

Guide to College & Scholarships for Abenaki Students



Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union

[Title VII Indian Education Program](#)

49 Church Street, Swanton, Vermont 05488

ph: 802.868.4033 / fx: 802.868.4265 / e: jeffbenay@fnwsu.org



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Fax: 802.868.4265

eMail: jeffbenay@fnwsu.org

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	iii
Who Are We?	1
Foreword	3
Introduction	5
How to Use this Guide	7
Applying to College	
The College Application Process	9
A Word About Scholastic Tests	11
How to Prepare for College during High School	13
Choosing a College	17
College Search Worksheet	25
Preliminary List of Colleges	27
Final List of Colleges	29
College Application Checklist	31
The College Application Essay	33
A Guide to Writing Your Résumé	34
Sample Résumé	36
Funding College	
FAFSA	37
How to Find Scholarships	39
Directory of Scholarships	47
Scholarship Application Checklist	89
Notes	
Conclusion	91
Recommended Reading	93

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To the Sovereign Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi (St. Francis/Sokoki Band) Elders:
You are our past and we honor your goodness;

Fellicia Cota (logo design):
You are our present and we admire your talents;

Gyan Baird (research, writing, editing, design and layout, cover design):
You are our friend and we cherish your dedication; and

The Children of Missisquoi:
You are our future and we hold dear your promise.

WHO ARE WE?

What is the Indian Education Program?

Title VII of the Indian Education Act was first authorized by Congress in 1972. A subcommittee determined that Native Americans were performing the poorest of all socio-ethnic groups within the public school systems. Recommendations called for federal assistance in education and cultural support services as well as increased parent participation (self-determination).

Title VII is administered through a LEA (Local Educational Agency). The Franklin Northwest Supervisory Union Superintendent's Office is our LEA. Funding for Title VII comes directly through the Federal Department of Education.

[Title VII Indian Education](#) is a community-based project which continually solicits input from Abenaki community members. Program goals are derived from a belief that parents play a critical role in the education of their children. Our project has been operating since 1981.

What Are the Goals of the Program?

The program is committed to assuring equity for all students through direct intervention, systemic change, and increased parent involvement. [Goals](#) include:

- ❖ Increasing the achievement level of Abenaki students in grades K-12;
- ❖ Reducing the dropout rate of high school students;
- ❖ Providing cultural enrichment activities; and
- ❖ Promoting active parent participation through many opportunities, including our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), which oversees all program activities.

What Services Are Available?

Academic Tutoring—Any Abenaki child may be referred by parents or classroom teachers. [Individualized tutoring](#) takes place twice weekly for one-hour sessions.

Home-School Services—If parents are experiencing any communication problem with their schools (e.g., not understanding report cards, difficulty attending meetings or conferences), they may contact our office and we will provide [assistance with any educational issue](#). At the same time, if school personnel are having problems establishing contact with a family, we can facilitate liaison support services.

Summer School Tutoring—If Abenaki students are in need of summer school, we have a contract with the local high school to provide tuition waivers. In addition, we may provide intensive summer tutoring for younger children during a 6-week program.

The Circle of Courage Cultural Center—An extensive cultural and heritage resource area located at our offices. The [center](#) offers our after-school programming open to all youth.

Parent Workshops—These include various [parenting groups](#), informational sessions with local school officials, and meetings with college representatives such as the University of Vermont.

What other projects is the Indian Education Program involved in?

Curriculum Development

- ❖ **Finding One's Way**—Now in its eleventh printing, this [book](#) is used in schools throughout New England. The story tells the plight of a young Abenaki boy growing up in a community where many of his playmates ridicule him. By the end of the story, he is proud of who he is and knows that his culture is a rich one. A Teacher's Guide is also available, which includes study questions and Native American craft activities for the classroom.
- ❖ **New Dawn: A Curriculum Framework of the Middle Level**—Used in every school in Vermont, this is the first [social studies text](#)

aligned with the Vermont Standards. Our approach provides training and professional development for educators and social service providers throughout the state.

- ❖ ***Against the Darkness Media System (DVD and CD combination)***—State-of-the-art DVD imagery tells the story of seven generations of an Abenaki family from 1789 to present. The [Teacher's Guide](#) shows educators how to fully utilize the media system. The CD allows both students and teachers to log into the most comprehensive offering on Abenaki culture for grades K-12. This media system is a high-tech, hands-on, multidisciplinary teaching tool available to all students and educators in Vermont.

Abenaki Cultural Resources

- ❖ ***Abenaki Resource Consultants***—Sharing their skills with local public schools, [Abenaki artisans](#) introduce Native stories and crafts through consultation with educators and presentations for students.
- ❖ ***Native American Studies***—An elective history course at the local high school is largely based on the Abenaki experience.

Pursuit of Higher Education

- ❖ ***Abenaki & UVM Outreach Initiative***—This program is funded by the University of Vermont (UVM) to provide direct services to Abenaki students enrolled at the local high school. Through guidance, mentoring, and counseling, Abenaki youth are encouraged to further their education. At the same time, students at the [UVM Outreach Initiative](#) are afforded the talents of Abenaki artisans where we look to promote an inclusive, on-campus celebration of diversity.
- ❖ ***Abenaki Higher Education Opportunities***—The “[Summer Happening](#)” Project is offered to Abenaki students in grades 8-10. Students explore local colleges and universities through a college summer camp environment. Follow-up activities are planned throughout the school year. Older students can apply for Counselor-in-Training positions where they develop leadership skills and are paid a stipend.
- ❖ ***Guide to College & Scholarships for Abenaki Students***—A 100-page guide developed to prepare Abenaki high school students for college. This guide provides information about the college application and financial aid processes along with a comprehensive list of scholarships available to Abenaki high school students. Information to assist students in locating additional scholarships utilizing search engines and web portals is also included.

FOREWORD

We often think that preparation for college begins in high school. Nothing could be further from the truth! Preparing for college starts as early as when a child is in pre-school; that's right, a youngster begins her preparation as young as five years old. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of exposing your child to an environment we call "language-rich"—that is, an atmosphere where a young person learns the importance of reading, reading, and reading! You, as a parent, are the child's first teacher. All those within the Abenaki community whether it is a parent or extended kinship—perhaps a grandmother—must engage a young person in the importance of the printed word. Further, there are other opportunities you must really take an active interest in and that's what the first part of this guide will explore. Never forget you are a role model for your child. Whether you attended college yourself does not matter. What does make a difference between a child "choosing" to

go on or being content with a high school diploma (which in of itself is awesome for some kids) is the encouragement and guidance you may offer.

There is nothing more daunting than the idea of starting the college process. Whether you graduated from college what seems like 50 years ago or you never got past 10th grade doesn't matter. Everyone is in the same boat. That's why we created the "Guide to College & Scholarships for Abenaki Students." Once you see there is some "method to this madness," you can take a huge sigh of relief and know that while college preparation is a lot of work, it is something that can be accomplished by following the suggestions we offer. So let's begin one of the most important milestones in your child's life: Applying to College!

[Title VII Abenaki Parent Advisory Committee](#)

Sovereign Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi
St. Francis/Sokoki Band
June 2012

INTRODUCTION

This guide is the culmination of several years work. When [Governor Peter Shumlin](#) signed off on [Act 107](#) in May 2012, it gave Abenaki community members the state recognition they had long sought. In offering testimony time after time, Abenaki leaders talked about the possibilities inherent to their children since recognition would open up scholarship opportunities that students could avail themselves of. Thus the Sovereign Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi (St. Francis/Sokoki Band), for instance, wasted no time in the development of a comprehensive offering which might speak to scholarships yet, at the same time, offer families the tools necessary for the college application process.

The guide you now hold is reflective of the twin pillars—resiliency and commitment to education—which are the mainstays of Abenaki beliefs. As such, these deeply held values have allowed the most disenfranchised of all Vermonters an opportunity to succeed where most others would have abandoned their dreams decades ago. Such, however, is not the Abenaki way. Despite dropout rates that approached 70% in the early 1980s as well as fewer than 5% of graduating seniors going on to any post-secondary

institutions, the Abenaki leadership felt it critical to forge ahead and put in place supports that could offer hope rather than despair to the community youth. As a result, the current Abenaki drop-out rate is under 3%, while over 48% of last year's graduating Abenaki seniors (class of 2011) who attended Missisquoi Valley Union High School (Swanton, Vermont) availed themselves of college.

These impressive statistics speak to Abenaki youth, their family, and their community. Equality of educational opportunity is being realized because in a democratic society, we want all children to have the possibility of doing whatever they choose to do. While this is an Abenaki desire, it is one that we hope every child is afforded. So let's begin this journey together as we build on the notion of youngsters being able to make choices when they're in the high school years. We promise this to be an exciting venture for all of you willing to join us.

Jeff Benay, Ed.D.
Director, Indian Education
Franklin County Public Schools
June 2012

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is organized in two major sections. The first section is designed to assist high school students through the college application process and the other is focused on helping students understand financial aid and find scholarships.

The [Applying to College](#) section provides students with helpful information about [standardized academic tests](#) (e.g., SAT, ACT) including information on fees and fee waivers. It also provides links to test sites where students can learn more about these tests and obtain free self-study guides.

Students are presented with detailed information on what colleges require in order to be admitted. While these requirements vary by school, students will become familiar with the types of documentation they may be asked to provide. Step-by-step instructions are given on how to obtain the documents needed, as well as practical advice on how to write a powerful [essay](#) and effective [résumé](#).

A suggested [timeline](#) of activities for high school students to follow is included to help them stay on the college track. It will help students break down what they need to focus on and accomplish during each of their high school years. It is set up as a checklist so students can mark off what they have completed. The timeline sets a steady pace so that students do not leave all of their college preparation for their senior year.

Information on [how to choose a college](#) is included along with several worksheets designed to

assist students in their college search. The [College Application Checklist](#) will help students keep track of the many steps involved in applying to college. It allows them to check off each step completed for each college they choose to apply. All of these worksheets can and should be freely copied and used. Students are encouraged to make extra copies of the blank forms. The last section of this guide is provided as a place to keep completed forms, extra copies of blank forms, and college research notes.

The second section of this guide focuses on the financial aid process and offers a [directory of scholarships](#) available to Native American high school students. Information about the [FAFSA](#) form (a financial aid form required for all college students) is presented. Instructions for completing the FAFSA are included.

Information about how to find scholarships using the Internet and other sources is provided. [Search engines](#) and [web portals](#) have been reviewed and are included to help students search out additional scholarships they may qualify for. A Directory of Scholarships containing detailed information based on comprehensive research will start students off on the road to achieving a college education.

Finally, the last section of this guide contains a list of [books](#) students can read or download for free from the Internet.

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

So, you think you'd like to go to college but you're not sure how the application process works. It's not as complex as you might think, although it does require planning ahead and effort on your part. A timeline for preparing for college during high school is included in this guide that will help you stay on the college track.

Most colleges will require the following information to be sent by their Application Deadline:

1. **Completed College Application**—This form can be found by visiting the college's website or by calling their Admissions Office and requesting an application. Each college has their own unique form, however, some colleges will accept the Common Application form found at <https://www.commonapp.org/commonapp/download-forms.aspx>. Select the "Complete First-Year Application Packet."
2. **Application Fee**—Although most public and private universities and colleges will charge an application fee, many tribal colleges do not. The amount of the application fee varies depending upon on the school to which you are applying. Most colleges offer an Application Fee Waiver to low-income students. Contact the school to find out if any application fee is charged and whether they accept Application Fee Waivers. You can also visit the school's website.
3. **High School Transcript**—In order for a college to accept your application, they must be able to assess how well you have done during your high school career. Most schools will request that an "Official" copy of your high school transcript be sent to them directly from your school. To have these records sent, you must contact your guidance counselor or the high school office and ask to have them sent. It's ok if you don't have your current quarter or semester grades on your transcript. Most likely, your transcript will only have grades through your junior year. At the end of your high school year, have your transcripts sent to the college again.
4. **Academic Test Scores**—Most colleges will require official copies of your SAT or ACT test scores. These scores are sent to you, your high school, and the 4-6 colleges you listed on the test form.
 - Further information on sending your ACT scores to colleges can be found at <http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/index.html>.
 - Further information on having your SAT results sent to the colleges you are interested in can be obtained at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/scores/sending.html>. If you were eligible for a fee waiver to register for the SAT, you may apply to up to 4 colleges using these waivers.
 - You can find free test-prep tools and detailed information at www.fastweb.com/content/test-prep.
 - You can also ask your guidance counselor for assistance.
5. **Essay**—Colleges will require you to write a short essay to accompany their college application. The essay topic is usually included in the application form. Detailed information and coaching on how to write your essay can be found under the section called, "[The College Application Essay](#)."
6. **Letters of Recommendation**—Many schools ask you to submit one or more letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adult who knows you well. When asking someone to write such a letter, it is strongly suggested that you *make the request 6 weeks before the college's deadline*. Be sure to follow up with a personal thank you note to those people writing on your behalf.

7. **Résumé**—Many, but not all, colleges will also request a résumé. This is also true when submitting scholarship applications. Having a résumé can help you in numerous ways for college as well as assist you in finding a summer or part-time job or internship. Information is provided to help you write an effective résumé in the section entitled, “[A Guide to Writing Your Résumé.](#)”
8. **Proof of Tribal Enrollment**—Some colleges and nearly every scholarship in this guide will require proof of tribal enrollment or Native American ancestry. This is your tribal card, a CIB (Certificate of Indian Blood), or, perhaps, a letter from your Chief or Tribal Council. Each school and scholarship will have its own requirements, so be sure to read their application closely.
9. **Personal Interview**—This is required or recommended by some colleges. Even if it’s not required, it’s a good idea to set up an interview because it gives you a chance to make a personal connection with someone who will have a voice in deciding whether or not you’ll be offered admission. If you’re too far away for an on-campus interview, try to arrange to meet with an alumnus (someone who has graduated from that college) in your community. Check with your guidance counselor or the college to find out who you could contact.
10. **Audition or Portfolio**—If you’re applying for a program in music, art, dance, or design, you may have to document your prior work by auditioning on campus or submitting a portfolio, audiotapes, slides, or other samples of your work to demonstrate your ability. The college will have information on their requirements.
11. **FAFSA Form**—The Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) is a form that most schools and scholarship programs will require you to complete. *Filling out this form is the most important step in getting financial aid for college.* The form is available and completed online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. For more information on the FAFSA form, see “**FAFSA**” under “The Financial Aid Process” section of this guide.

Your entire application should create a consistent portrait of who you are and what you’ll bring to the college. The more the pieces of the puzzle support one, clear impression, the more confident the Admissions Office will be in admitting you. If the essay or interview contradicts information you gave on other forms, you may cause them to have doubts about admitting you.

If all the parts of your application are filled out honestly and carefully, with attention to your conviction that each school is a good match for you, you will come across in the best light possible.

A WORD ABOUT SCHOLASTIC TESTS

The [ACT](#) (American College Testing) and [SAT](#) (Scholastic Assessment Test) are different standardized tests that many colleges use to determine whether they feel you would be successful at their college. A school will usually require that you only take one of these tests. Some schools will require you to get a certain score if you want to attend, while other schools have no requirement. All four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. accept the ACT and SAT, but individual schools place different weight on standardized-test results. Other factors of evaluation, such as class rank, GPA, and extracurricular activities can be more important.

There are fees involved with taking both the ACT and SAT. However, for students from low-income families, Fee Waivers are often available through the high school. This means there will be no charge for you to take the test. Ask your guidance counselor or someone in your school's office, how you can qualify for and receive a Fee Waiver Form. Fee waivers are not available to students who are re-taking either test.

For information on obtaining a Fee Waiver Form for the SAT, visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenefees/feewaivers.html>. To obtain a Fee Waiver Form for the ACT, call 319.337.1270 or you can visit <http://www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/feewaiver.html>.

The ACT

The ACT test assesses your general educational development and ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The Writing Test, which is optional, measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. More information on the ACT is available at <http://www.act.org/aap>. Practice tests are available at <http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/index.html> for free.

The ACT is offered four to six times a year, depending on the state you live in. In the United States, it is offered in September, October, December, February, April, and June and is always on a Saturday except for those with religious obligations.

Candidates may choose either the ACT Assessment (\$34), or the ACT Assessment Plus Writing (\$49.50).

Scores are sent to you, your high school, and up to four colleges. For information on all ACT fees, visit www.actstudent.org/regist/actfees.html.

Students with verifiable disabilities, including physical and learning disabilities, are eligible to take the test with accommodations. The standard time increase for students with learning disabilities is 50%.

