

American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) 2025-2026 Application Instructions & Information Sheet



Read this entire information sheet before completing the application. Keep a copy 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 using criteria based on academic merit and a commitment to benefit the American Indian community in Washington. Scholarships are awarded from the interest earnings of a permanent endowment established from funds appropriated by the Washington State Legislature in 1990, with matching contributions from tribes, private individuals, and organizations.

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 American Indians in Washington.
- Have demonstrated financial need (as determined by the college financial aid office).
- Meet Washington State residency requirements for state financial aid. (<https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>)
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at an eligible Washington college or university by fall term of the award year, and for every term in which the student receives the scholarship. Less than full-time enrollment in any term results in forfeiture of the balance of the award.
- 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 application form and print a hard copy for signature and mailing. To download, the form requires Adobe Acrobat Reader software, Version 11.0 or newer. Download the free Adobe Reader here: <https://get2.adobe.com/reader/otherversions/>.
 - Renewal applicants must have their academic dean, department head, or advisor complete and sign the supplemental attachment certifying their academic progress.
- Attach a detailed personal statement, carefully describing your close social and cultural ties to an American Indian community within the state.
 - If your original ties are to an out-of-state tribal community, include in your description how you have established close social and cultural ties to the American Indian community here in Washington State.
- Attach a separate statement describing how you intend to use your education to benefit the American Indian community in Washington.
- Attach all cumulative academic transcripts from the last five years, to include through the end of fall term of the current academic year. Official transcripts or copies of official transcripts are acceptable.
 - If it has been more than five years since you last attended college, attach a transcript from the most recent college attended that includes your full, accumulative higher education history.

- If you have fewer than two years of full-time college, you also must attach a copy of your high school transcript or GED scores with your college transcript(s).
- Attach letters of recommendation; these should be from individuals who are not members of your immediate family.
 - **Applicants for first-time awards.** A minimum of **three recommendation letters** are required. Of these, at least one 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 is encouraged, addressing your academic performance.
 - **Renewal applicants (those who received scholarship funds in a prior year).** At least **one or more current letter(s) of recommendation** are required that describe your close social and cultural ties to the American Indian community in the state, as well as your continued personal commitment to benefit the community. WSAC strongly encourages that renewal candidates attach **multiple** recommendation letters.
- Sign and mail a hard copy print-out of the application, with all required attachments, to the American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) program at the Washington Student Achievement Council.
- Apply for state and federal need-based financial aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The college or university you attend next academic year will use the information to determine the amount of your demonstrated financial need. Financial need is among the required criteria for selection as an AIES scholarship recipient. The FAFSA is available online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

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 two personal statements and supported by the letters of recommendation. Additional criteria include academic merit and a priority for upper-division and graduate students. Demonstrated financial need is a criterion, as determined by the college financial aid office based on the applicant's FAFSA filing.

How much will I receive if I am awarded?

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

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

The recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student beginning fall term of the award year, at an eligible, participating college or university in the state of Washington, and demonstrate financial need as determined by the college financial aid office, at the time of scholarship disbursement. Funds are disbursed through the recipient's college, in installments by term, during the academic year.

NOTE: It is the recipient's responsibility to report all sources of educational scholarships to the college financial aid office. If you receive new scholarships after your initial eligibility for AIES has been determined, your eligibility for the AIES award may be affected later in the year if your documented financial need is met fully through other awards.

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

Typewritten materials are preferred. Illegible handwritten materials will affect the committee's ability to read and score your application.

Postmark your application no later than March 3, 2025.

Late or incomplete applications are not considered.

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

American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) Program
Washington Student Achievement Council
PO Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430 *(use PO Box for US Postal Service delivery)*
917 Lakeridge Way, Olympia, WA 98502 *(use street address for UPS or FedEx delivery)*

Questions? Contact:

Ann Voyles, Program Associate
Phone: (360) 485-1311
Fax: (855) 974-4217 *(A printed hard-copy original must follow faxed applications)*
Email: aies@wsac.wa.gov

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Participating Eligible Institutions – 2025-2026 Academic Year

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

Private four-year institutions:

Antioch University
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 Governor's University-WA
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

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 College

Private two-year technical institutions:

Perry Technical Institute

Tribal colleges:

Northwest Indian College