

Guide to College & Scholarships for Abenaki Students



Updated 2019 Edition

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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;

Jonni Sayres, Jonni Sayres and Associates, Independent/International College Consulting (revision of The College Application Process and The Financial Aid Process):
You embody wisdom and we honor your caring;

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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 VI of the Indian Education Act was first authorized by Congress in 1972. A sub-committee 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 VI is administered through a LEA (Local Education Agency). The Missisquoi Valley School District Superintendent's Office is our LEA. Funding for Title VI comes directly through the federal Department of Education.

Title VI Indian Education is a community-based project that 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?

The Circle of Courage After-School Program The Circle of Courage After-School Program, now in its

23rd year, draws on the writings of acclaimed native author Larry Brendtro who, with colleagues, first introduced this holistic, hands-on experiential model. Tenets of generosity, belonging, independence, and mastery are woven throughout Brendtro's writings and have been adapted to accommodate Abenaki beliefs about children. As we view children from an "at-promise" paradigm, conventional "at-risk" models are replaced with strength-based approaches where all participants learn about the rich Abenaki culture and heritage. Through traditional dancing and drumming, children learn the importance of understanding the old ways while celebrating their role/place in the 21st century.

Brenda Gagne, long-time PAC president, and now in her 23rd year of coordinating the Circle of Courage initiative, is an Abenaki Elder who has spent a lifetime cultivating her rich heritage. Brenda is in local demand both in schools and in social service agencies, as her hands-on highly interactive and informative presentations are very popular with students and adults alike.

Missisquoi Outreach Program Located in a suite of offices housed at Missisquoi Valley Union High School (MVU), where approximately 34% of the students are Abenaki, is our very popular and highly successful program whose purposes range from drop-out prevention to college enrichment. Through a culturally sensitive holistic approach, we support students in all academic subjects. Utilizing our computer lab, students write school papers, receive tutorial support, and are afforded all aspects of college guidance/exploration. Students learn the high school courses necessary for college entrance; further, they learn résumé writing, essay questions for college applications, interviewing skills, and virtually a complete "walk through" that prepares students for successful college admission.

Colleen Plante, Abenaki Elder widely regarded as a tutoring exemplar, coordinates Missisquoi Outreach. She has worked at MVU over 30 years and has been our outreach coordinator for seven years.

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.

Parent Workshops These include various parenting groups, informational sessions with local school administrators and social service personnel, and meetings with college representatives from the University of Vermont. Our PAC members receive staff development training, which ranges from Mental Health First Aid to various cultural offerings. The PAC is the heart and soul of all Abenaki educational and cultural programming in area public schools. Abenaki Elder Patty Greenia has been a PAC member some 25 years while another Abenaki Elder, Ann St. Francis, has been a PAC member over 35 years. Our current PAC is comprised of 15 members including parents, teachers, community Elders, and other interested social service leaders. The current PAC is working on issues of suicide prevention through a collaborative entitled “Connecting Rural Communities.” Here, PAC members have interviewed community members about medical and mental health services whereby Abenaki cultural competencies can be integrated into local systems of care. Another PAC activity is the development of an Abenaki alphabet guide that can be used as we pilot language initiatives, so critical to the community’s cultural well-being.

University of Vermont (UVM) Abenaki Summer Happening Now in its 34th year, Abenaki students spend an overnight at UVM where they experience

college life by staying in dorms, going to classes, and visiting sites of interest in the Burlington, Vermont, area. Follow-up activities are planned throughout the school year, and Title VI staff helps to facilitate college preparations for students planning post-secondary education.

What Curricula Have We Developed?

Finding One’s Way Now in its 14th 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 throughout 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.

FOREWORD

We often think that preparation for college begins in high school. Nothing could be further from the truth! A child's preparation for college starts as early as when a child is in preschool; 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 a parent or extended kin (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 satisfied 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 a "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.