The SAT

The SAT consists of the SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) and the SAT Subject Tests (SAT II). The SAT is three hours and 45 minutes long. It measures skills in three areas: critical reading, math, and writing. Although most questions are multiple choice, you are also required to write a 25-minute essay. The test costs \$49. For more information about fees visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/calenefees/fees.html>.

The SAT Subject Tests take one hour, mostly multiple-choice tests in specific subjects. These tests measure knowledge of particular subjects and the ability to apply that knowledge. Many colleges require or recommend one or more of these tests for admission or placement purposes.

Information on how to register for the SAT, testing dates, practice tests, and accommodations for disabled students can be found at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/sat/about.html>.

The PSAT (Preliminary SAT) is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT. It also gives you a chance to enter the National Merit Scholarship. To find out more about the PSAT, you can visit their website at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html>.

How Are the SAT I and SAT II Different?

The SAT I is largely a test of verbal and math skills. True, you need to know some vocabulary and some formulas for the SAT I, but it's designed to measure how well you read and think rather than what you know. The SAT II is very different. It's designed to measure what you know about specific subjects. Critical reading and thinking skills play a part in these tests, but their main purpose is to determine exactly what you know about writing, math, history, chemistry, and so on.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE DURING HIGH SCHOOL

This timeline has been created as a guide for you to follow during the course of your high school career. It will help you set goals and keep pace with the college track. Don't worry if you haven't completed some of the items, this is the ideal timeline and you can go back and review those items that you have not yet completed. As you complete items on this list, put a check mark in the box.

Freshman Year (9th Grade)

- Academics**—Take the most challenging math, English, foreign language, and lab science classes that you can do well in. These classes are known as AP (Advanced Placement) or Honors courses. *Your academic achievement in 9th grade counts in the eyes of college Admissions Offices.* Strive to become a member of the [National Honor Society](#) by your sophomore year if possible.
- High School Counselor**—Talk with your high school counselor about yourself and your future. Ask your counselor about requirements for joining the National Honor Society. Even if you doubt you'll ever qualify, you won't know unless you request this information. It might be easier than you think.
- Extracurricular Activities**—Participate in at least one sport, one club, and one community service activity. Set the goal of taking leadership roles by your sophomore or junior year. Try to find one activity you love and can excel in at the local, state, regional, and national level.
- Visiting Colleges**—Visit a local college to get a feel for what a college is like.
- Summer Activities**—Look into summer programs at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/reg/dates.html> universities and colleges near your home. Seek out volunteer activities that will expand your experience. Take an SAT course to prepare for the [PSAT](#). The best colleges take note of students who get high PSAT scores. For free PSAT test preparation tools, visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html>.

Sophomore Year (10th Grade)

- Academics**—Continue taking the most challenging math, English, foreign language, and lab science classes that you can do well in (AP or Honors courses, whenever possible). *Your academic achievement in 10th grade counts in the eyes of college Admissions Offices.* Apply for the National Honors Society if you are eligible.
- Scholastic Tests**—Take the PSAT in October. The PSAT test is important. The best colleges note students who score well on it. There is also National Merit Scholarship money available for students with the highest PSAT scores. Take the SAT I and/or ACT for practice in April or May. If you want to apply to the best colleges, take two or three SAT II examinations in June.
- High School Counselor**—Stay in close contact with your counselor and meet with him or her at least two times during your sophomore year. Your counselor will write letters of recommendation for you when you apply to colleges and scholarships.

- Extracurricular Activities**—Continue with your sports, clubs, and community service activities. Seek out leadership positions. Work to achieve state, regional, and national recognition in the activity that is your passion.
- Visiting Colleges**—Visit more local colleges. Aim to visit at least one public and one private college close to home.
- Applying for College**—Fill out a college application before you register for next year’s classes. This will give you practice completing applications and an idea of what courses colleges expect you to take.
- Summer Activities**—Most “Selective” and “Very Selective” colleges notice what students do during the summer. Seek out meaningful activities, like summer programs at a local university, sports, music, or computer camps. Take on volunteer positions. Complete an SAT course or study for the SAT/ACT on your own. There are self-paced books available to help at many libraries and bookstores. Check out the free study guides for the PSAT, SAT, and ACT at www.studyguidezone.com.

Junior Year (11th Grade)

Eleventh grade counts the most in your high school career towards college admission. It’s the last complete year that colleges and universities have to look at before deciding to admit you.

First Semester

- Academics**—Continue taking the most challenging math, English, foreign language, and science classes you can do well in (AP or Honors courses when possible). If you know your college interests, then make sure you are taking classes that support them.
- Scholastic Tests**—Take an SAT or ACT course or study on your own. For free study guides, be sure to visit www.studyguidezone.com.
- High School Counselor**—Stay in close contact with your counselor. Meet with him or her at least two times during your junior year. Make sure that you are taking all the courses needed for graduation. Discuss your college plans with your counselor. Remember, your counselor will be writing letters of recommendation that are required when you apply to colleges and for scholarships.
- Extracurricular Activities**—Continue with your sports, club, and community service activities. Serve in leadership positions. Work to achieve state, regional, and even national recognition in the activity that is your passion.
- Visiting Colleges**—Plan to visit several colleges that interest you during winter break. This is one of the best times to visit college campuses. Attend college fairs in the area where you live.
- Applying to Colleges**—Keep a file of every major test and paper where you received a high grade or positive comments. This will allow you to provide copies to people who will write you letters of recommendation. Send these documents to your letter-writers when you ask them to write you a letter of recommendation. This will remind them of your work. Fill out another college application.

Second Semester

- Academics**—Continue taking the most challenging math, English, foreign language, and science classes you can do well in (AP or Honors courses when possible).
- Scholastic Tests**—Take an SAT or ACT course or study on your own. Home study guides can be accessed at www.studyguidezone.com. Register for the SAT I or ACT test and take it in the spring. If you are planning to apply to “Most Selective” colleges, register to take two or three SAT II subject exams in June.
- Extracurricular Activities**—Continue with your sports, club, and community service activities. Staying with the same activities and serving in leadership roles has more value to college Admissions Offices than participating in many activities. Seek leadership positions for your senior year as they will go on your college applications. Work to achieve state, regional, and national recognition in the activity that is your passion.
- Applying to College**—Write up your [Preliminary List of Colleges](#). You can use the [College Search Worksheet](#) in this guide. Do not rule out any school because of cost. Most expensive schools may offer you a lot more financial aid than less expensive schools. If you plan to apply to one of the military academies, you will need to request a nomination from your [Senator](#) or [Congressman](#).
- College Visits**—Spring vacation is a great time to visit colleges. Plan to visit several colleges that interest you.

Summer Before Your Senior Year

- Applying to College**—Get the applications for colleges to which you are sure to apply. Some colleges use the Common Application. You can obtain a Common Application online by visiting <https://www.commonapp.org/commonapp/downloadforms.aspx> and downloading a copy. If you do not have a computer with Internet access at home, you can do this at the public library, your school computer lab, or at the [Vermont Student Assistance Corporation](#) (VSAC) offices for free.
- Scholastic Tests**—Take an SAT or ACT course during the summer or study on your own. Register for the ACT, SAT I, or SAT II test by the end of the summer. This is helpful if you still need to take them or if you want to improve your previous score.
- Summer Activities**—This summer is an especially good time to attend summer programs at colleges that interest you. Attending these programs allows you to meet other students and talk with them about the college. As with other summers, take a leadership role in your sports, club, various camps (computer, music, outdoor adventure), and volunteer programs.
- College Visits**—If you didn’t have time to visit colleges during your sophomore or junior years, visit a few close to home now. Summer school may be in session, so you can also get a sense of what the campus is like during the school year.

Senior Year (12th Grade)**First Semester**

- Academics**—Take challenging classes. *This is the last semester in your high school career that colleges will see before deciding on your admission application.*
- Scholastic Tests**—Take the SAT I or ACT if you didn't take it your junior year or if you want to improve your score. It doesn't hurt to take it again to raise your test scores. Take SAT II subject exams in October or November, if you still need to.
- High School Counselor**—Meet with your counselor. Give him or her your [Final List of Colleges](#). If you have not already written down your final list of colleges, now is the time. You can use your [Preliminary List of Colleges](#) and shorten it to create your final list.
- Visiting Colleges**—Winter break is a good time to visit colleges on your final list. Arrange interviews during your visits if possible. Many colleges hold interviews in your city. Call the colleges on your final list and set up interviews if offered.
- College Essay**—This is *very important* and you should expect to put time, energy, and thought into writing (and re-writing) your application essays. Seek feedback on your essays from your teachers, counselors, tutor, mentor, and parents.
- Letters of Recommendation**—Give the Recommendation Forms (that are contained in your college admissions applications) to teachers, counselors, coaches, club administrators, and people you have worked with through your community service activities or summer jobs. Make sure that these important people have received your request for a letter of recommendation *6 weeks before you need it*. These letters may also be used for scholarship applications.
- Applying to College**—The ideal time to complete admissions applications is by late November (earlier if you are applying for an Early Decision or Early Action).

Second Semester

- Academics**—Continue taking challenging courses that will prepare you for college work. Make sure you complete all your coursework with respectable grades. Inform colleges of any new Honors or accomplishments.
- Final College Decision**—You will receive most, if not all, acceptance letters by late March or early April. *Compare aid offers from each school carefully.* Look at the bottom line—how much is *gift money* and how much represents *student loans* that must be repaid? You will need to make your final decision and *postmark your acceptance by May 1st*. (This date may vary by college.)
- Visiting Colleges**—If you have not visited colleges that have offered you admission, by all means, visit them before you accept on May 1st.

CHOOSING A COLLEGE

How to Choose a College

Choosing the right college can seem like the most important decision you'll ever make. After all, your college education will affect the rest of your life. You may be thinking, "What if I make the wrong choice?" "What if I'm not happy there?" or "What if I don't get in?" It can be scary.

Relax. First, there is no one magic choice for college. There are likely to be many schools where you would be happy. Second, if you do find that you are unhappy during your first year, you can always transfer to another college. Your first year's experiences will aid you in making a more informed choice. Third, the main reason for unhappiness during the first year at college is difficulty getting along with your roommate. If this is the case, try to find a solution through Resident Assistants (dorm managers), counselors, or others at the college. If you are still unhappy, you can sometimes change roommates. However, freshman roommates often remain friends for life. Last, the only poor college choices are uninformed choices—those made without enough information.

At some point, you need to ask yourself six questions:

1. What kind of college do I want to attend?
A liberal arts school, a pre-professional school. . . ?
2. What is the best size of school for me?—For example, one with 10,000 students or more or one with only a few hundred?
3. Where do I want to be? Close to home or far away?—Some people find being far away too lonely; others enjoy the freedom and new experience. Sometimes staying close eliminates the problem of adjusting to a new environment but sometimes being too close can keep you stuck in old ruts.
4. What location do I want? Urban or rural?—Boston University, New York University, and the University of Chicago are all in the middle of big cities. This could be fun

or distracting. Rural colleges offer lovely, quiet campuses. For some people, these are the best places to learn and study; for other students, they're not.

5. What lifestyle do I want?—There are conservative schools, liberal schools, fraternity-/sorority-oriented schools, gung-ho football schools, and religiously oriented schools. They all give you an education. Consider the kind of education you want, as well as what type of environment you wish to live in.
6. What special programs or services do I want or need?—Try to identify colleges offering activities and resources in which you are interested.

The way to answer these questions is to go through one of the college handbooks or websites. Jot down the name of any college that interests you. Then go back and read the description of the colleges on your list, crossing off a name if it does not offer programs, activities, or a location that interests you. Be sure to pay close attention to the number of courses the college offers in your intended major.

When your list is narrowed down, write to the remaining colleges and ask them to send you their college catalogue or you can check your guidance counselor's office for this material. Most colleges have websites that contain a wealth of information about the school. Make sure that you read through all of the material available to you thoroughly.

If possible, visit the schools you're interested in. In general, small, private colleges encourage interviews; which means your visit can be an important chance to gain admission. The summer before your senior year is the best time to visit. Be sure to make your appointments early. Dress up when you go so that you put your best foot forward. The interview is an opportunity for the college to get to know you. You should have read their catalogue by now and prepared a list of questions you have. Remember, you are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you. If you like the interviewers and they like you, that's a good start.

When you're visiting their campus, look for such things as:

- ❖ General appearance of the campus
- ❖ The library resources in your field of interest
- ❖ Student-to-faculty ratio
- ❖ Availability of off-campus programs
- ❖ How friendly the students are
- ❖ An opportunity to meet professors in your major
- ❖ Cultural activities
- ❖ Student housing
- ❖ Health services
- ❖ Sports programs
- ❖ Extracurricular activities
- ❖ Career center services
- ❖ Academic assistance
- ❖ Whether the student body is residential (lives on campus) or commuter (lives off campus)
- ❖ Cost
- ❖ Availability of financial aid

After all of this, you may still worry that you'll be stuck somewhere you don't want to be for four years, doing things you don't want to do. It's a lot more likely that if you make an informed choice about which college to attend, four years won't be enough time to enjoy the new people you'll meet and the things you'll learn. College can be one of the most significant and exciting experiences in a person's life.

In deciding which colleges you want to attend, you should first evaluate yourself to determine your needs and what you have to offer. Then, you should consider criteria to be met by the colleges in which you are interested—academic reputation, size,

geographic distribution of students, student-faculty ratio, campus facilities, coed/single sex, extracurricular programs, social opportunities, cost, financial aid, career counseling, academic competition, location, private/public, religious affiliation, etc.

During your junior year, you should form an idea of the kind of college that suits you best. Study each choice carefully. Be realistic. By early fall of your senior year, you should have selected between six and eight colleges.

Questions & Answers

One of the questions most frequently asked is, "What should my [Final List of Colleges](#) include?" There are two considerations: first, how many schools should you apply to, and, second, what range of schools should be included with regard to admissions requirements and competition?

Students are discouraged from adopting the "shotgun approach" of applying to a multitude of schools. They are also advised not to put all their eggs in one basket by applying to only one college. As a general rule, students are advised to apply to approximately eight schools which vary in terms of selectivity, but which have the most important features desired. As long as you don't overly limit yourself geographically, finding such a group of schools is not that difficult a task because there are so many to choose from. In general, your Final List of Colleges should include schools from the following categories:

Reach	Your top choice in schools. It's fine if this group includes a couple of "long shots."
Realistic	Schools that possess the significant features you desire, and where the probability of admission is "even" or "slightly better than even."
Safety	Schools that have most of the features you're looking for and where the probability of admission is "highly likely" to "certain."

While there is no hard and fast rule, students usually include two or three schools from the first two categories and one or two “safety schools.” Obviously, those schools that qualify as “Reach,” “Realistic,” or “Safety,” vary tremendously from student to student. You have an individual academic profile and should select schools accordingly. However, you must make sure that your choices range through all three categories. You are encouraged to have several schools that fit under each category because it will ensure two or more acceptances and provide you with some choices.

Types of Schools

One of the factors you will consider when developing your list of colleges is the type of school you want to attend. There are many types of schools to consider.

Colleges & Universities

- ❖ **College**—An institution that offers educational instruction beyond high-school level in a two-year or four-year program.
- ❖ **External Degree Program**—A college- or university-sponsored program students can pursue at home and at their own pace.
- ❖ **Junior College**—A two-year institution of higher learning that provides career and vocational training and academic curriculum (terminal and transfer). Community colleges are also two-year colleges.
- ❖ **Liberal Arts College**—A four-year institution that emphasizes a program of broad undergraduate education. Pre-professional or professional training may be available, but is not stressed.
- ❖ **Terminal Program**—An academic program that is complete unto itself. A student who completes it may not be admitted to a four-year college for further study without completing additional course requirements.
- ❖ **Transfer Program**—An academic program that is designed to lead into a four-year program at another college or university.

The two-year graduate transfers as a junior to the four-year institution.

- ❖ **University**—An academic institution that grants undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of fields and supports at least two degree-granting professional schools that are not exclusively technological (such as medicine or journalism). It is composed of a number of “Schools” or “Colleges,” each of which encompasses a general field of study.

