

American Indian Endowed Scholarship

Applications are due to WSAC postmarked by March 1.

Application Information Sheet

Read the entire information sheet before completing the application. Keep a copy of this sheet for your records.

What is the American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) program?

AIES provides educational scholarships on a competitive basis to outstanding students with close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe or community in Washington State. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic merit and a commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington. Scholarships are awarded from the interest earnings of an endowment established from funds appropriated by the Washington State Legislature, with matching contributions from private individuals, organizations, and tribes.

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must:

- › Have close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe, or an American Indian community, in Washington State.
- › Intend to use their education to benefit other American Indians in Washington.
- › Have demonstrated financial need (as determined by their college's financial aid office).
- › Be a Washington State resident. [See Chapter 250-18 Washington Administrative Code (WAC)]
- › Be enrolled as a full-time student at an eligible Washington college or university by fall term of the award year.
- › Not be pursuing a degree in theology.
- › Have received fewer than five years of this scholarship, in total.

How do I apply for the scholarship?

- › Complete the attached application form and print in hard copy for signature and mailing. (The form requires Adobe Acrobat Reader software, version 10.0 or newer. If you do not have Adobe Reader software, a free download is available at www.Adobe.com.)
 - Renewal applicants must have Section V completed by their academic dean, department head, or advisor.
- › Attach a detailed statement carefully describing your close social and cultural ties to an American Indian community in-state.
 - If your original ties are to an out-of-state tribal community, also describe how you have established close social and cultural ties within the American Indian community in Washington State.
- › Attach a separate statement describing how you intend to use your education to serve the American Indian community in Washington.
- › Attach all academic transcripts from the last five years. Official transcripts or copies of official transcripts are acceptable.
 - If it has been more than five years since you last attended college, attach a copy of your **cumulative** transcript from the college most recently attended.
 - If you have less than two years of college, **also** attach a copy of your high school transcript (or your GED test scores results, if applicable).
- › Attach letters of recommendation from **individuals who are not members of your immediate family**:
 - **Applicants for first-time awards:** A minimum of **three recommendation letters** required. Of these, at least one letter must address your personal commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington, and at least two must describe your social and cultural ties to the American Indian community in-state. A **fourth letter** from a recent teacher, which addresses academic performance, **is encouraged**.
 - **Renewal applicants:** A minimum of **one current letter of recommendation**. The writer must describe your close social and cultural ties to the American Indian community in the state **as well as** your personal commitment to serve the community. **Multiple letters of support are strongly encouraged**.

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How do I apply for the scholarship? continued:

- › Sign and mail a hard copy of the application, with all required attachments, to the American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) program at the Washington Student Achievement Council (address below).
- › Apply for state and federal need-based financial aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The college or university you will attend next academic year will use the information to determine the amount of your financial need. Financial need is among the criteria for selection as an AIES scholarship recipient. The FAFSA is available on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How are recipients selected?

The AIES scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. A selection committee composed of representatives from the American Indian and higher education communities in Washington will review and score applications. **Selection criteria emphasize** the applicant's **social and cultural ties**, and **commitment to return service** to the American Indian community within the state, **as documented by the applicant's personal statements and supported by the letter(s) of recommendation**. Additional criteria include academic merit and a priority for upper-division and graduate students.

How much will I receive if I am awarded?

The committee decides the total number and value of scholarships to be awarded each year after a discussion of current scholarship issues and an analysis of endowment interest earnings received during the prior year.

Historically, the scholarships have been awards of \$500–\$2,000 each for one academic year. Awards will not exceed the recipient's financial need as calculated by their college's student aid office. In some cases, the scholarship may be adjusted to prevent conflict with the receipt of other student financial aid grants.

The recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student no later than fall term at an eligible, participating college or university in Washington, and be financially needy as determined by the college financial aid office, at the time of scholarship disbursement. Funds are disbursed each academic term through the recipient's college.