*Abenaki Title VI Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
Sovereign Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi
St. Francis/Sokokki Band
June 2019*

INTRODUCTION

This guide is the culmination of decades of work. When Governor James Douglas signed off on Bill S.117 in May, 2006, it gave Abenaki community members the state recognition they had long sought. Indeed, it was Thanksgiving Day of 1976 when the late Governor Thomas Salmon proclaimed state recognition for the first time. This seminal action was rescinded by incoming Governor Richard Snelling in January, 1977. The Abenaki then turned to the state courts where the community hoped to prove its case. Dozens of Abenaki community members were cited for fishing without licenses. These acts of civil disobedience wound up in the judicial system where the Abenaki won decision after decision. The State of Vermont, in an act of sheer desperation, appealed lower court decisions to the State Supreme Court. Then Governor Madeleine Kunin appointed her press secretary, John Dooley, to the highest court and with his support, the Supreme Court—in its “increasing weight of history” argument—ruled against the Abenaki. The one remaining course of action to obtain state recognition was through the legislative process. Few Vermonters believed the Abenaki stood a chance, as a majority of the 150-member House of Representatives and 30-member Senate would be needed. Yet, this is where the Abenaki resiliency never faltered. In years of negotiations, the Abenaki leadership convinced Vermont legislators that they were the “original Vermonters.” In offering testimony, time after time, the Abenaki talked about the possibilities inherent to their children, since recognition could open up scholarship opportunities the Abenaki students could avail themselves of. For low-income community members, the idea of college scholarships specifically for state recognized tribes, was a powerful incentive. Thus, the Sovereign Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi (St. Francis/Sokoki Band) jumped on the scholarship opportunity once state recognition was realized. Abenaki community leaders turned to Title VI, the educational arm of the Nation, to fund the development of a comprehensive scholarship guide. The guide would also offer Abenaki 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—that 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. Yet this has not been the Abenaki way. Despite dropout rates that approached 70% in the early 1980’s, with over 50% of heads of households leaving school before 9th grade, as well as fewer than 5% of graduating Abenaki 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 dropout rate is under 3%, while over 38% of last year’s graduating seniors (class of 2019) who attended Missisquoi Valley Union High School (MVU, Swanton, Vermont) availed themselves of college.

These impressive statistics speak to Abenaki youth, their families, and their community. Equity of educational opportunity is being realized because, in a democratic society, we want all children to enjoy the possibility of doing whatever they choose to do. While this is an Abenaki desire, it is one we hope every child is afforded. This social justice framework is one the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi has followed some 40 years, when the community began its educational programming. Indeed, it was the late Chief Leonard “Blackie” Lampman who intoned, “We must give this community education. It is education that will make a better life for our children.” Under his leadership, the Abenaki piloted pre-school and kindergarten. At a time when there were virtually no public early-education initiatives in the State of Vermont, the Abenaki leadership refused to give up. With neither federal nor state recognition in hand, the Abenaki forged ahead and creatively found ways to teach developmentally-appropriate offerings. Abenaki 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds were treated to culture through richly textured lesson plans that integrated cognitive learning with an appreciation for the community’s heritage. Teachers in the Abenaki

kindergarten did home visits every six weeks so that parents could be celebrated as their children's first teachers. On a continuum of educational support, services ranged from preschool/kindergarten to GED preparation for those who left school, and basic literacy tutorials for those with barely any formal public education.

In the early 1980's, under the Reagan administration, when most community action programs were being eliminated, the Abenaki flourished as leadership initiated Abenaki Acres, the first Section 8 housing project in the State of Vermont. The Abenaki Self Help Association, Inc. (ASHAI), a 501c(4) agency whose aim was to improve the educational, cultural, and economic conditions for Native Americans residing in Vermont, was awarded disparate community action initiatives. As dozens of Abenaki community members were being hired to coordinate the grass-roots programs that defined the ASHAI, local, state and federal governmental agencies were taking notice of the Missisquoi Abenaki and all this community was accomplishing in the name of equity and social justice. It was at this time that an Abenaki community Elder offered, "To some people, equity is when everyone is given a pair of moccasins. To us, however, equity is when everyone is given a pair that fit..." This aphorism has helped to steer the Abenaki community on course some 40 years.