Career-related Schools

- ❖ **Business School**—Business schools fall into two categories. At some colleges, it is possible to specialize in business administration or in a two-year secretarial course in conjunction with liberal arts courses. Other institutions primarily offer business or secretarial courses and may or may not be fully accredited.
- ❖ **Engineering or Technological College**—Independent professional schools that provide four-year training programs in the fields of engineering and the physical sciences. They are often known as Institutes of Technology or Polytechnic Institutes.
- ❖ **Military School**—Federal military academies prepare officers for the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Merchant Marines. These institutions ([West Point](#), [US Naval Academy](#), [The Air Force Academy](#), and [US Merchant Marine Academy](#)) require recommendations and nomination by a [US Senator](#) or [US Congressman](#). Private and state-supported military institutions, however, operate on a college application basis as does the [US Coast Guard Academy](#). They all offer degree programs in engineering and technology with concentration in various aspects of military science.
- ❖ **Nursing School**—There are several kinds of nursing schools. At schools affiliated with hospitals, students receive an R.N. diploma

upon successful completion of training and passing a state examination. At schools affiliated with four-year colleges, students receive both a B.S. (Bachelor of Science) degree and an R.N. diploma. Junior colleges and community colleges may offer a two-year nursing program and provide the student with an A.S. (Associates) degree in Nursing.

- ❖ **Professional School**—Professional schools offer specialized study in areas such as art, music, drama, dance, photography, etc.
- ❖ **Technical School**—A two-year institution that offers terminal occupational programs intended to prepare students for immediate employment in fields related to engineering and the physical sciences. These schools may also offer one-year certificate programs in certain crafts and clerical skills.
- ❖ **Trade School**—Trade schools offer specialized training in specific work fields such as cosmetology, computer technology, medical or dental technology, culinary arts, or drafting.

Factors to Consider When Choosing a College

Academics

More than anything else, you go to college to get an education. The type of academic atmosphere and variety of courses studied should be considered when choosing a college.

Colleges can be ranked according to the selectivity of their admissions. For example, some colleges only take students with a 3.2+ grade point average and very high (1200+) SAT scores. These institutions are considered “Very Selective” in their admissions. Other colleges simply require graduation from high school and have lower SAT/ACT score requirements. These colleges are said to have “Lower Selectivity,” and some have open admissions. Colleges with open admissions do not require anything more than a high school diploma or GED certificate in order to gain admission.

You should try to match your academic abilities to the college’s selectivity. If you are a very good student,

then a more selective college may offer you the right amount of challenge and stimulation. If your record has been weak, a less selective college may best fit your needs.

Colleges offer a variety of majors (or courses of study). If you are fairly sure you want to major in business, for example, you should check the Business Department of the colleges you are considering. If you are unsure what your major will be, then look for an institution that has a wide variety of majors, usually called a Liberal Arts college.

Size

Colleges range in size from 150 to 80,000 students. There is a big difference between attending a small institution and a large one. Small institutions with 1,000 to 3,000 students are usually referred to as a college. Large institutions, with 30,000 to 50,000 students are universities. Small colleges offer you more personal involvement, a community atmosphere, and small class sizes (5 to 50 students). Large universities tend to be more impersonal, allow you to be more anonymous, and offer class sizes of anywhere from 20 to 350 students.

You should ask yourself:

- ❖ Will I feel closed in and trapped at a small college? Will I welcome the personal, friendly atmosphere a small college provides?
- ❖ Will I feel lost and overwhelmed at a large institution? Will I feel more independent and free at a large university?
- ❖ Will I want large or small classes? Would I like to have a good deal of interaction with my professors during class or would I prefer a large, more impersonal style of instruction?
- ❖ Will I want a campus that offers sororities and fraternities (as do many of the larger colleges and universities)?
- ❖ Are the athletic facilities important to me? (Generally, the larger universities offer the greatest range of athletic sports and facilities.)

Atmosphere

Colleges, just like any group of people working and living together, create their own atmosphere. Each college has a particular culture that affects the performance and satisfaction of each student there. Some factors that go into creating a college's atmosphere or culture are:

- ❖ Personal or impersonal handling of student questions, concerns, and scheduling;
- ❖ An academic or less serious mood amongst the students and their approach to responsibility; and
- ❖ Whether the school is single sex or coeducational.

The type of atmosphere a college offers can best be discovered by reading the catalogue carefully, reviewing their website, and by visiting the campus and talking with as many people as you can.

Cost

Obviously, a major factor to be considered is the cost of attending college. The total cost for a year (as calculated by the college's Financial Aid Office) includes tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, transportation, and personal expenses. Total costs vary widely.

While cost is undoubtedly very important, don't limit your choice of colleges to only those you can afford without financial assistance. Many of the more expensive private schools have solid financial aid programs that can cover anywhere from 20% to the full cost, depending on your determined financial need.

A good plan would be to choose several colleges, including one you can afford and several for which you will need financial aid. Students are also encouraged to apply to one of the Vermont state colleges ([Castleton](#), [Lyndon](#), [CCV](#), [Johnson](#), [Vermont Tech](#)). Further information on Vermont State Colleges can be found at <http://www.vsc.edu> along with online applications.

Although financial aid may seem uncertain at times, limiting your colleges based on cost alone may exclude some excellent colleges from your list.

Location

There are many reasons why the location of the college you attend may be important to you. You should always consider the expense of traveling home, the need for independence versus the desire to stay near family, and the effects of living in a particular area.

When considering the location, think about the campus setting. The physical environment of the college you go to may be very important to you. Some people prefer the social, cultural, and economic activities of a large city or metropolitan environment. Others would be unhappy if they could not be near the ocean, mountains, or countryside. A major metropolitan area can offer many benefits, but a student must adjust to the lifestyle of a big city. A college or university that is located in the heart of a city is often comprised of multistoried classroom buildings and high-rise dormitories. There are also many colleges and universities that are in rural settings with widespread campuses located many miles from the nearest urban areas. In addition, many schools are located close to, but not directly in large cities.

The decision of a location and campus setting for your college should ultimately include those schools where you will be most comfortable living for the next two to four years.

Student Body

A student body can be comprised of all men, all women, or both men and women. Students who may worry that they would be cloistered at a single-sex college should know that today, virtually all colleges have exchange programs with other nearby colleges so that students may cross register to attend classes. Dorm privileges, social activities, and extracurricular events will vary due to the type of student body your college has.

Factors to Consider When Choosing a Career/Vocational/Business School

Many students will find that a specialized school (vocational, business, technical, or career) fulfills their needs much better than a two-year or four-year college. Investigation of job opportunities will reveal that many hundreds, even thousands, of occupations require training that may be obtained through forms of learning such as career training.

Students interested in a particular type of career-oriented education should consult their guidance counselor about schools to explore, write for catalogues, review their websites, and eventually visit the schools they are interested in.

Specialized schools generally do not require an examination like the SAT or ACT. Many will recom-

mend that a test be taken at the school for placement purposes only.

All career-focused schools require a transcript of the student's record, and often want letters of recommendation from teachers or guidance counselors.

Things to Consider

1. Where is the college located? How will you get there?
2. If the school is not within commuting distance, what are the living arrangements?
3. What are the total expenses to complete the program? Remember to include the cost of supplies, materials, books, and travel as part of your expenses.
4. Are [SAT](#) or [ACT](#) exams required? Are other forms of entrance tests required?
5. Are there special course requirements needed in addition to a High School Diploma (for example, two years of college preparatory mathematics, etc.)?
6. What kind of financial aid is available? Only government-approved schools are eligible for government aid. Is the school approved for federal aid?
7. Is the school *accredited*? This means that when you complete the program, you are eligible to take a licensing examination if one is required, or receive a certificate granting you the right to practice your chosen career. *This is very important.*
8. Does the school have a good Placement or Career Office? Check this out with recent graduates. A good Career Counselor or Placement Officer will have established relationships with local businesses who rely on the school to provide candidates for entry-level jobs.
9. Check with recent graduates and current students to assess the quality of the programs offered.
10. If at all possible, visit the school to look at the facilities and talk with the Director of Admissions and other students in your program of study.
11. Talk to prospective employers about the school's reputation within the company and their past experience with hiring graduates from the school.

Questions to Ask Yourself to Evaluate Your College Preferences

1. What satisfaction and frustration do you expect to encounter in college? What are you looking forward to? What worries you the most? What do you hope to gain from college? What is the most important consideration in your choice of school?
2. Why do you want an education? Why are you going to college?
3. How do you want to grow and change in the next few years? What kind of environment would stimulate or inhibit your growth?
4. Which interests do you want to pursue in college? Do your interests require any special facilities, programs, or opportunities? Consider all your interests in terms of fields of study, activities, community, and cultural opportunities. Are you more interested in career preparation, technical training, or general knowledge and skills?
5. What degree of academic challenge is best for you? What balance of study, activities, and social life suits you best? How interested are you in the substance of intellectual life—books, ideas, issues, and discussions? Do you want an academic program where you must work and think hard or one where you can make respectable grades without knocking yourself out? How important is it to you to perform at the top of your class or would you be satisfied in the middle or bottom of your college class? How well do you respond to academic pressure and competition?
6. How would you feel about going to a college where you were rarely told what to do? How much structure and direction do you need?
7. How would you enjoy living in a different part of the country? How often do you want to be able to go home? What kind of change in your lifestyle and perspective might be exciting or distressing and overwhelming?
8. What kind of surroundings are essential to your well-being? Are there certain places, activities, climate, or pace of life that make you happy? Do you prefer a fast-paced environment where something is happening most of the time or an organized environment where you can join a wide variety of planned activities? Do you prefer a more serene and relaxed environment where you can go your own way?
9. How would you feel about going to a college where the other students were quite different from you? How would you react? Would you find it an exciting or intimidating environment? Would you prefer to be with people who share your viewpoints and lifestyle or who challenge you and make you question your beliefs and values?
10. How free do you feel to make your own college decisions? Do you and your parents agree about your plans for college? How important are the opinions of your parents, teachers, and friends? How important is familiarity, prestige, or reputation in your community?

FINAL LIST OF COLLEGES

Your Top Choices (Reach Schools)

Your Second Choices (Realistic Schools)

Your Back-Up Choices (Safety Schools)

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST			
Application Checklist	College 1: _____	College 2: _____	College 3: _____
Applications			
Request Information/Application Forms			
Application Deadline			
Early Application Deadline			
Transcripts (Grades)			
Request High School Transcript Sent			
Request Midyear Grade Reports Sent			
Test Scores			
Send SAT Scores			
Send SAT Subject Test Scores			
Send ACT Scores			
Send AP (Advanced Placement) Scores			
Letters of Recommendation			
Request Recommendations			
Send Thank You Notes			
Essays			
Write Essays			
Proofread for Spelling and Grammar			
Get Feedback on Essays (from 2 people)			
Revise Essays (as needed)			
Essay Sent with Application Form			
Résumé			
Write Résumé			
Proofread Your Résumé for Spelling and Grammar			
Get Feedback on Your Résumé (from 2 people)			
Revise Résumé (as needed)			
Send Résumé			
Interviews			
Interview at College			
Alumni Interview			
Send Thank You Notes to Interviewers			

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST (continued)			
Application Checklist	College 1 : _____	College 2: _____	College 3: _____
Tracking Your Application			
Copy All of Your Application Materials			
Apply Online or by Mail			
Send Application Fee (or Fee Waiver Form)			
Sign Application			
Confirm Application Materials Have Been Received			
Send Supplemental Materials (if needed/requested)			
Financial Aid Forms			
Priority Financial Aid Deadline			
Regular Financial Aid Deadline			
Complete & Submit FAFSA Online			
Submit CSS/Financial Aid Profile (if needed/requested)			
Mail College Aid Form (if needed/requested)			
Mail State Aid Form (if needed/requested)			
After You Send Your Application			
Receive Admission Letter			
Receive Financial Aid Award Letter			
Send Deposit			
Send Final Transcript			

THE COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY

Why Is the Essay Important?

Your college essay gives the college Admissions Office greater insight into your depth of understanding of intellectual and social issues. It highlights your areas of interest and special talents, and it demonstrates your ability as a writer. Fluency; accuracy in spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure; unity of theme; and organization are all important.

What Topics Will Be Addressed?

- ❖ **Personal Introspection**—Avoid the obvious. (“My big brother is my best friend.”) Strive for reflection and depth. (“My brother and I faced a family crisis together and emerged with...”).
- ❖ **Current Issues**—Link abstract ideas, such as political activism or commitment to preserving the environment, to your real-life experiences.
- ❖ **Intellectual Pursuits**—If you share a class assignment, such as the discussion of an artist, a book, or a hero, make a strong connection to your growth beyond the classroom assignment.

How Long Should My Essay Be?

Above all, follow the college’s instructions! Many colleges will specify how long your essay should be. However, if there are no page specifications for the essay, try more than two-thirds of a page and less than three pages. Be certain that your final product is neat and typed. If you do not consider yourself a strong writer, take care, start early, and be prepared for several rewrites. Colleges expect that you are familiar with and use the writing process.

How Important Is It, Really?

Very. College professors are often readers and they want good writers in their courses. All things being equal, the college essay may tip the scale in your favor among a pool of equally qualified applicants. All that hard work in English class and other courses will yield fruit now. Use what you have learned to put your best word forward. Make your essay stand out and bear your personal stamp.

A GUIDE TO WRITING YOUR RÉSUMÉ

Suggestions for Preparing an Effective Résumé

1. There is no universal résumé format. There are only guidelines you may follow.
2. Present your objectives in a manner that relate to the specifics being asked by a particular college.
3. Final decisions are rarely based upon résumés alone. However, the résumé should be a concise, factual, and positive listing of your education, any employment history, travel, and accomplishments.
4. Test your résumé for relevancy. The information contained in your résumé should support your character in general. If you have no definite purpose for including something, leave it out.
5. Weigh your choice of words. Select strong action verbs, concrete nouns, and positive modifiers for emphasis (see box below). Use concise phrases and clauses rather than complete sentences.
6. Try your résumé out on someone who knows you and who will be objective in his or her opinion.
7. Keep a separate list of references and make them available upon request.
8. Remember your résumé is only a door opener. *You want a personal interview.*

Powerful Words to Include in Your Résumé

Action Verbs				Concrete Nouns & Positive Modifiers
Accelerated	Eliminated	Managed	Revamped	Ability
Accomplished	Established	Mastered	Revised	Actively
Achieved	Evaluated	Motivated	Reviewed	Capacity
Adapted	Expanded	Operated	Scheduled	Competent
Administered	Expedited	Originated	Simplified	Competence
Analyzed	Facilitated	Organized	Set up	Consistent
Approved	Found	Participated	Solved	Effectiveness
Coordinated	Generated	Performed	Structured	Pertinent
Conceived	Increased	Planned	Streamlined	Proficient
Conducted	Influenced	Pinpointed	Supervised	Qualified
Completed	Implemented	Programmed	Supported	Resourceful
Controlled	Initiated	Proposed	Taught	Substantially
Created	Instructed	Proved	Trained	Technical
Delegated	Interpreted	Provided	Translated	Versatile
Developed	Improved	Proficient in	Utilized	Vigorous
Demonstrated	Launched	Recommended	Won	
Designed	Led	Reduced		
Directed	Lectured	Reinforced		
Effectuated	Maintained	Reorganized		

The Four Questions Your Reader Will Ask

Answering the following four questions in a fully persuasive way will greatly increase your odds of developing a winning résumé. The questions are the crucial elements of the résumé formula. Answering them will not only give you the material you need to build a strong résumé, but will also prepare you for networking and interviewing. Use the sample résumé included as a point of reference.

1. **What do you want?** That's your "Objective" statement. Don't struggle or agonize over this. Prospective colleges want and need a simple, specific answer. Change your Objective statement for different colleges in order to be in alignment with a specific college. (See Objective Statement variations below.)
2. **Why are you qualified?** That's the Summary section. Answer succinctly why you're qualified to accomplish your Objective. Ask yourself: "Why should they admit me?" (You'll need to get ready for that one at the interview anyway!) Summarize the answer in easy-to-read bullet points. These points become your Summary section. This section should satisfy your audience that the rest of your résumé is worth reading.
3. **Where have you done it?** That's the Experience section. The reader needs to relate to the experience you've had. Describe only the experiences that help define you and showcase your value.
4. **How well have you done it?** That's the Achievement section. This is where you should put in your most thought and effort. Think about what you've done throughout high school. It could be a big thing or something small. But it should be enough to show value. Were you selected for a key program or award? Where did you show initiative and/or leadership. These points show your worth.

Objective Statement Variations

The following are variations of an Objective statement for a high school student's college résumé. Notice how the Objective is tailored to be in alignment with *where* the school was located, the *type* of school, the *size* of school, and the *program of study*. Word processing programs make changing your Objective statement very easy to accomplish.

