

Applications are due to the Council postmarked by February 1.

Application Information Sheet

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

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

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

Who is eligible to apply?

You must:

- > Have close social and cultural ties to an in-state American Indian tribe or an American Indian community in this state.
- > Intend to use your education to benefit other American Indians in Washington state.
- > Have demonstrated financial need (as determined by the college 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, which requires Adobe Acrobat Reader software, version 10.0 or newer. The software is available for free download at www.Adobe.com. A hard copy must be printed for signature and mailing.
 - Renewal applicants must have Section V completed by their academic dean, department head, or advisor.
- > Attach a detailed statement describing your close social and cultural ties to an in-state American Indian community.
 - If your original ties are to an out-of-state tribal community, also describe how you have established close social and cultural ties to the American Indian community in Washington state.
- > Attach a statement describing how you intend to serve the American Indian community in Washington after completing your higher education.
- > Attach your academic transcripts from the last five-year period. Official 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 initial (first-time) awards:** A minimum of **three recommendation letters**. One letter must address your personal commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington. At least two letters must verify your social and cultural ties to an in-state American Indian community.
 - **Renewal applicants:** A minimum of **one current letter of recommendation**. The letter must describe your personal commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington as well as your close social and cultural ties to the Native community in the state.

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.
- > Apply for state and federal need-based financial aid at the college or university you will attend next academic year, using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Financial need is among the criteria for selection as a scholarship recipient. The FAFSA is available at your school's student aid office or on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

How are recipients selected?

These scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. A selection committee comprised of representatives from the in-state American Indian and higher education communities will review applications and select recipients. **Selection criteria emphasize** the applicant's **social and cultural ties**, as well as **the commitment to return service**, to the American Indian community within the state, **as documented by the two 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 selected?

The program advisory 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 the college 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 by fall term as a full-time student 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, academic merit, and continued commitment to return service to the in-state American Indian community.

Postmark your application no later than February 1.

Late or incomplete applications are not considered.

Mail the entire application as a single unit (including all required attachments) 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 Manager
Direct: 360.753.7843
Fax: 360.704.6243 (direct) or 360.753.7808 (main agency) (A printed hard copy original by regular post must follow faxed applications)
E-mail: aies@wsac.wa.gov

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Section I: Applicant Information



I am applying for an initial scholarship:

(Select one)

I am applying for a renewal scholarship:



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
6. Alternate Phone	Zip	7. Email address	8. I have been a Washington state resident (for tuition purposes *) since: Year Month
9. Tribal affiliation:	Enrolled? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If a non-resident, check here: <input type="checkbox"/> (* see Chapter 250-18 WAC)	
		Membership/enrollment # (if applicable):	

Section II: Educational background

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 grade transcripts):				
Name of high school/college/university	City & State	Dates of attendance	Degree, if any	Cum. GPA

Section III: Extracurricular activities

12. List major school, community, and leadership activities. (Attach a separate sheet if necessary.)

Section IV-a: Current Educational Plan (All applicants)			
13. College you will attend next fall:		14. Class level 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 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) <small>(Name of Student)</small> _____ degree/certificate in _____ <small>(type: AA, BA, BS, MA, MS, Ph.D., etc.)</small> <small>(field, program, or profession)</small>		
2. This student is on-track to complete his or her degree or certificate by: Month Year		
3. Academic progress achieved by this student in his/her major area of study: <input type="checkbox"/> EXCEEDS expectations <input type="checkbox"/> MEETS expectations <input type="checkbox"/> DOES NOT MEET expectations		
4. Provide other comments that would 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
E-mail address	Phone ()	Date

Section VI: Required Attachments (All applicants)
NOTE: Give careful thought to how you develop these required attachments. These documents are the foundation upon which scholarship recipients will be chosen. An omission of, or deficiency in, any component may render the application incomplete, disqualifying it for scholarship consideration.
1. Statement of Close Social & 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.

Section VI: Required Attachments, continued: (All applicants)

2. Statement of Commitment to Return Service: Attach a separate sheet of paper and describe how you plan to serve an in-state American Indian community upon completing your education, and how your contribution is intended to affect the community.

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**. One letter must address your personal commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington. At least two letters must discuss 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 at least **one current letter of recommendation**. The letter must speak to your personal commitment to serve, as well as your close social and cultural ties to, the in-state American Indian community.

4. Transcript(s): Official or copies of official transcripts are acceptable.

Attach cumulative college transcripts from the last five-year period, to include 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 other state and federal student financial aid. Contact the college you plan to attend for the appropriate student financial aid application, or complete the on-line form located at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

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

American Indian Endowed Scholarship Program

Financial need is one criterion used to determine your 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 will be used to determine eligibility for the scholarship.

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 full-time by fall term of 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 the Council to release my information for the purpose of recognition.

Applicant signature

Date