Individual recipients may receive up to a cumulative maximum of five academic years of scholarship assistance through the program and must submit a renewal application for award consideration each year. Any renewal is for one academic year, decided on a competitive basis, and at the discretion of the committee after a thorough review of an applicant's renewal application, letters of recommendation, academic merit, and continued commitment to return service to the American Indian community in Washington.

Postmark your application no later than March 1.
Late or incomplete applications are not considered.

Mail the application (including all required attachments) as a single unit to:

American Indian Endowed Scholarship Program
Washington Student Achievement Council

917 Lakeridge Way, Olympia, WA 98502

(use the street address for UPS or FedEx delivery)

P O Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430

(use the PO Box for US Postal Service delivery)



Questions? Contact:

Ann M. Voyles, Program Associate

Direct: 360.753.7843

Fax: 360.704.6243 (A printed hard-copy original by regular post must follow faxed applications)

Email: aies@wsac.wa.gov

Eligible Institutions for the American Indian Endowed Scholarship

Public four-year research institutions:

University of Washington
Washington State University

Public four-year comprehensive institutions:

Central Washington University
Eastern Washington University
The Evergreen State College
Western Washington University

Independent four-year institutions:

Bastyr University
City University of Seattle
Cornish College of the Arts
Gonzaga University
Heritage University
Northwest University
Pacific Lutheran University
Saint Martin's University
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
University of Puget Sound
Walla Walla University
Western Governors University Washington
Whitman University
Whitworth University

Public two-year technical colleges:

Bates Technical College
Bellingham Technical College
Clover Park Technical College
Lake Washington Institute of
Technology
Renton Technical College
Seattle Vocational Institute

Public two-year community colleges:

Bellevue College
Big Bend Community College
Cascadia College
Centralia College
Clark College
Columbia Basin College
Edmonds Community College
Everett Community College
Grays Harbor College
Green River College
Highline College
Lower Columbia College
North Seattle College
Olympic College
Peninsula College
Pierce College
Seattle Central College
Shoreline Community College
Skagit Valley College
South Puget Sound Community College
South Seattle College
Spokane Community College
Spokane Falls Community College
Tacoma Community College
Walla Walla Community College
Wenatchee Valley College
Whatcom Community College
Yakima Valley Community College

Private two-year technical institutions:

Perry Technical Institute

Tribal colleges:

Northwest Indian College

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Section I: Applicant Information (All applicants)

I am applying for an initial scholarship:
 I am applying for a renewal scholarship:
 (Select one)

I am applying for a scholarship for academic year beginning fall term (academic year)

1. Last name	First name	M.I.	2. Social Security number (required)		
3. Current address: Street		City	State	Zip	4. Phone
5. Permanent address (if different): Street		City	State	Zip	6. Alternate Phone
7. Email address		8. I have been a Washington state resident * since:			If a non-resident, check here: <input type="checkbox"/> <small>(* see Chapter 250-18 WAC)</small>
		Year	Month		
9. Tribal affiliation:		Enrolled?		Membership/enrollment # (if applicable):	
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Section II: Educational background (All applicants)

10. Date of high school graduation (or GED received):		Month	Year	
11. Education information. List schools in order of attendance (most recently attended first; attach copies of transcripts):				
Name of high school/college/university	City & State	Dates of attendance	Degree, if any	Cum. GPA

Section III: Extracurricular activities (All applicants)

12. Describe major school, community, and leadership activities. Attach a separate sheet, if necessary. (Renewal applicants must provide comprehensive updated information. Do not assume that prior year information is available to committee members.)



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Section IV-a: Current Educational Plan (All applicants)			
13. College you will attend next fall:	14. Class level effective next fall (i.e., freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate):		
15. Intended field of study:	16. Date of expected program completion:		
	Month	Year	
Section IV-b: Changes to prior Educational Plan (Renewal applicants only)			
17. Did your course of study change within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Yes (if "yes," describe the reason below):