1. To learn about **environmental studies** in a close-knit, liberal arts community that prides itself on critical thinking and life-long learning.
2. To learn about **aquatic environmental studies** in a close-knit, liberal arts community that prides itself on critical thinking and life-long learning.
3. To obtain an education that furthers my knowledge of and passion for **international studies** in a close-knit, liberal arts community that prides itself on critical thinking and life-long learning.
4. To obtain an education that furthers my knowledge of and passion for **international studies** in a close-knit, **West Coast**, liberal arts community that prides itself on critical thinking and life-long learning.
5. To learn about **environmental studies** in a close-knit, **West Coast**, liberal arts community that prides itself on critical thinking and life-long learning.



Steve Summers

49 Church Street • Swanton, VT 05488 • 802.868.4033 • ssummers@gmail.com

Objective: To pursue an education in environmental studies with a global perspective. Seeking a close-knit, liberal arts community that prides itself on critical thinking and life-long learning.

Educational Status:

Missisquoi Valley Union High School, Swanton, VT 05488 (4 years)
Honor Roll

Extracurricular Activities:

National Honor Society (Induction Junior Year)
Nordic Skiing (4 years Varsity, Co-Captain Senior Year)
Cross-Country Running (4 years Varsity)
Class Vice-President (Freshman and Senior Years)
Co-Founder, “Ultimate Frisbee Club” (Intramural, Junior and Senior Years)
Spanish Club (3 Years)
The Circle of Courage After-School Program (3 Years)
UVM “Summer Happening” (2 Years)

Employment History:

Counselor-In-Training, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Conservation Camp,
full-time, summer employment, 2010
Counselor-In-Training, UVM “Summer Happening” Program
part-time, summer employment, 2011

Community Service:

Abenaki Heritage Celebration, Volunteer (4 Years)

References: Will be provided.

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

The First Step Is FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (known as the [FAFSA](#)) is a form that is filled out annually by college students (both undergraduate and graduate). The FAFSA is used to determine your eligibility for federal student financial aid (including [Pell Grants](#), [Stafford Loans](#), [PLUS Loans](#), and [work-study programs](#)).

The US Department of Education begins accepting the FAFSA application on January 1st of each year. Applicants who have filled out a FAFSA in previous years are able to fill out a Renewal FAFSA, but information on taxes and savings, for example, must be updated annually. Additionally, most states and schools use information from the FAFSA to award non-federal aid as well.

The FAFSA consists of numerous questions regarding your finances, as well as those of your family (in the case that a student is determined to be “dependent”); these are entered into a formula that determines the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). A number of factors are used to determine the EFC including the household size, income, number of students from the same household who are in college, and assets (not including retirement and 401(k) funds). This information is required because of the expectation that parents will contribute to their child’s education, whether that is true or not.

The FAFSA does not have questions related to student or family race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or religion.

A Student Aid Report (SAR), which is a summary of your FAFSA responses, will be sent to you. Review the SAR carefully for errors and make any corrections. An electronic version of the SAR (called an ISIR) is made available to the colleges you selected on the FAFSA form. The ISIR is also sent to state agencies that award state need-based aid. Schools may award aid on a first-come/first-served basis and students are advised to fill out the FAFSA as early as possible for maximum financial assistance.

Nearly every student is eligible for some form of financial aid. Students that may not be eligible for need-based aid may still be eligible for an [Unsubsidized Stafford Loan](#) regardless of income or circumstances. A student who can meet the following criteria may be eligible for aid:

- ❖ Is a US citizen, a US national, or an eligible non-citizen;
- ❖ Has a valid Social Security number;
- ❖ Has a high school diploma or GED;
- ❖ Is registered with the [US Selective Service](#) (male students age 18-25);
- ❖ Completes a FAFSA promising to use any federal aid for education purposes;
- ❖ Does not owe refunds on any federal student grants;
- ❖ Is not in default on any student loans; and
- ❖ Has not been found guilty of the sale or possession of illegal drugs while federal aid was being received.

If you have any questions relating to the FAFSA form, you can visit their Help Page at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/help.htm>. You can utilize their Live Help link found by clicking the “Contact Us” tab, where you can chat online with a FAFSA specialist. For assistance while using the FAFSA online, you can also call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 800.433.3243 or 319.337.5665 (TTY for hearing impaired students is 800.730.8913). Call centers are open 8:00 am to Midnight (EST) Monday through Friday. Their email link is also on this page.

The FAFSA has been online for several years. However, you can request a paper FAFSA form from the Financial Aid Office of the school you are applying to, or you may be able to obtain a copy from your high school guidance counselor.

How to Complete Your FAFSA

- 1. Get a PIN (Personal Identification Number)**—Go to the official Department of Education/FAFSA website at <http://www.pin.ed.gov/PINWebApp/pinindex.jsp> to obtain your PIN number. You can also access by clicking the “PIN Site” tab on the FAFSA Home page at www.fafsa.gov. Your PIN is used to complete and sign your FAFSA, make corrections, and access online information. It takes approximately 3 days to receive your PIN by email. Be sure to write the number down in a safe location, as this will be your FAFSA PIN throughout your college career. *You cannot complete the FAFSA without your PIN.*
- 2. Complete the FAFSA as Early as Possible**—You will need your parents’ or guardian’s help filling out this form because it will ask for their income. You do not need to have your taxes done when you file your FAFSA, however, you will need to provide the previous year’s taxes as soon as possible. In the meantime, you can file your FAFSA in January and estimate your financial information. The FAFSA form can be found at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. Click the START HERE button.
- 3. Notification**—Four or five weeks after submitting your FAFSA, you should receive an Award Letter from the government (or through the college) showing what aid you have been awarded. You can cross out any aid you don’t want and return the form. There are several different types of awards you may receive from the government:
 - ❖ **Grants**—A grant is money that you will NOT have to pay back. Many low-income students receive one grant or another from the government. The [Pell Grant](#) is the most common government grant.
 - ❖ **Subsidized Loan**—A subsidized loan is money you will have to pay back but you will not be required to pay interest on the money you borrow. This federal loan is known as a [Subsidized Stafford Loan](#).
 - ❖ **Unsubsidized Loan**—An unsubsidized loan is money that you will have to pay back with interest. The loan starts to accrue interest as soon as you receive the money. This federal loan is known as an [Unsubsidized Stafford Loan](#).
 - ❖ **Work-Study Program**—Provides part-time [employment](#) to students through the college.

HOW TO FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

No matter which college or university you decide to attend, paying for it is always one of the most challenging issues students face. In this section, you will find resources to help you find grants or scholarship money available to assist you on your journey. Unlike traditional financial aid, scholarships are often based on merit rather than financial need. However, some scholarships will also factor in financial need.

With the advent of the Internet, it has never been easier to locate scholarships and grants. There are quite a number of websites dedicated to students looking for money to attend college. Some of the sites are invaluable resources, while others are looking to charge you a fee to access their scholarship database or resource list. The following websites have been researched for this guide and provide lists of scholarships tailored to each student. However, they also contain a wealth of college-related information. We highly recommend spending time on these websites to learn as much as you can.

Search Engines

A web search engine is a tool designed to search for information on the Internet. The search results are based on information you provide and are usually presented in a list format.

When using a search engine, you will be guided through a variety of windows asking for relevant information. For example, you will be asked to type in your name, contact information, date of birth, ethnicity, religious background, GPA, and other information that is used to narrow down those scholarships you are eligible for. *You should never be asked to provide your social security number, banking information, or credit card numbers to obtain information on scholarships. If you are, this is a red flag that the company may not be legitimate.*

So, how do the legitimate scholarship search engines stay in business? Well, they may sell your contact information to colleges and companies interested in marketing their products to you. You may start to see an increase in the amount of SPAM or unsolicited junk email you receive. You might want to set up an email address that is used exclusively for

conducting your online scholarship research. Google's gmail (www.google.com) is an excellent place to set up a free email address for yourself.

The other way they stay in business providing free information is by having an affiliate or sales relationships with other businesses. For example, when you complete the first window with your contact information and scroll down to the bottom of the page to submit, you may notice offers for jobs (e.g., taking online surveys or being a mystery shopper). Read this information carefully and *decline* their offers. You won't make money and your junk email will double.

So pay careful attention at the bottom of each window before you hit the SUBMIT button. You may have to go through half a dozen windows, inputting your detailed information all along the way, but don't give up. Once you hit that final SUBMIT button, you will be pleasantly rewarded with scholarship opportunities that are perfect for you. Each scholarship is linked and you can go directly to their website to begin the application process. We recommend that you save your search criteria/personal information in order to search in the future.

Adventures in Education

<http://www.aie.org>

In the sidebar on the left, click on PAYING FOR COLLEGE. There is a wealth of information on this page that would be helpful for you to review. However, to get to the search engine, select the WHERE CAN I FIND SCHOLARSHIPS OR GRANTS link under the "Top Questions" heading in the left-hand sidebar.

This link will send you to a keyword search on the [Adventures in Education](http://www.aie.org) website. You can type in any search terms (keywords) you can think of. For example, you might wish to search by career field or major. You can search by state or name of college. Use unique keywords that describe you (e.g., high school student, women, first-generation student, disabled, minority, Native American, etc.) because they will return more matching scholarship results. Try using keywords such as your state, your school choices, your major, your interests or activities. Running multiple

keyword searches is strongly recommended. You will find that you are eligible for more scholarships than just those for Native American students. The possibilities are as limitless as your imagination.

We conducted a keyword search of “Native American” and had 0 matches. However, when we searched just for “native,” it returned 152 matches. Trying out different variations on your keyword can lead to valuable results. This site also provides information on [planning for college](#), [paying for college](#), [finding a career](#), and [managing your money](#).

College Board

<http://www.collegeboard.com>

Click on the STUDENTS box. In the left sidebar, click on SEARCH button or search for a specific college.

This online tool will help you locate scholarships, internships, grants, and loans that match your education level, talents, and background. Complete the brief questionnaire and Scholarship Search will find potential opportunities from their database of more than 2,300 sources of college funding, totaling nearly \$3 billion in aid.

CollegeNET

<http://www.collegenet.com>

At the bottom of the page, click on [COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS](#). Avoid the Google ads.

Right from the start, we like this search engine. It gives the visitor a choice between conducting a keyword search for scholarships or going the route of inputting personal data for scholarship matching.

A recent keyword search yielded 131 scholarship results using “Native American” as the keyword. A large number were college-specific scholarships offering Native American students considerable financial awards (up to full funding for a 4-year degree). These colleges and universities were located all over the US and not limited to Tribal Colleges or tribal college consortium schools.

College View

<http://www.collegeview.com>

We did not find this search engine particularly helpful for locating scholarships. However, the site does provide information about colleges (i.e., cost, number

of students), which may be helpful during your school research process and completing your [College Search Worksheet](#), [Preliminary List of Colleges](#) form, and your [Final List of Colleges](#) worksheet.

FastWeb

<http://www.fastweb.com/>

Fastweb is a free scholarship search service where you can create a personalized profile and locate scholarships applicable to you, your talents, and interests. Fastweb is a division of the job search company, Monster.com.

After inputting loads of personal data and trying to avoid signing up for the Navy or taking part in uncompensated polling, we were matched with 3 pages of scholarships. You can also expect a lot of junk email from FastWeb for the next several years.

FindTuition.com

www.findtuition.com

This search engine states they have 1.7 million scholarships and grants worth more than \$7 billion. It allows you to search by eligibility, major, college, and other criteria. Begin by clicking on the START SEARCH button. Next, you are asked to select a major or educational interest. This will take you to a new page where you are prompted to enter your personal information and set up a user name and password.

You will be required to have an email address in order to register. Again, we suggest setting up a special email address that you use only to conduct your scholarship research. [Gmail at Google](#) offers free email, has good spam filters, and allows you to send large files that may accompany your online applications.

Once your account is set up, be sure to write down your user name and password and keep it in a safe place. Enter your personal, geographical, educational, professional, and interests information. Be sure to enter “Native American” for both RACE and ETHNICITY fields. When you’re finished, click VIEW RESULTS.

International Education Financial Aid

<http://www.iefaf.org>

This search engine is specifically designed for students who wish to pursue their education outside of the United States. In addition to providing scholarship

searches, this site also hosts a Student Blog, Message Board pertaining to studying abroad, and links to resources.

My Free Degree.com

<http://www.myfreedegree.com>

This site requires that you set up a free account. Then, they match your profile with an extensive database of scholarships. It is quick and easy to use. After moving through a series of questions, you are presented with a list of scholarships indicating the type, amount, and deadline. Each scholarship is linked directly to a website with the application information and details allowing you to quickly locate the funding source and begin the application process.

Sallie Mae College Answer

<http://www.collegeanswer.com>

The SLM Corporation, commonly known as Sallie Mae, is a private company whose business involves originating, servicing, and collecting on student loans. Managing more than \$180.4 billion in debt for more than 10 million borrowers, the company primarily provides federally guaranteed student loans. However, the site also contains a wealth of information on:

- ❖ The student loan process
- ❖ FAFSA
- ❖ College advice

Click on the SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH link in the third column called “Paying.” In order to utilize this function, you will need to register with the site. This involves giving them personal contact information, date of birth, and your high school. An email address is also required. Be sure to write down your login ID (user name) and password if you wish to return to the site. Once you’ve completed registration, click on the REGISTER button. Read the information and click on the SEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS button. This will send you to the Scholarship Profile Form. You will need to fill out this information as thoroughly as possible in order to obtain the best scholarship matches. The form will ask you to provide your email address, current grade level, graduation

year, citizenship, state, gender, age, ethnic heritage (Native American), disability, and college type. Then you select whether or not you wish to be notified of scholarship updates.

Click NEXT PAGE and you will move on to the Academics, Athletics, & Religion page. This page will ask you about your GPA, class standing, SAT scores, combined ACT scores, athletics you participate in, and your religious affiliation (Native American is an option). You can fill this page out completely or skip certain sections. However, the more information you provide, the better the scholarship match. Narrowing down the selection criteria may result in fewer overall “hits” (scholarships found), but will provide you with very targeted results that are well-matched to you. You might wish to rerun your search in the future based on different GPA or SAT scores or different majors. When you’re finished, click NEXT PAGE.

The Majors, Careers, & Special Circumstances page asks you to provide the name of a career you’re interested in or an industry and your field of study. The Special Circumstances has a drop-down menu of many choices. Be sure to scroll through the list. Some scholarships are highly specific. For example, some scholarships are available to students who have a parent in law enforcement. There are also scholarships available to students who wish to pursue certain careers or majors (area of study). Again, the more information you provide, the more potential scholarships will be found for you.

Click NEXT PAGE and you will move to the final page of the search criteria, Interests & Memberships. The first section asks you about your Interests, Hobbies, & Passions. The dropdown menu provides you with a wide range of choices. Again, providing more information here will bring back more matching scholarships. Did you know there are scholarships available to people who like to knit? Here’s your chance to get free money for college because of your hobby.

Next, select from another drop-down menu the Clubs & Organizations that you or your family members belong to. Some clubs and organizations have scholarships available to members’ families. Under Military Affiliation, you will be provided with another dropdown menu listing many organiza-

tions. Select those that you or your immediate family belong to. This includes siblings, parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Again, these organizations may have scholarships that you are eligible for.

At the bottom of this page, you are given the option to have Sallie Mae send scholarship information to your Facebook account. Remember, this gives them permission to access your Facebook account and you may wish to carefully consider whether or not you want to grant them permission and access. We suggest you decline, as they already have your email address and phone number should they need to contact

you. Finally, click the SEARCH SCHOLARSHIP DATABASE button.

The Sallie Mae Search Engine has paired the information you just provided with scholarships where you match the eligibility requirements. Each scholarship on the list is hyperlinked to the granting organization. You can spend hours looking through your list, saving those you're interested in or discarding them. The sidebar on this page allows you to easily edit your scholarship profile information and rerun your search.

Web Portals

A web portal, also known as a links page, presents information from diverse sources in a unified way. Apart from the standard search engine feature, web

portals may also offer other services such as e-mail and news.

The following is a list of web portals that provide information on college scholarships.

