

Financial Aid Opportunities for Native Americans

Information Courtesy of Sitting Bull College

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College Information Service

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA FINANCIAL AID

NORTH DAKOTA STATE INDIAN SCHOLARSHIP (NDSIS). The NDSIS may be used to pursue any full-time course of study offered in a regular academic year by an institution of higher learning or state educational program in North Dakota. To qualify, a student must be at least 1/4 degree Indian blood and a resident of North Dakota OR must be an enrolled member of a tribe and now a resident of North Dakota. The NDSIS program offers two types of awards: financial need-based grants and merit scholarships. The priority date for applying is **July 15**. Applications are available from the North Dakota University System office located at the Kirkwood Office Tower, Suite 603, 919 South 7th St., Bismarck, ND 58504. Applications are also available on-line at <http://www.ndus.edu/students/default.asp?ID=252>

NORTH DAKOTA SCHOLARS PROGRAM. The North Dakota Scholars Program, a merit-based scholarship, provides approximately 40-45 new freshmen scholarships to North Dakota's best and brightest high school graduates to encourage them to remain in North Dakota to obtain their post-secondary training. The North Dakota Scholars Scholarship is a full tuition scholarship for students attending North Dakota's public and tribal colleges and a tuition scholarship equal to NDSU/UND's tuition for students attending North Dakota's private institutions. Persons interested in applying for the Scholars Scholarship or who may have any questions about the program are invited to contact the NDUS Director of Financial Aid via e-mail to peggy.wipf@ndsu.nodak.edu or by telephone (701) 328-4114. Students may obtain information on-line at <http://www.ndus.edu/students/default.asp?ID=252>

STATE STUDENT INCENTIVE GRANT (SSIG). The SSIG program is administered by the North Dakota State University System. The SSIG award is \$300 per semester. Students apply for this grant by completing the FAFSA by **March 15**.

TRIBAL OR BIA FINANCIAL AID SOURCES

EDUCATION LOAN/GRANT PROGRAM. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has a loan program available to its enrolled members. The loan must be secured through lease income collateral. The loan is to be used for current year needs. However, it may also be used to pay for unpaid education costs and to help students pay off defaulted federal student loans. Applications may be picked up from the Higher Education Office at the Standing Rock Tribal Administration Building in Fort Yates.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT. To qualify for a Higher Education grant, the student must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe with at least 1/4 degree of Native American descent. Applicants must be enrolled in academic course work. Applications must be completed each academic year; separate applications must be submitted for summer school enrollment. The priority date for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe for the academic year is **June 1**; for spring term is **November 30**; and for summer term is **April 30**. Other tribal agencies may have different priority dates for applying for assistance. Applications may be picked up from the Tribal Education Director or the BIA Office located at the tribal agency.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA). The WIA program is designed to assist underemployed persons to obtain vocational training. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe WIA program will pay either for tuition, books and fees or an incentive allowance based on actual hours in the classroom. The North Dakota State WIA programs may pay for tuition, books, and fees. Students must take the GATB test and will be selected for the program based on the poverty guidelines. Students should contact the WIA or JOBS offices in Fort Yates or Bismarck for applications. The WIA application must be updated every 45 days so students should contact WIA occasionally to see if they must update their eligibility application.

