Scholarship Funding Disbursement Procedures**

Scholarships will be paid by check to the respective college or university and the recipient in care of the Financial Aid Officer at the institution in which the student is enrolled. Financial Aid Officers will disburse scholarship awards to pay appropriate costs for the student for the funded semester.

Two separate checks will be issued for each approved scholarship for a fall and/or spring semester. The first check, from the Tribal Gaming revenues, will be issued shortly after approval of the submitted application. A second check will be issued from the BIA Consolidated Aid to Tribal Government contract after the pro rata distribution amount is determined.