<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>Black Excel’s 200 Free Scholarships for Minorities List</p> <p>http://www.blackexcel.org</p> <p>Scroll down the page (below “Super Flash” heading). Locate the “200 Free Scholarships for Minorities” link. You can also check out the “New! Over 1,000 Scholarships for 2012” link. This site provides a list of 200 scholarships for minority students. You will need to scroll through this list and click on the direct links to learn more about eligibility requirements and the scholarship application. Don’t get distracted by the numerous Google ads. Stick to the list of 200 scholarship links.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>AFL-CIO</p> <p>The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is a voluntary federation of 57 national and international labor unions.</p> <p>http://www.afcio.org/</p> <p>Type “college scholarship” in the search box. When conducting research for this guide, we were presented with a list of 382 results.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>American Indian College Fund</p> <p>The American Indian College Fund is a nonprofit organization set up to specifically help Native American students attend college.</p> <p>http://www.collegefund.org</p> <p>Click on “Apply for Scholarships” link in the right-hand sidebar. This will take you to the scholarships page where you can find a wealth of information about scholarships, internships, Tribal Colleges, and other resources.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>Financial Aid: The Smart Student’s Guide to Financial Aid Scholarships</p> <p>http://www.fnaid.org/</p> <p>This site provides information on scholarships, loans, saving for college, and military aid. If you click on SCHOLARSHIPS, you will be taken to a page of information. Scroll down, then select FastWeb Scholarship Search. You will be directed to the FastWeb site and prompted through 3 windows where you will input your personal information. Once you’ve completed this step, you will be matched with scholarships.</p>

<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>Guaranteed-Scholarships.com</p> <p>List of scholarships available by individual college or university.</p> <p>http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/</p> <p>Scroll down until you see the title “The Colleges: (listed alphabetically.” This site lists scholarships by college—starting with Albright College and going through Winthrop University. They define “guaranteed scholarships,” as those that are “unlimited in number and require no interview, essay, portfolio, audition, competition or other ‘secondary’ requirement.” The list of scholarships does not contain any links. This means you will need to see if the colleges you are interested in are on this list, read the scholarships they offer, and then check back with the college for application information.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>IES Study Abroad Programs</p> <p>College students must attend one of the member colleges or universities. However, their membership is impressive in quality and number of schools with many in New England.</p> <p>https://www.iesabroad.org</p> <p>Click on the SCHOLARSHIPS tab at the top of the page. This page lists scholarship options based on your needs and eligibility. These scholarships are specifically for students who wish to study abroad at some point in their academic career. There are a variety of scholarships available based on merit, financial need, diversity, and various grants based on your major or the geographic area you wish to travel to. They also offer disability grants and public university grants. There are numerous links available to explore as well as a SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH button. As with other search tools, you will be prompted through a series of windows asking you to answer questions in order to match you with possible scholarships. It should be noted that you may apply for multiple scholarships, but only one scholarship is awarded per student.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p>	<p>National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)</p> <p>The NAACP is one of the oldest and most influential civil rights organizations in the US. Their mission is to eliminate racial barriers and discrimination of <i>all</i> people, not just African Americans.</p> <p>http://www.naacp.org</p> <p>Select the Resources tab and then Scholarships from the drop-down menu.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)</p> <p>The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) is a voluntary organization through which the nation’s colleges and universities govern their athletics programs. It is comprised of institutions, conferences, organizations and individuals committed to the best interests, education, and athletics participation of student-athletes.</p> <p>http://www.ncaa.org</p> <p>Select the Academics tab. In the right-hand sidebar, select “More” under “Scholarships.”</p>

<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>National Indian Education Association (NIEA)</p> <p>The National Indian Education Association supports traditional Native cultures and values, enables Native learners to become contributing members of their communities, promotes Native control of educational institutions, and improves educational opportunities and resources for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.</p> <p>http://www.niea.org</p> <p>Select the Students tab at the top. A new drop-down menu appears. Select “Scholarships” and then “Scholarship Listings.” This page presents a list of 50+ scholarships for Native American students. Each scholarship has a link to the applications page along with information about eligibility requirements and application deadline. Be sure to read the eligibility requirements as some of these scholarships are for residents of specific states or specific colleges.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>Native Culture</p> <p>This website is run by Lisa Mitten, a Mohawk Indian and librarian at the University of Pittsburgh.</p> <p>http://www.nativeculturelinks.com/education.html</p> <p>This web portal contains a wealth of information on Native American scholarships, studies, programs, Tribal Colleges, educational organizations, and resource links. It is well worth a visit.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>Society of Actuaries and Casualty Actuarial Society</p> <p>Students interested in actuarial science and math will find numerous links to scholarship opportunities. The site also contains information about the actuarial field.</p> <p>http://www.beanactuary.org/</p> <p>Select the “Diversity Programs” tab at the top of the page. From the drop-down menu, select “Scholarships.” You can also find internships by selecting the “Finding a Job” tab at the top of the page.</p>
<p>Organization:</p> <p>Website:</p> <p>Description:</p>	<p>United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)</p> <p>The USDA has an extensive list of scholarship opportunities offered through this governmental agency.</p> <p>http://search.usda.gov</p> <p>Use the search bar at the top of the page to locate scholarships. We typed in “college scholarships” and had 779 results returned.</p>

DIRECTORY OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The following pages contain detailed information on scholarships available to Native American high school students. We have *not* included scholarships requiring federal recognition. We have reviewed the eligibility requirements of hundreds of scholarships and present *only* those scholarships that require recipients to be state-recognized Native American high school students (or entering college freshmen). However, when you visit the scholarship websites, you may find additional scholarships for which you may also be eligible. Be sure to thoroughly explore the sites we have presented, as you are not simply limited to scholarships for Native American students.

Does the website navigation look different from what we've described? Don't worry. Websites change frequently; pages get added, pages get deleted. The important thing is to search through the website looking for similar navigational titles. When all else fails, use the site's SEARCH bar.

Be sure to read the scholarship application first as it contains more information and instructions than the website. The website may have outdated scholarship dates so be sure to read through the application itself. If there is a discrepancy between the site information and application information, you may want to contact the sponsoring organization by phone or email to clarify.

Scholarships that are specific to a certain school or state have not been included. We suggest using the

scholarship search engines and web portals to search for scholarships that are offered from the schools or states you are interested in. You can also use the names of these schools as keywords when searching. Using keywords that are unique to you will increase the number of matching scholarships you receive.

There are numerous scholarships available for Native American students who are already attending college (or who have college credits accumulated), graduate school students, as well as those seeking internships and fellowships. Once you are in college, we suggest you continue to search as there are a myriad of additional scholarships for undergrads.

We have organized the scholarships alphabetically and present eligibility requirements, deadlines, website, contact information, award amounts, and scholarship requirements (documents you will need to submit). Some deadlines are dates that your information needs to be postmarked by; others indicate the date by which your application must be received. Because the application deadlines will change year to year, we strongly suggest that you check for online applications early or contact the funding source.

*It is important to read through each scholarship application very carefully and follow their instructions exactly. If you do not, you will **not** be considered for the scholarship. We cannot stress the importance of following their directions to the letter!*

Sponsoring Organization: American Chemical Society (ACS)

Scholarship Name: American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholars Program

Deadline: March 1

Website: <http://acs.org>

Click on “Funding & Awards” tab. Then select “[Scholarships](#)” from the left side of the box. Select the “[ACS Scholars Program](#).”

Contact Info: Robert J. Hughes, Program Manager
American Chemical Society (ACS)
1155 16th Street, NW
Washington DC, 20036
Phone: 202.872.6250
Fax: 202.833.7732
Toll-Free Number: 800.227.5558, ext. 6250
Email: scholars@acs.org

Purpose: The ACS Scholars Program was established in 1994 to attract African American, Hispanic, and American Indian students considered underrepresented in the chemical sciences by the National Science Foundation to pursue careers in the field.

Eligibility: To be considered for a scholarship through the ACS Scholars Program, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Be African-American, Hispanic/Latino, or American Indian
- ❖ Be a US citizen or permanent US resident
- ❖ Be a full-time student at a high school or accredited college, university, or community college
- ❖ Demonstrate high academic achievement in chemistry or science (Grade Point Average 3.0, “B” or better)
- ❖ Demonstrate financial need according to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA) and the Student Aid Report (SAR)
- ❖ Be a graduating high school senior or college freshman, sophomore, or junior intending to or already majoring in chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering or a chemically-related science or intending to or already pursuing a degree in chemical technology
- ❖ Be planning a career in the chemical sciences

Requirements: [Scholarship Application](#), Form for New Applicants, FAFSA SAR Report, Transcript, ACT or SAT Scores, 2 Letters of Recommendation

Awards: \$2,500 (Freshman), \$3,000 (Sophomore), and \$5,000 (Junior and Senior) (Renewable; Native American recipients represent only 6% of all awards granted. This is likely due to a lack of Native American students applying). 100 scholarships are awarded each year

Sponsoring Organization: American Indian/Alaska Native Employee Association for NRCS

Scholarship Name: American Indian/Alaska Native Employee Association for NRCS
Scholarship

Deadline: April 1 (Postmarked by this date)
Opening date is January 1 (date applications are available)

Website: <http://www.aianea.com>
On the left-hand navigation bar, click the “[Scholarship Info](#)” link, near the bottom.

Contact Info: Felix Nez, Jr.
AIANEA Scholarship Committee Chairman
HC 63, Box 6087
Winslow, AZ 86047
Phone: 928.657.3251
Fax: 928.657.3288
Cell: 928.613.8107
Email: felix.nez@az.usda.gov

Eligibility:

- ❖ American Indian/Alaska Native students pursuing a degree in a natural resources field
- ❖ Is or will be attending an accredited college or university
- ❖ Is or will be enrolled in a course directly related to a natural resources field
- ❖ Maintains a grade point average of 2.5 or above in course work

Requirements: Scholarship Application, Transcript, Short Biography, and Photo

Awards: \$150 to \$500
(Two awarded; scholarship recipients will receive a one-year student membership to the AIANEA as part of the scholarship package)

Sponsoring Organization: National Relief Charities

Scholarship Name: American Indian Education Foundation (AIEF) Undergraduate Scholarship

Deadline: April 4
(Completed applications received before March 1st will earn one additional point in your score.)

Website: www.nrcprograms.org
Select “Our Programs” tab at the top of the page. Select the first program, American Indian Education Foundation, click on “View Website.” Select “[Scholarship Info](#)” or “Application” in the right-hand sidebar.

Contact Info: American Indian Education Foundation
2401 Eglin Street
Rapid City, SD 57703
Toll-Free Number: 1.866.866.8642
Email: (Student Contact) mlee@nrcl.org

Purpose: The American Indian Education Foundation was established to support educational opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native students. Their vision is supporting strong, self-sufficient American Indian communities.

Eligibility:

- ❖ Native American or Alaska Native descent (student or one parent must be enrolled and have documentation)
- ❖ Attending or accepted by an accredited 2- or 4-year college/university or technical/vocational school
- ❖ Must be enrolled as a full-time student
- ❖ GPA between 2.0-3.4 is desirable (but ALL current or future undergraduate college students are encouraged to apply)
- ❖ An ACT score of 14 or above is desirable
- ❖ Scholarships are available for undergraduate studies only; online colleges are not applicable
- ❖ Scholarship can only be used for tuition and books

Requirements: Undergraduate Scholarship Application, Community Involvement Form, Essay, Photo, Tribal Enrollment Document/Card (copy only; do not send originals) recent Transcript (or GED documentation) with GPA, ACT Test Score (applicable ONLY to incoming freshmen who have taken the ACT Test)

Awards: \$2,000 per year; renewable

Sponsoring Organization: American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES)

Scholarship Name: A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: June 15

Website: <http://www.aises.org>

Click on the “What We Do” tab, select the “Programs” tab and select “[Scholarships](#)” from the left-hand sidebar. Select the scholarship title.

Contact Info: American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES)

Liz Encinias, Scholarship Coordinator

P.O. Box 9828

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87119

Phone: 505.765.1052, extension 107

Fax: 505.765.5608

Email: liz@aises.org

Federal Express Deliveries:

2305 Renard SE, Suite 200

Albuquerque, NM 87106

Purpose: AISES’ own scholarship program was established in 1983 in memory of A.T. Anderson (Mohawk), a chemical engineer who founded AISES with six other American Indian scientists. Scholarships are awarded to members of AISES who are American Indian/Alaskan Native college students pursuing academic programs in the sciences, engineering, medicine, natural resources, and math.

Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Must have a 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) or higher cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)
- ❖ Must be a full-time undergraduate at an accredited 4-year college/university or a full-time student at a 2-year college enrolled in a program leading to an academic degree.
- ❖ Must be a member of an American Indian tribe or otherwise considered to be an American Indian by the tribe with which affiliation is claimed; or is at least ¼ American Indian blood.
- ❖ Must be a current member of AISES. To obtain an AISES membership go to: <http://www.aises.org/involve/membership/join>. (Link is available on the scholarship application.)

Requirements: [Application](#), Official Transcript, Personal Essay, 2 Letters of Recommendation, Résumé, Tribal Enrollment (Certificate of Indian Blood [CIB] or proof of tribal enrollment), AISES Membership (you must join; student membership is available)

Awards: \$1,000; 80 scholarships are awarded

Sponsoring Organization: American Indian Science & Engineering Society and Intel Corporation

Scholarship Name: AISES Intel Scholarship

Deadline: June 15

Website: <http://www.aises.org>

Click on the “What We Do” tab, select the “Programs” tab and select “[Scholarships](#)” from the left-hand sidebar. Select the scholarship title.

Contact Info: American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES)

Liz Encinias, Scholarship Coordinator

P.O. Box 9828

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87119

Phone: 505.765.1052, extension 107

Fax: 505.765.5608

Email: liz@aises.org

Federal Express Deliveries: 2305 Renard SE, Suite 200, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Purpose: The AISES Intel Scholarship funds American Indian/Alaska Native AISES members pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. This scholarship was developed to support the advancement of American Indian and Alaska Native students with technical and leadership accomplishments, as well as a commitment to and passion for the computer science field.

Eligibility:

- ❖ Applicant must have a 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- ❖ Must be a full-time undergraduate at an accredited four-year college/university, or a full-time student at a two-year college enrolled in a program leading to an academic degree.
- ❖ Majoring in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or Electrical Engineering. Students majoring in Chemical Engineering and Material Science will also be considered.
- ❖ Must be a member of an American Indian tribe or otherwise considered to be an American Indian by the tribe with which affiliation is claimed; or is at least $\frac{1}{4}$ American Indian blood.
- ❖ Must be a current member of AISES. To obtain an AISES membership go to: <http://www.aises.org/involve/membership/join>.

Requirements: [Application](#), Official Transcript, Personal Essay, 2 Letters of Recommendation, Résumé, Tribal Enrollment (Certificate of Indian Blood [CIB] or proof of tribal enrollment), AISES Membership (you must join; student membership is available)

Awards: \$5,000/year; non-renewable

Sponsoring Organization: American Meteorological Society (AMS)

Scholarship Name: AMS Minority Scholarship

Deadline: February 10

Website: <http://www.ametsoc.org>

Select “Search” at the top of the page. Type in the name of the [scholarship](#).

Contact Info: Donna Fernandez
Development and Student Programs Manager
Attn: Minority Scholarship
45 Beacon Street
Boston MA, 02108-3693
Phone: 617.227.2426, extension 3907
Email: dfernandez@ametsoc.org

Purpose: To support the college education of minority students traditionally underrepresented in the sciences, especially Hispanic, Native American, and Black/African American students, who intend to pursue careers in the atmospheric or related oceanic and hydrologic sciences.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a US citizen or permanent resident who is Black/African-American, Hispanic, or Native American and intending to make atmospheric science a career. They must be pursuing a degree at a US institution.

Requirements: Application, Letter of Recommendation, Essay (500 words or less), and Official Transcript.

Awards: \$3,000 a year for Freshman and Sophomore years (\$6,000 total); renewable

Sponsoring Organization: American Physical Society (APS)

Scholarship Name: APS Minority Scholarship

Deadline: First Friday in February (February 3)
(Opens November 1)

Website: <http://www.aps.org>
In the left-hand sidebar, click on “Students & Educators.” Below the
“Undergraduate” title, select “[Minority Scholarships](#).”

Contact Info: Arlene Modeste-Knowles
One Physics Ellipse, 4th Floor
College Park, MD 20740
Phone: 301.209.3200
Fax: 301.209.0865
Email: minorityscholarship@aps.org

Purpose: The goal of this minority scholarship is to increase the number of under-represented minorities obtaining degrees in physics. It provides funding and mentoring to minority physics students to enhance their education and help them prepare for success in various careers.

Eligibility: Any African-American, Hispanic American, or Native American US citizen or permanent resident who is majoring or planning to major in physics, and who is a high school senior, college freshman, or sophomore is eligible to apply for the scholarship. Engineering Physics and Applied Physics majors are also welcome to apply.