Section V: Certification by Institutional Academic Dean, Department Head, or Advisor (Renewal applicants only)		
1. To the best of my knowledge, _____ is pursuing a program of study that leads to a(n) (Name of Student) _____ degree/certificate in _____ (type: AA, BA, BS, MA, MS, Ph.D., etc.) (field, program, or profession)		
2. This student is on track to complete a degree or certificate by:		
	Month	Year
3. Academic progress achieved by this student in major area of study:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	EXCEEDS expectations	<input type="checkbox"/> MEETS expectations <input type="checkbox"/> DOES NOT MEET expectations
4. Provide additional comments that will help the committee distinguish this student academically from other applicants:		
Dean, Department Head, or Advisor Signature	Name, Title, and Department (please type or print)	
Name of Institution	Institution Address	
Email address	Phone ()	Date

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Section VI: Required Attachments (All applicants)

NOTE to all applicants: Give careful thought to how you develop the required attachments. These documents are the foundation upon which scholarship recipients will be chosen. An omission or poorly crafted materials may render the application incomplete, which may disqualify it from scholarship consideration.

Additional note to Renewal applicants: Do not assume that committee members reviewing applications this year will have knowledge of, or access to, information that was contained within an application you submitted in an earlier year.

1. **Statement of Close Social and Cultural Ties:** Attach a separate sheet of paper and describe **in detail** your close social and cultural ties to an American Indian community in Washington. If your original ties are to an out-of-state tribe, also describe how you have established close social and cultural ties to the American Indian community in Washington.
2. **Statement of Commitment to Return Service:** On a separate sheet of paper, or under a separate heading, describe how you will use your education to serve the American Indian community within Washington State.
3. **Letter(s) of Recommendation:** (Letters must be from individuals who are not immediate family members)
 - **Applicants for initial (first-time) awards:** Attach a **minimum of three recommendation letters**. At least one letter must describe your personal commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington, and at least two letters must describe your close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe or community in Washington. You are encouraged to include a **fourth** recommendation letter, from a recent teacher or instructor, which addresses your current academic performance.
 - **Renewal applicants:** Attach a minimum of **one current letter of recommendation**. The writer must describe your personal commitment to serve, as well as your close social and cultural ties to, the American Indian community in the state. **Multiple letters of recommendation are strongly encouraged.**
4. **Transcript(s):** Official transcripts or copies of official transcripts are acceptable.

Attach cumulative college transcripts from the last five years, up to and including fall term of the current application year.

If you have not attended college in more than five years, attach a **cumulative** transcript from the most recent college attended.

If you have less than two years of college, **also** attach your high school transcript (or GED scores) with the college transcript(s).

Reminder: If you have not already done so, also apply for state and federal student financial aid. Contact the college you plan to attend for the appropriate student financial aid application, or complete the online form located at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

(See more next page)



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Section VII: Release of Information Statement (Required of all applicants)

American Indian Endowed Scholarship Program

Financial need is one criterion used to determine eligibility for the scholarship. This signed form will allow the school(s)/college(s) to provide financial aid, enrollment, and transcript information to the Washington Student Achievement Council. The information release will be used to determine initial eligibility for the scholarship and, if the applicant is successfully awarded, confirm continuous eligibility during the course of the scholarship terms and at year-end.

Applicant name (include all names by which schools identify you, if more than one) (please print) Applicant Social Security Number

I authorize _____, and/or other school(s)

(Name of school you will attend as of fall term)

named in this application, to release all necessary information about my schooling to assist the Washington Student Achievement Council in its administration of the American Indian Endowed Scholarship program. This includes all demographic, enrollment, academic transcript, and student aid information.

Applicant Signature

Date

Section VIII: Applicant Certification and Media Release (Required of all applicants)

By my signature, I affirm that the information contained in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

If I am selected to receive the scholarship, I understand that I must be enrolled as a full-time student by the beginning of fall term of, and continuously throughout, the award year at an eligible college or university in Washington State.

I understand that the Washington Student Achievement Council may release certain information contained in this application to interested parties, such as the news media and legislative personnel, for the purpose of recognizing the accomplishments of scholarship recipients. **I have checked the shaded box below only if I DO NOT wish this information to be released. ***

*** I do NOT authorize WSAC to release my information for the purpose of recognition.**

Applicant Signature

Date