Requirements: Official Transcript, 2 Letters of Recommendation (science or math teacher), SAT or ACT scores, Essay

Awards: \$2,000 for new scholarships and \$3,000 for renewal scholarships
(41 scholarships were awarded in 2011/2012)

Sponsoring Organization: Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA)

Scholarship Name: Allogan Slagle Memorial Scholarships

Deadline: March 19 to June 4 (received by)

Website: <http://www.indian-affairs.org>

Click on the “Scholarships” tab at the top of your screen. In the sidebar on the right, click on the “[Allogan Slagle](#)” link to explore this scholarship. Click on “Apply” for the application. Then go back and read “[AAIA Scholarships](#)” (still in the right sidebar) for any updated information.

Contact Info: Association on American Indian Affairs
Lisa Wyzlic, Director of Scholarship Programs
966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 240.314.7155
Fax: 240.314.7159
Email: lw.aaia@verizon.net

Purpose: The Association on American Indian Affairs offers Allogan Slagle Memorial Scholarships to students who are members of tribes that are *not* recognized by the federal government.

- Eligibility:**
- ❖ Due to tribal status, the ¼ blood quantum requirement is waived for this scholarship only. A CIB is requested if available, but not required. Documents showing lineal descent and a letter from your Tribal Chairman are otherwise required.
 - ❖ Applicants must be full-time students attending an accredited school. Applicants must be from tribes from the continental US or Alaska only. (Possible exceptions for some Canadian border tribes—call for more information.)
 - ❖ Send one application package only. You will be considered for all scholarships for which you are eligible. (AAIA has several scholarships available.)

Requirements: Application, Copy of Tribal Enrollment with blood quantum or copy of Tribal Enrollment without blood quantum and alternate documentation showing descendency (copy of parent and grandparent enrollment or a letter from Tribal Chairman vouching for lineal descent and copy of family tree). All applications and documentation must be sent by mail.

Awards: \$1,500 (annually); renewable

Sponsoring Organization: Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA)

Scholarship Name: Adolph Van Pelt Special Fund for Indians Scholarship

Deadline: March 19 to June 4 (received by)

Website: <http://www.indian-affairs.org>

Click on the “Scholarships” tab at the top of your screen. In the sidebar on the right, click on “[AAIA Scholarships](#)” to review updated information. Then click on the “[Adolph Van Pelt](#)” link. Then click on “Apply” for the application.

Contact Info: Association on American Indian Affairs
Lisa Wyzlic, Director of Scholarship Programs
966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 240.314.7155
Fax: 240.314.7159
Email: lw.aaia@verizon.net

Purpose: The Association on American Indian Affairs offers the Adolph Van Pelt Scholarship to Native American students.

- Eligibility:**
- ❖ Due to tribal status, the ¼ blood quantum requirement is waived for this scholarship only. A CIB is requested if available, but not required. Documents showing lineal descent and a letter from your Tribal Chairman are otherwise required.
 - ❖ Applicants must be full-time students attending an accredited school. Applicants must be from tribes from the continental US or Alaska only. (Possible exceptions for some Canadian border tribes—call for more information.)
 - ❖ Send one application package only. You will be considered for all scholarships for which you are eligible. (AAIA has several scholarships available.)

Requirements: Application, Copy of Tribal Enrollment with blood quantum or copy of Tribal Enrollment without blood quantum and alternate documentation showing descendency (copy of parent and grandparent enrollment or a letter from Tribal Chairman vouching for lineal descent and copy of family tree). All applications and documentation must be sent by mail.

Awards: \$1,500 (annually); renewable

Sponsoring Organization: Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA)

Scholarship Name: Elizabeth and Sherman Asche Memorial Scholarship Fund

Deadline: March 19 to June 4 (received by)

Website: <http://www.indian-affairs.org>

Click on the “Scholarships” tab at the top of your screen. In the sidebar on the right, click on “[AAIA Scholarships](#)” to review updated information. Then click on the “[Elizabeth Asche](#)” link. For the application, select the “Apply” link.

Contact Info: Association on American Indian Affairs
Lisa Wyzlic, Director of Scholarship Programs
966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 240.314.7155
Fax: 240.314.7159
Email: lw.aiaa@verizon.net

Purpose: The Association on American Indian Affairs offers Elizabeth and Sherman Asche Memorial Scholarships to students pursuing a degree in public health or science.

- Eligibility:**
- ❖ Due to tribal status, the ¼ blood quantum requirement is waived for this scholarship only. A CIB is requested if available, but not required. Documents showing lineal descent and a letter from your Tribal Chairman are otherwise required.
 - ❖ Applicants must be full-time students attending an accredited school. Applicants must be from tribes from the continental US or Alaska only. (Possible exceptions for some Canadian border tribes—call for more information.)
 - ❖ Student must be pursuing a degree in Public Health or Science.
 - ❖ Send one application package only. You will be considered for all scholarships for which you are eligible. (AAIA has several scholarships available.)

Requirements: Application; Copy of Tribal Enrollment with blood quantum or copy of Tribal Enrollment without blood quantum and alternate documentation showing descendancy (copy of parent and grandparent enrollment or a letter from Tribal Chairman vouching for lineal descent and copy of family tree). All applications and documentation must be sent by mail.

Awards: \$1,500 (annually); renewable

Sponsoring Organization: Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA)

Scholarship Name: David Risling Emergency Aid Scholarships

Deadline: March 19 to June 4 (received by)

Website: <http://www.indian-affairs.org>

Click on the “Scholarships” tab at the top of your screen. In the sidebar on the right, click on “[AAIA Scholarships](#)” to review updated information. Then click on “[Emergency Aid](#).” For the application, select the “Apply” link.

Contact Info: Association on American Indian Affairs
Lisa Wyzlic, Director of Scholarship Programs
966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 240.314.7155
Fax: 240.314.7159
Email: lw.aaia@verizon.net

Purpose: The Association on American Indian Affairs offers David Risling Emergency Aid Scholarships for acute, temporary emergencies (eviction, daycare dismissal, medical, car repairs, utility disconnections, etc.). Applications for this scholarship are not considered during the “regular” scholarship process. Aid is available during both fall and spring semesters for emergencies that arise during the fall and spring semesters only. Students may not apply for funding due to circumstances which occurred during the summer. Tuition, books, computers, and expected expenses are not considered emergencies.

Eligibility: Applicants must be full-time students attending or enrolled in an accredited school. Applicants must be from tribes from the continental US or Alaska only. (Possible exceptions for some Canadian border tribes—call for more information.) A CIB or Tribal Enrollment card is required. Students may receive only one scholarship per academic year. If you are a recipient of one of our other scholarships, you are not eligible for emergency aid.

Requirements: If you have questions about whether your situation qualifies as an emergency, contact Lisa Wyzlic at lw.aaia@verizon.net or 240.314.7155. Scholarship disbursement is based on availability of funds. Call first in order to determine fund availability. If awarded, turn around time is approximately 2 weeks.

Additional information is required for this scholarship, including a description of need and proof of need such as receipts or estimates.

Awards: \$100 to \$400

Sponsoring Organization: Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA)

Scholarship Name: Emilie Hesemeyer Memorial Scholarships

Deadline: March 19 to June 4 (received by)

Website: <http://www.indian-affairs.org>

Click on the “Scholarships” tab at the top of your screen. In the sidebar on the right, click on “[AAIA Scholarships](#)” to review updated information. Then click on the “[Emilie Hesemeyer](#)” link. For the application, select the “Apply” link.

Contact Info: Association on American Indian Affairs
Lisa Wyzlic, Director of Scholarship Programs
966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 12-B
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 240.314.7155
Fax: 240.314.7159
Email: lw.aaia@verizon.net

Purpose: The Association on American Indian Affairs offers Emilie Hesemeyer Memorial Scholarships with a preference given, but not limited to, students pursuing a major in Education.

- Eligibility:**
- ❖ Due to tribal status, the ¼ blood quantum requirement is waived for this scholarship only. A CIB is requested if available, but not required. Documents showing lineal descent and a letter from your tribal chairman are otherwise required.
 - ❖ Applicants must be full-time students attending an accredited school. Applicants must be from tribes from the continental US or Alaska only. (Possible exceptions for some Canadian border tribes—call for more information.)
 - ❖ Preference will be given to students pursuing a major in Education.
 - ❖ Send one application package only. You will be considered for all scholarships for which you are eligible. (AAIA has several scholarships available.)

Requirements: Application; Copy of Tribal Enrollment with blood quantum or copy of Tribal Enrollment without blood quantum and alternate documentation showing descendency (copy of parent and grandparent enrollment or a letter from Tribal Chairman vouching for lineal descent and copy of family tree). All applications and documentation must be sent by mail.

Awards: \$1,500; renewable

Sponsoring Organization: Association for Women Geoscientists

Scholarship Name: AWG Minority Scholarship

Deadline: June 30 (received by)

Website: <http://www.awg.org>

Click the “Awards & Scholarships” link in the sidebar to the left. From the drop-down menu, select “[Scholarships](#).” Here you will find a list of scholarships that includes the [AWG Minority Scholarship](#). Click on that link.

Contact Info: Association for Women Geoscientists
Attn: Minority Scholarship
12000 N. Washington Street, Suite 285
Thorton, CO 80241
Email: minorityscholarship@awg.org

Purpose: This scholarship encourages young minority women to pursue an education and later a career in the geosciences. It provides financial aid and matches the student with a mentor in the same field who will offer guidance and support. This exchange will enhance the student’s experience and provide a view of the world ahead.

Eligibility: The applicant must be:

- ❖ A woman who is African-American, Hispanic, or Native American and a US citizen
- ❖ A full-time student who is pursuing an undergraduate degree in the geosciences (geology, geophysics, geochemistry, hydrology, meteorology, physical oceanography, planetary geology, or earth-science education) at an accredited college or university (high school students who will enter one of these fields during their freshman year may also apply)
- ❖ A contributor to the larger world community through her academic and personal strengths
- ❖ Financial support is for full-time students who are enrolling or already enrolled in an accredited institution as undergraduates in a degree-granting program (a student who has completed coursework at a community college and intends to transfer to a college or university with a geoscience program is also eligible for this award)
- ❖ Must also be majoring in a geoscience field such as geology, geophysics, geochemistry, hydrology, meteorology, physical oceanography, planetary geology, or earth-science education. This program does not support students in other natural sciences, mathematics, engineering, or land-use planning.
- ❖ High school seniors may apply, but if they are selected to receive a scholarship, the funds will not be sent until AWG receives proof of enrollment in an appropriate program, such as a letter from the student’s academic advisor or a course schedule.

- ❖ Prior recipients of AWG Minority Geoscience Scholarships may reapply for continuing support during each of their undergraduate years.

If you have questions, contact Christina Tapia at awgscholarship@yahoo.com.

Requirements: Scholarship Application, Personal Statement, 2 Letters of Recommendation, Official Transcript, SAT or ACT Scores

Awards: \$6,000; renewable; matched with a mentor in student's field; and a one-year membership in AWG.

Any applicant may request an AWG mentor, even if she does not receive a scholarship.

Sponsoring Organization: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Scholarship Name: Gates Millennium Scholars

Deadline: January 11

Website: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org>

Click on the “Topics” tab at the top of your screen. Under the drop-down menu, click on “[Scholarships](#)” located under “Education & Information.” Then select “[Find a Scholarship](#)” tab. You will see a list of scholarships. Select the “[Gates Millenium Scholarships](#)” link. Then click on the “[GMS Application](#)” located in the sidebar. Be sure to also check out their “[Scholarship Links](#)” to locate additional scholarships for which you might be eligible.

Contact Info: Gates Millennium Scholars

P.O. Box 1434

Alexandria, Virginia 22313

Toll-Free Phone: 877.690.4677

They are unable to accept faxes or mail that requires a signature for receipt of delivery.

Purpose: The Gates Millennium Scholars Program (GMS), funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding, low-income African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline or area of interest.

Eligibility: American Indian/Alaska Natives will be asked to provide proof of tribal enrollment or certificate of descent from a state- or federally-recognized tribe if selected as a GMS Candidate. Students are eligible to be considered for a GMS scholarship if they:

- ❖ Are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian and Pacific Islander American, or Hispanic American
- ❖ Are a citizen, national, or legal permanent resident of the United States
- ❖ Have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 unweighted scale or have earned a GED.
- ❖ Will be enrolling for the first-time at a US located, accredited college or university (with the exception of students concurrently pursuing a high school diploma) as a full-time, degree-seeking, first-year student. First-time college enrollees can also be GED recipients.
- ❖ Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular, or other activities
- ❖ Meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria.
- ❖ Have completed and submitted all three required forms: the student’s application (Nominee Personal Information Form), an evaluation of the student’s academic record (Nominator Form), and an evaluation of the student’s community service and leadership activities (Recommender Form) by the deadline.

Requirements: Complete instructions for submitting a scholarship application can be found at www.gmsp.org. Click on the “[GMS Application](#)” for details. It is a simple process, but contains complex instructions which must be followed exactly.

Awards: Individuals selected as Gates Scholars will receive funds in an amount to be determined by GMS based on financial need. The award will be based on the cost of tuition, fees, books and living expenses for the academic year, as well as the availability of grants and other scholarships reported on the financial aid award letter. (Note: Gates scholars have been awarded scholarships that have completely paid for their 4-year college education.)

Sponsoring Organization: Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars, Inc.

Scholarship Name: The Native American Scholarship

Deadline: June 15

Website: www.csdiw.org

Click on the “[Scholarships](#)” link in the left sidebar.

Contact Info: Email: leslie@khs65.com

Purpose: To assist Native American students to achieve their academic goals in the field of Education or Social Service.

Eligibility: To qualify for the scholarship, each applicant must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Be an enrolled tribal member
- ❖ Plan to work with a tribe or nation in the field of Education or Social Service. Career goals should involve working with Native Americans.
- ❖ Be accepted in, or already attending an accredited college or university or enrolled in an undergraduate program, and preferably entering his/her Junior year.
- ❖ Maintain a 3.0 average and carry at least 10 quarter hours or 8 semester hours. This allows for a work/study program and is required for consideration.

Requirements: Applicants must contact the Scholarship Chairman for more information.

Submit:

- ❖ Application Form
- ❖ Certification of tribal enrollment
- ❖ A written statement of financial need and verification of current address.
- ❖ An Official Transcript of grades for the last 2 semesters or last 3 quarters of academic work.

Awards: \$5,000; renewable

Sponsoring Organization: George Bird Grinnell American Indian Children's Fund

Scholarship Name: Al Qöyawayma Award

Deadline: June 1

Website: www.jellocube.com/grinnellfund

Click on “[Our Programs](#)” tab at the top of the page. You will be presented with a list of scholarships. Read the “Al Qöyawayma Award.” Scroll down to the bottom of the page to obtain more information and to apply.

Contact Info: Dr. Paula Mintzies, Executive Director
George Bird Grinnell American Indian Fund
P.O. Box 59033
Potomac MD, 20859
Phone: 301.424.2440
Fax: 301.424.8281
Email: info@grinnellfund.com

Purpose: None stated.

Eligibility: Applicants must:

- ❖ Be accepted or already attending either an undergraduate or graduate program. Consideration is also given to students enrolled in 2-year colleges.
- ❖ Demonstrate financial need
- ❖ Have proof of tribal enrollment
- ❖ Major in either science or engineering and have demonstrated an outstanding interest and skill in any of the visual, literary, or performing arts.

Requirements: Application Form (two pages), 2 Letters of Recommendation, Personal Statement, Official Transcript, Financial Needs Form, Proof of Tribal Enrollment, Letter of Acceptance from your school. The Scholarship Application can be found at www.jellocube.com/grinnellfund/contact.html

Awards: \$1,000

Sponsoring Organization: George Bird Grinnell American Indian Children's Fund

Scholarship Name: Schuyler M. Meyer, Jr. Award

Deadline: June 1

Website: www.jellocube.com/grinnellfund

Click on "[Our Programs](#)" tab at the top of your page. You will be presented with a list of scholarships. Read the "Schuyler M. Meyer, Jr. Award." Scroll down to the bottom of the page to obtain more information and to apply.

Contact Info: Dr. Paula Mintzies, Executive Director
George Bird Grinnell American Indian Fund
P.O. Box 59033
Potomac MD, 20859
Phone: 301.424.2440
Fax: 301.424.8281
Email: info@grinnellfund.com

Purpose: None stated.

Eligibility: Applicants must:

- ❖ Be accepted or already attending either an undergraduate or graduate program. Consideration is also given to students enrolled in 2-year colleges.
- ❖ Demonstrate financial need
- ❖ Have proof of tribal enrollment

Students in all fields of study are able to apply. Recent high school graduates, students already attending undergraduate and graduate programs, older adults returning to school after a long absence from formal educational studies are all able to apply.

Requirements: Scholarship Application, 2 Letters of Recommendation, Personal Statement, Official Transcript, Financial Needs Form, Proof of Tribal Enrollment, Letter of Acceptance. The Scholarship Application can be found at www.jellocube.com/grinnellfund/contact.html

Awards: Not stated

Sponsoring Organization: Indian Health Service/US Department of Health and Human Services

Scholarship Name: IHS Scholarships: Preparatory Scholarship, Pre-Graduate Scholarship, and the Health Professions Scholarship

Deadline: May 7

Website: <http://www.ihs.gov>

Click on the link “Go to Jobs and Student Opportunities” in the Jobs and Student Opportunities box. Next, click on the “[Scholarships Program](#)” link under the Financial Aid title. Click on the APPLY NOW button. You will be required to create an account and sign in. Once you have done this (and verified your email address), sign into your account. Then select “Scholarship Home” from the sidebar on the left. Select “[Apply Now](#)” and click on the “Modify” link. The entire application is completed online. Click on the “[Forms and Handbooks](#)” in the left sidebar for complete information. If you prefer a paper application, go to the “[Contact Us](#)” button and complete the request.

Click on the “Learn More” link in the left sidebar. Select “IHS Scholarships” and scroll down to the bottom of the page. You’ll find a link to the “[IHS Scholarship Program Application Handbook - PDF File](#).” It is recommended that you read this valuable and informative document before completing your application.

Contact Info: IHS Scholarship Program Office
801 Thompson Avenue, TMP-450
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: 301.443.6197
Fax: 301.443.6048

Vermont IHS Contact:
Ashley Jernigen
711 Stewarts Perry Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: 615.467.1515
Fax: 615.467.1595
Email: ashley.jernigen@ihs.gov

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native students to enroll in courses in preparation for entry to health professional schools, such as medical, nursing, pharmacy, and others as needed.

Eligibility: Applicants must be a US citizen and an American Indian or Alaska Native.
❖ Submit an official signed document that the tribe is recognized by the State of Vermont

- ❖ Additional information is in the Application itself, in the Handbook or found at www.ihs.gov/scholarship/recipient_responsibilities.cfm.
- ❖ High school graduate
- ❖ Capable of completing a health professions course of study
- ❖ Enrolled or accepted in a preparatory/undergraduate prerequisite general education course or curriculum.
- ❖ Intend to serve Indian people as a health care provider in your chosen discipline or specialty
- ❖ Have a minimum 2.0 GPA.

Requirements: Application Form, Application Checklist, 2 Letters of Recommendation, Tribal documentation, Official Transcript, Proof of Acceptance to College, Reasons for Requesting Scholarship Form, Delinquent Federal Debt Form, W-4 Form, Verification of Course Curriculum (signed), Curriculum for Major, Acknowledgment card. You will need to copy all of this as this scholarship requires an original application package plus one copy.

Awards: Full tuition costs and mandatory fees, books, and other tuition expenses for 2 to 4 years. See [Handbook](#) for specifics.

Sponsoring Organization: International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons, Inc.

Scholarship Name: North American Indian Scholarship

Deadline: March 1

Website: <http://www.iokds.org>

In the right-hand sidebar, click on the "[Scholarships Program](#)" link. You will be presented with a list of scholarships. Select the "[North American Indian Scholarship](#)" link.

Contact Info: Joyce Morris, Director
North American Indians Department
1042 Windward Road
Charleston, SC 29412

Requests sent to:

IOKDS
North American Indian Department Director
P.O. Box 1040
Chautauqua, NY 14722-1040

Purpose: None stated

Eligibility: Applicants must be Native American

Requirements: To obtain an application, students must write a letter to request it and send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Director. Applicants must follow these guidelines:

- ❖ Each applicant must request his/her own application form between September 1 and March 1. All applications must be postmarked no later than April 15.
- ❖ Application request and completed applications must include a stamped, self-addressed legal size (9.5 x 4.3 or #10) envelope so that postage may be kept to a minimum.
- ❖ To be considered for a scholarship, the Application Form must be completely filled out and all other requirements must be fulfilled.
- ❖ A current picture of the applicant. (Not a requirement)
- ❖ The applicant must have a Tribal Registration Number. There is no restriction as to tribal affiliation or degree of Indian blood, but documentation of the Tribal Registration must be included.
- ❖ An applicant must furnish two letters of recommendation with the application.
- ❖ Whether an applicant is a beginning or continuing college student, a copy of an Acceptance Letter from the college of choice must be furnished.
- ❖ An official transcript of an applicant's latest grades must be furnished
- ❖ A minimum of nine credit hours must be taken each semester or quarter.

- ❖ The address of the Financial Aid Office of your school must be furnished. Award money is sent directly to the school.
- ❖ A personal statement must be included. Please put something about yourself and what you want to do with your education.
- ❖ Only one family member may receive a scholarship per year from the Order. Family includes parents, children, brothers, sisters, or spouse.
- ❖ A student will not be considered for multiple scholarships offered by the Order.
- ❖ Scholarships are small and are intended for supplementary use. Scholarships are usually announced by June 15. They are given for technical, vocational, or college study. Scholarships are not granted for study beyond a Bachelor's Degree.
- ❖ All changes of address must be reported to the Department Director.
- ❖ Failure to comply with any of the above requirements may jeopardize the receipt of a scholarship.
- ❖ All materials or further questions may be sent to the Director of the North American Indian Department
- ❖ Permission to use picture on Kings Daughters and Sons Website (can be declined), but must be provided in writing.

Awards: \$650

Sponsoring Organization: National Alaska Native American India Nurses Association (NANAINA)

Scholarship Name: NANAINA Merit Award

Deadline: July 1

Website: <http://www.nanainanurses.org>
Select “Scholarships” from the tabs at the top.

Contact Info: John Lowe
Email: scholarships@nanainanurses.org

Purpose: To support and encourage Native American students to pursue a career in nursing.

Eligibility: Must be a NANAINA member (you can join on their website). Must be enrolled in a US federal or state-recognized tribe. Must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate nursing student in an accredited or state-approved school of nursing.

Requirements:

- ❖ Completed Application
- ❖ Proof of enrollment in a federally/state-recognized tribe
- ❖ Letter of Support from an Academic Advisor
- ❖ Transcript
- ❖ Current NANAINA Membership Status

Awards: Not stated.

Sponsoring Organization: National Indian Education Association

Scholarship Name: John C. Rouillard and Alice Tonemah Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: April 1 to June 15

Website: <http://www.niea.org>

Click on “Students” tab and select “Scholarships” from the drop-down menu. Then select “[Scholarship Listing](#).” Click on the first link “[NIEA Scholarship](#)” webpage.

Contact Info: NIEA Scholarship Committee
110 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Suite 104
Washington, D.C. 20002
Phone: 202.544.7290
Fax: 202.544.7293
Email: scholarships@niea.org

Purpose: To honor the achievements of John C. Rouillard and Alice Tonemah.

Eligibility: Awarded to post-secondary American Indian, Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian (AI/AN/NA) students who are enrolled full-time pursuing an associate, bachelor, master, or doctoral degree. Nominees must demonstrate leadership qualities, maintain high academic achievement, serve as a role model for other students, and exhibit cultural involvement.

Requirements: You must be nominated by a member of the National Indian Education Association. (Check with your Chief, Tribal Council, or the Title VII Indian Education offices. If you do not know someone who is a NIEA member, you can email NIEA from their website and ask if you can contact one of their members for a recommendation. Don't let this issue stop you from applying.) Scholarship nominee does not need to be a member. Only nominators need to be members.

Please ensure your nomination documents include:

- ❖ A one-page statement written by nominee, highlighting educational and community achievement.
- ❖ Biographical information giving examples of nominee's work or resume
- ❖ Two letters of recommendation (one letter must be from the nominator). Letters from family members will NOT be accepted.
- ❖ Other supporting documentation (i.e., copies of awards, articles, etc.)
- ❖ A photo of nominee (color, head shot only). Please send a high resolution (300 dpi) JPEG file.
- ❖ Current Official Transcript.
- ❖ Seniors graduating from high school, please submit college acceptance letter and class schedule.

- ❖ A signed letter from the institution's Registrar or appropriate administration verifying nominee's student status.
- ❖ Optional, but encouraged: Other supporting documentation (i.e., copies of awards, articles, etc.)

Awards: Varies by year. Scholarships may be used for educational expenses not covered by other funding sources.

Sponsoring Organization: National Native American Law Enforcement Association (NNALEA)

Scholarship Name: Jimmy Wooten Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: November 15

Website: www.nnalea.org

Contact Info: NNALEA
Attention: Debbie Andrews
P.O. Box 171
Washington, DC 20044
Phone: 202.204.3065
Fax: 866.506.7631
Email: dandrews@nnalea.org

Purpose: To support Native American students who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Eligibility: Native American students who are interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement and have a grade point average of 2.5 or above.

Requirements: Contact NNALEA for their scholarship application.

Awards: \$2,500

Sponsoring Organization: National Native American Law Enforcement Association (NNALEA)

Scholarship Name: Don Leonard Memorial Scholarship

Deadline: November 15

Website: www.nnalea.org

Contact Info: NNALEA
P.O. Box 171
Washington, DC 20044
Phone: 202.204.3065
Fax: 866.506.7631
Email: info@nnalea.org

Purpose: To support Native American students who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Eligibility: Native American students who are interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement and have a grade point average of 2.5 or above.

Requirements: Contact NNALEA for their scholarship application.

Awards: \$2,000

Sponsoring Organization: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Scholarship Name: American Indian Scholarship

Deadline: April 1

Website: <http://www.dar.org>

Select the “[Scholarships](#)” link. This will provide you with information about all their scholarships, application requirements, and detailed instructions. Scroll down to find “[DAR American Indian Scholarship](#).”

Contact Info: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
American Indians Committee
Ellen Boots White, National Chairman
P.O. Box 78
Ashby, NE 69338
Email: americanindiansscholarships@dar.org

Purpose: This scholarship is intended to help Native American students of any age, any tribe, and in any state, striving to get an education.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Native Americans (proof of American Indian blood is required by letter or proof papers), in financial need, and have a grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

Requirements:

- ❖ Completed application
- ❖ Letter giving family history, financial status, and educational objectives.
- ❖ Official copy of last semester Transcript, or last Transcript obtained and sent by previous school.
- ❖ 3 Letters of Recommendation from persons such as teachers, clergy, or others who have personally known applicant for a minimum of two years.
- ❖ Proof of American Indian blood as indicated by one of the following: A card issued by a Tribal Council, a letter from the Tribal Council, or definite proof of a parent belonging to a tribe and applicant’s birth certificate with exact names.
- ❖ Note: No ACT or SAT scores are required.

Awards: \$1,000; non-renewable.

Sponsoring Organization: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Scholarship Name: Frances Crawford Marvin American Indian Scholarship

Deadline: February 1

Website: <http://www.dar.org>

Select the “[Scholarships](#)” link. This will provide you with information about all their scholarships, application requirements, and detailed instructions. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find “[Frances Crawford Marvin American Indian Scholarship](#).”

Contact Info: Ellen Boots White, National Chairman
American Indians Committee
P.O. Box 78
Ashby, NE 69338
Email: americanindiansscholarships@dar.org

Purpose: This scholarship is intended to help Native American students of any age, any tribe, and in any state, striving to get an education.

Eligibility: A candidate for this scholarship must be enrolled full-time at a 2- or 4-year college or university. Applicants must be Native Americans (proof of American Indian blood is required by letter or proof papers). Students must demonstrate financial need, academic achievement, and have a 3.0 or higher grade point average.

Requirements:

- ❖ Completed application
- ❖ Letter giving family history, financial status, and educational objectives.
- ❖ Official copy of last semester transcript, or last transcript obtained and sent by previous school.
- ❖ 3 Letters of Recommendation from persons such as teachers, clergy, or others who have personally known applicant for a minimum of two years.
- ❖ Proof of American Indian blood as indicted by one of the following: A card issued by a Tribal Council, a letter from the Tribal Council, or definite proof of a parent belonging to a tribe and applicant’s birth certificate with exact names.
- ❖ Note: No ACT or SAT scores are required.

Awards: Varies by year; renewable.

Sponsoring Organization: National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

Scholarship Name: Maureen L. and Howard Blitman, P.E., Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering

Deadline: March 1

Website: <http://www.nspe.org>

In the left-hand sidebar, select “Students” under the Resources list. On the next page, select “[Scholarships](#)” link. You will now see a list of scholarships. Click on the link for “[The Maureen L. & Howard N. Blitman, P.E. Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Engineering.](#)” This page also links to their application.

Contact Info: National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)
1420 King Street
Alexandria VA, 22314
Phone: 703.684.2800
Fax: 703.836.4875

Purpose: Awarded annually to a high school senior from an ethnic minority who has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a high school senior who:

- ❖ is a member of an underrepresented ethnic minority in the field of engineering: African-American, Hispanic, or Native American;
- ❖ has been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university; and
- ❖ is a US citizen.

Requirements: Completed Application Form, SAT and/or ACT scores, complete Transcript of the high school grades, 2 Recommendation Letters (from faculty who taught applicant), and a Résumé or Summary of Internship/Co-op Experience(s), and involvement in other activities.

Awards: \$5,000

Sponsoring Organization: Native American Finance Officers Association

Scholarship Name: NAFOA Scholarship

Deadline: November 1 to January 6

Website: <http://www.nafoa.org>

In the left-hand sidebar, select the “[Education](#)” tab. Next, click on the link called “[NAFOA Scholarship](#).” Detailed information and a link to their application can be found here.

Contact Info: Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA)
1101 30th Street, NW
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20007

Purpose: NAFOA is dedicated to supporting Native people pursuing their education. Their scholarship program assists Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students working towards a degree within a financially related field, including Accounting, Business Administration, Economics, or Finance.

Eligibility: Native American students enrolled or enrolling in college who are pursuing a degree in a financially related field including Accounting, Business Administration, Economics, or Finance. Students must be enrolled full-time at an accredited institution in the US. Students must have already declared their major in one of the following areas: Accounting, Business Administration, Economics, or Finance. Students must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Requirements: Applications can be emailed or mailed and must include the following:

- ❖ Completed NAFOA Application
- ❖ Copy of Admissions Letter
- ❖ Copy of Transcript
- ❖ Copy of tribal enrollment document (proof of tribal enrollment or descendency)
- ❖ Personal Statement
- ❖ 2 Letters of Recommendation
- ❖ One photograph (if filing online photo must be in JPG format)
- ❖ Completed Photo/Biography Release Form (included in the application)
- ❖ Completed Tribal Notification Form (included in the application)

Awards: \$1,000 (1 undergraduate) and \$500 (2 at Tribal Colleges)

Sponsoring Organization: Native American Journalists Association (NAJA)

Scholarship Name: NAJA Annual Scholarship

Deadline: March 15

Website: www.naja.com

Select “Resources” tab at top of page. From the drop-down menu, select “[Students](#),” and then the “[NAJA Scholarships](#).”

Contact Info: NAJA Scholarships
OU Gaylord School of Journalism
395 West Lindsey Street
Norman, OK 73019-4201
Phone: 405.325.9008
Fax: 405.325.6945
Email: info@naja.com

Purpose: None stated.

Eligibility: Any Native American high school senior or college student pursuing a career in radio, television, or print (newspaper) journalism. Applicant must be a current NAJA member in good standing. (Membership costs \$10.) Membership status will be verified at the time of application and also during the time of payment distribution. If asked, the candidate must be able to provide proof of enrollment in a state- or a federally recognized tribe.

Requirements:

- ❖ Cover letter stating financial need; area of interest (print, broadcast, photo-journalism, new media, or journalism education); and reasons for pursuing a career in journalism
- ❖ FAFSA Report
- ❖ Other financial reports citing miscellaneous income not listed on FAFSA
- ❖ Official Transcripts
- ❖ 2 Letters of Recommendation
- ❖ Portfolio or work samples (class essays)
- ❖ Proof of tribal enrollment
- ❖ Scholarship Financial Profile

Awards: \$500 to \$2,500
(10 to 15 awarded each year)

Sponsoring Organization: Nihewan Foundation

Scholarship Name: Nihewan Scholarship

Deadline: Open (will accept applications all year long)

Website: <http://www.nihewan.org>

Click on the “[Programs](#)” link in the left sidebar. A brief description is provided along with the Application Form link.

Contact Info: Nihewan Foundation
9595 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1020
Beverly Hills, CA 90212
Phone: 808.822.3111
Fax: 310.278.0238

Contact the Nihewan Foundation to request their Application Form and deadline.

Purpose: The Nihewan Foundation focus is to help Native American students participate in learning. Nihewan is dedicated to improving the education of and about Native American people and cultures. From the Cree language, “Nihewan” means “talk Cree” which implies “be your culture.”

Eligibility: Enrolled member of a Native American tribe, acceptance at an accredited institution of learning; proof of need, proof of application to other foundations.

Requirements: Application Form (including goals with regard to Native American/indigenous studies), other foundation funding applications (copies of other scholarship applications), current scholarship needs, and Transcript

Awards: None stated.

Sponsoring Organization: Society for American Archaeology

Scholarship Name: SAA Arthur C. Parker Scholarship and NSF Scholarship for Archaeological Training

Deadline: December 15

Website: <http://www.saa.org>

In the information box to the right, under the title “Students” click on the “[Awards and Scholarships](#)” link. In the sidebar to the right is a listing of all their scholarships. Click on the “[Arthur C. Parker and NSF Scholarships](#)” link. You will be provided with detailed information along with a link to the application.

Contact Info: Society for American Archaeology
1111 14th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-5622
Phone: 202.789.8200
Fax: 202.789.0284
Email: info@saa.org

Purpose: The Native American Scholarships Fund is an endowment established to foster a sense of shared purpose and positive interaction between archaeologists and Native Americans. The Arthur C. Parker Scholarship is offered to support archaeological training or a research program for Native American students or employees of tribal cultural preservation programs.

Eligibility: You do not need to be formally accepted into the program or university at the time of application. For the student scholarships, you must be enrolled in a regionally accredited university in the United States, or if outside the United States, a university with equivalent accreditation. These scholarships are open to all Native peoples from anywhere in the Americas, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Indigenous Pacific Islanders.

Requirements: You will need to submit the following in a single email to nasf@saa.org:

- ❖ A personal statement explaining why you are interested in your proposed program and archaeology, and the contributions you hope to make to the future of archaeology (up to two pages, single-spaced).
- ❖ Two Letters of Recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic or work background, such as teachers or supervisors. At least one letter should be from a current SAA member. (If you do not know someone who is an SAA member, you can email SAA from their website and ask if you can contact one of their members for a recommendation. Don't let this issue stop you from applying.)
- ❖ A proposed budget explaining financial need and how funds will be expended (up to one page, single-spaced).

- ❖ Documentation of Native identity. Documentation should be provided by either (1) evidence of tribal enrollment or certification of Indian status recognized by a government, or (2) a statement outlining the applicant's Native ancestry (up to one page, single-spaced).
- ❖ If you are applying for an Arthur C. Parker Scholarship or NSF Scholarship for Archaeological Training, include a brief description of your proposed study program (up to one page, single-spaced).

Awards: Up to \$4,000

Sponsoring Organization: Society for American Archaeology

Scholarship Name: SAA Native American Undergraduate Archaeology Scholarship

Deadline: December 15

Website: <http://www.saa.org>

In the information box to the right, under the title “Students” click on the “[Awards and Scholarships](#)” link. In the sidebar to the right is a listing of all their scholarships. Click on the “[Arthur C. Parker and NSF Scholarships](#)” link. You will be provided with detailed information along with a link to the application.

Contact Info: Society for American Archaeology
1111 14th Street NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005-5622
Phone: 202.789.8200
Fax: 202.789.0284
Email: info@saa.org

Purpose: To support undergraduate studies for Native American students, including but not limited to tuition, travel, food, housing, books, supplies, equipment, and child care.

Eligibility: You do not need to be formally accepted into the program or university at the time of application. For the student scholarships, you must be enrolled in a regionally accredited university in the United States, or if outside the United States, a university with equivalent accreditation. These scholarships are open to all Native peoples from anywhere in the Americas, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Indigenous Pacific Islanders.

Requirements: You will need to submit the following in a single email to nasf@saa.org:

- ❖ A personal statement explaining why you are interested in your proposed program and archaeology, and the contributions you hope to make to the future of archaeology (up to two pages, single-spaced).
- ❖ Two Letters of Recommendation from individuals familiar with your academic or work background, such as teachers or supervisors. At least one letter should be from a current SAA member. (If you do not know someone who is an SAA member, you can contact the organization at the website and ask if you can contact one of their members for a recommendation. Don't let this issue stop you from applying.)
- ❖ A proposed budget explaining financial need and how funds will be expended (up to one page, single-spaced).
- ❖ Documentation of Native identity. Documentation should be provided by either (1) evidence of tribal enrollment or certification of Indian status recognized by a government, or (2) a statement outlining the applicant's Native ancestry (up to one page, single-spaced).

Awards: Up to \$5,000

Sponsoring Organization: The Actuarial Foundation

Scholarship Name: Actuarial Diversity Scholarship

Deadline: May 4

Website: <http://www.actuarialfoundation.org>

Select the “Get Involved” tab at the top of the page. From the drop-down menu, select “Apply for a Grant.” At the bottom of the page, click on the link “[Scholarships](#).” Under the “[Actuarial Diversity Scholarship](#)” section, you will find the “Guidelines and Application” link as well as the “Online Application” link.

Contact Info: The Actuarial Foundation
475 North Martingale Road, Suite 600
Schaumburg, IL 60173-2226
Phone: 847.706.3535
Fax: 847.706.3599
Email: Scholarships@ActFnd.org

Purpose: To promote diversity through an annual scholarship program for Black/African American, Hispanic, and Native American Indian students recognizing and encouraging academic achievements by awarding scholarships to full-time undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a degree that may lead to a career in the actuarial profession.

Eligibility: Each applicant must fulfill all the requirements listed below:

- ❖ Each applicant must have at least one birth parent who is a member of one of the following minority groups: Black/African American, Hispanic, Native American Indian.
- ❖ Minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), emphasis on math or actuarial courses.
- ❖ High school seniors must have a minimum ACT math score of 28 or SAT math score of 600
- ❖ Intent on pursuing a career in the actuarial profession.

Requirements: Application Form, Personal Statement, 2 Letters of Recommendation, Transcript (if high school student, also send ACT or SAT scores)

Awards: The scholarship award levels are as follows:

- ❖ High school senior applying for freshman year—\$1,000
- ❖ College freshman applying for sophomore year—\$1,000
- ❖ College sophomore applying for junior year—\$2,000
- ❖ College junior applying for senior year—\$3,000
- ❖ College senior applying for or continuing graduate school—\$3,000
- ❖ Each scholarship recipient will be assigned an actuarial mentor as a personal resource to answer questions about the actuarial field and actuarial exams and to offer career coaching.

(12 awarded annually)

Sponsoring Organization: Vermont EPSCoR Center for Workforce Development & Diversity (CWDD)

Scholarship Name: Native American Student Scholarship

Deadline: April 1

Website: <http://www.uvm.edu/~cwdd/NA Scholarships>

Contact Info: Vermont EPSCoR Center for Workforce Development & Diversity (CWDD)
One Winooski Park, Box 137
Colchester, VT 05439
Phone: 802.654.3270
Email: cwdd@smcvt.edu

Purpose: The Vermont EPSCoR Center for Workforce Development and Diversity (CWDD) works to cultivate and prepare a diverse science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce in Vermont by inspiring students to enter STEM careers. As part of our work, we are pleased to award one scholarship annually to a Native American student in Vermont who enters a STEM major. The awards align with NSF EPSCoR goals to promote opportunities for, and participation by, our nation's Native Americans in careers within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Eligibility: To apply for a Vermont EPSCoR Native American Student Scholarship, an applicant should be:

- ❖ A Vermont resident and US citizen.
- ❖ A graduating senior in a Vermont high school planning to attend a Vermont college during the next academic year, or a current undergraduate enrolled in a degree program in a Vermont institution of higher education.
- ❖ Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- ❖ Enrolling or enrolled in a STEM major in college.

Requirements: Application Form; Essay detailing career goals; current Résumé; 2 Letters of Recommendation (1 from a teacher/faculty member and 1 from a clergy, community member, or employer); Transcript; CDIB or Tribal Enrollment Card.

Awards: \$5,000

Sponsoring Organization: Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VTSGC)

Scholarship Name: Minority Undergraduate Scholarship

Deadline: April 1

Website: <http://www.vtspacegrant.org>

Contact Info: Vermont Space Grant Consortium/NASA ESPSCoR
Votey Building
College of Engineering & Mathematics
University of Vermont
Burlington, VT 05405
Phone: 802.656.1429
Fax: 802.656.1102
Email: zeno@cems.uvm.edu

Purpose: The Vermont Space Grant Consortium works to cultivate and prepare a diverse science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workforce in Vermont by inspiring students to enter STEM careers. As part of our work, we are pleased to award scholarships to Native American students in Vermont who enter a STEM major. The awards align with VTSGC/NASA/EPSCoR goals to promote opportunities for, and participation by, our nation's Native Americans in careers within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Eligibility: To apply for a Vermont Space Grant Consortium Minority Undergraduate Scholarship, an applicant should be:

- ❖ A Vermont resident and US citizen.
- ❖ A graduating senior in a Vermont high school planning to attend a Vermont college during the next academic year, or a current undergraduate enrolled in a degree program in a Vermont institution of higher education.
- ❖ Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- ❖ Enrolling or enrolled in a STEM major in college.

Requirements: Application Form; Essay detailing career goals; current Résumé; 2 Letters of Recommendation (1 from a teacher/faculty member and 1 from a clergy, community member, or employer); Transcript; CDIB or Tribal Enrollment Card.

Awards: \$2,500; renewable for 4 years (4 scholarships were awarded in 2011/2012)

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST			
Scholarship Checklist	Scholarship 1: _____	Scholarship 2: _____	Scholarship 3: _____
Applications			
Request Information/Application Forms			
Application Deadline			
Transcripts (Grades)			
Request High School Transcript Sent			
Request Midyear Grade Reports Sent			
Test Scores			
Send SAT Scores (SAT I)			
Send SAT Subject Test Scores (SAT II)			
Send ACT Scores			
Send AP (Advanced Placement) Scores			
Letters of Recommendation			
Request Recommendations			
Send Thank You Notes			
Essays			
Write Essays			
Proofread for Spelling and Grammar			
Get Feedback on Essays (from 2 people)			
Revise Essays (as needed)			
Essay Sent with Application Form			
Résumé			
Write Résumé			
Proofread Your Résumé for Spelling and Grammar			
Get Feedback on Your Résumé (from 2 people)			
Revise Résumé (as needed)			
Send Résumé			
Photos			
Get photo taken			
Create 2 versions: 300 dpi and 72 dpi jpg formats			
Send Photo			

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST (continued)			
Scholarship Checklist	Scholarship 1: _____	Scholarship 2: _____	Scholarship 3: _____
Other Materials			
Tracking Your Application			
Copy All of Your Application Materials			
Apply Online or by Mail			
Sign Application			
Confirm Application Materials Have Been Received			

CONCLUSION

By now, you have the tools you need to apply to college and locate scholarships that will help continue your education. Understanding the application process involved in selecting a college and obtaining funding is the critical first step. Without this knowledge, many high school students simply do not go on to college, believing that it is beyond their academic abilities or is too expensive. They abandon their college dream. Because you have taken the initiative to read through this guidebook, you understand that getting into college is achievable!

The next step—taking action—is also up to you. Knowledge is important, but without putting it into action, you cannot achieve your goals. Use the forms we've provided in the first section of the guidebook beginning with the "[How to Prepare for College During High School](#)." This will help you get a sense of where you're at and which items you need to focus on. Following this timeline throughout your high school years will keep you on track to realizing your goal to attain a college degree.

There are also questions designed to stimulate your thinking about the kind of college you wish to attend. The [questions](#) are simple and allow you to reflect upon your perfect school. Several forms are included to help you research schools that best fit your needs and narrow down your selection. You can also conduct your research by utilizing the [web portals](#) and [search engines](#) listed in the second section.

The "[College Application Checklist](#)" is an excellent form as it describes each step required and helps you manage your applications. It also indicates the documents you will need to provide. This will give you plenty of time to assemble some of the standard items like your résumé and letters of recommendation. You will likely notice that the "[Scholarship Application Checklist](#)" is very similar. Both contain nearly the same steps and several of the same documents (e.g., résumé, letters of recommendation, Official Transcript, etc.).

We have provided coaching on [how to write an effective essay](#) and [résumé](#), as well as a [sample high school student's résumé](#). It is never too early to write a professional résumé, as it will serve many purposes beyond applying to college. An effective résumé will

assist you in obtaining part-time employment, volunteer opportunities, internships, and scholarships.

Having a current photograph is also important. It is usually requested from colleges and scholarship sponsors during their application process. It is great if you can include it on your résumé. Your photograph should be a close-up of your face or "headshot." It should be a picture of you smiling. An informal photo is fine, just no brooding or scowling faces. You will want to have the photograph in a digital format, as a [JPG file](#) with two resolutions (300 dpi for print; and 72 dpi for uploading online). If you need help with this, consult a friend, parent, or computer science teacher.

The second section focuses on paying for college. It describes what a [FAFSA](#) is and how to submit this critical document to raise money for tuition. We have provided detailed information on how to locate scholarships using search engines and web portals as well as many scholarships.

The [Scholarship Directory](#) contains numerous scholarships based on 18 months of research. The scholarships are organized alphabetically by the sponsor's name. We have included scholarships that require you to be a member of a state-recognized tribe and a high school student or entering college freshman. We also urge you to contact the scholarship sponsor prior to submitting your application. Remember that generations of Abenaki people have worked tirelessly to provide you with the opportunity to apply for these scholarships as a Native American student. It is through their efforts that state recognition was achieved.

While we have listed many funding sources, you are also eligible for thousands of other scholarships that do not require you to be Native American. These scholarships are sometimes based on the college you attend, the state you live in, a sport or hobby you engage in, or the major you plan to study. Section two also provides you with the tools you need to locate these types of scholarships.

The last section is simply a place for you to keep copies of all your notes, completed worksheets, and extra blank worksheets. (Be sure to make copies of the worksheets before you complete them.) We strongly suggest that you make copies of all application mate-

rials for each college, recommendation letters, relevant website pages, and online application pages as you complete them.

Lastly, know that you are not alone on the journey to obtaining a college degree. You have many resources available to you beyond this guidebook. You have guidance available from your parents, grandparents, family members, friends, Tribal Chief,

Tribal Council, [Parent Advisory Committee \(PAC\)](#), UVM/Abenaki Outreach Program, [Title VII Indian Education Program](#), teachers, guidance counselors, mentors, people at your place of employment, Admissions Officers, and students and professors at the colleges you are considering. But, most of all, you have the Abenaki community supporting and encouraging you all along the way.

RECOMMENDED READING

The following is a list of publications that may be helpful in planning for college. These books may be available at the library or from your high school guidance counselor. Many of these books are available on Amazon.com (<http://www.amazon.com>) for as little as one cent plus shipping.

Financial Aid for Native Americans 2009-2011 by Gail Schlachter and R. David Weber, 2003. Reference Service Press, 500 Windplay Drive, Suite 4, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. Website: <http://www.rspfunding.com/catalog/item/1420178/878742.htm>

Get a College Degree Without Drowning in Debt: Scholarship Opportunities available at www.ScholarshipOpportunity.org/publications.html.

"Paying for a College Education" Developing Your Vision While Attending College Series (Book Two), 1999. American Indian College Fund, 1111 Osage Street, Building D, Suite 205W, Denver, CO 80204; 303.892.8312.

The National Indian Grant Directory by S. Jenkins & D. Chavers, 1999. Native American Scholarship Fund, Inc. 8200 Mountain Road NE, Suite 203, Albuquerque, NM 87110; 505.262.2351.

Financing College: How to Use Savings, Financial Aid, Scholarships, and Loans to Afford the School of Your Choice by Kristin Davis, 1996. Kiplinger Books, 1729 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20006; 800.727.7015.

The Seventh Generation: Native Students Speak About Finding the Good Path by Amy Bergstrom, et al., 2003. This book identifies how over 100 Native American students overcame challenges and struggles to succeed in school and achieve their goals.