While many of the early Abenaki leaders did not live to see how many of their dreams were becoming reality, these legendary figures are still owed a debt of gratitude. In addition to the aforementioned Chief Leonard "Blackie" Lampman,

whose insistence that we take care of the community through dozens of locally driven grass-roots efforts, so too the late Chief Homer St. Francis demanded the community be taken seriously as a political force to be reckoned with. Homer was a brilliant tactician who believed the Abenaki were "at war" with the State of Vermont. While he was often characterized by Vermont newspapers as a headstrong individual with a quick temper, it was Homer who sought out civil disobedience as the only Abenaki course of action. Homer's leadership was critical in the Abenaki desire to be recognized. He never gave up and his charisma was strongly felt.

While Homer and Blackie were the Abenaki leaders charged with instilling hope and vision in the Abenaki community, it was Miles Jensen, the executive director of the ASHAI, who was assigned the task of carrying out programmatic goals and objectives. Together with young Abenaki staff hired to facilitate ASHAI initiatives, Miles mentored dozens of Abenaki community members. Concomitantly, he was my mentor and colleague until his life was cut short by a heart attack on May 11, 1991. It was Miles Jensen who introduced so many of us to the world of community organizing and thus set the stage for decades to come. This scholarship guide is dedicated to the memory of these three legendary leaders. So let's begin this new journey together, as we build on the notion of youngsters being able to make choices when they're in their high school years. We promise this to be an exciting venture for all of you willing to join us. And, in the end, we will all have participated in the dream of social justice and equity first explored over 40 years ago.

Jeff Benay, Ed.D.

*Director, Indian Education Programs of Franklin County
Missisquoi Valley School District, Vermont*

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Set off by the tabbed dividers, this guide is organized in two major sections. The first section is designed to guide high school students through the college application process and the second section 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 Funding College section of this guide focuses on the financial aid process and offers a Directory of Scholarships available to Native American high school and college students. Information about the FAFSA form (a financial aid form required for all college students) and instructions for completing it are included.

Information about how to find scholarships using the Internet and other sources is provided. College guidance and other websites have been reviewed and are included to help students search out additional scholarships they may qualify for. The Directory of Scholarships, containing detailed information based on comprehensive research, will start students off on the road to achieving a college education.

At the end of this section of this guide is a list of books students can obtain at a local library or download for free from the Internet.

Finally, the My Notes section of this guide is provided as a place to keep completed forms, extra copies of blank forms, and college research notes.

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**
Information about which application form the college accepts can be found on the college's website. Many colleges exclusively use either the Common Application (<https://www.commonapp.org>) or the Coalition Application at <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>.
Some colleges still maintain their own unique form. Most applications are submitted electronically and require you fill out a brief information form to start your own account. If you prefer to submit a paper form, call the college's admission office and discover if this is possible. Whenever facing an obstacle in understanding or following application directions, check back with your guidance counselor for assistance.
2. **Application Fee** Most public and private universities and colleges charge an application fee. The amount of the application fee varies depending upon on the college to which you are applying. Most colleges offer an Application Fee Waiver to low-income students. If you qualify for a fee waiver to take the SAT or ACT examinations, then you are eligible for four application fee waivers. Other forms of waivers such as the Common Application Fee Waiver may also be available to you. Never give up! If all else fails, call the college's admission office and make your case for needing assistance. Many times the college will waive the fee, or suggest other sources of assistance.
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 okay 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 last year, have your final transcripts sent to the college you plan to attend.
4. **Academic Test Scores** Most colleges will require official copies of your scores on the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT. These scores are sent to you, your high school, and the four to six colleges you listed on the test form or choose on the testing website.
 - For more information on the SAT, including setting up an account, go to <https://www.collegeboard.org/?navId=gh-cb>
 - For more information on the ACT, including registering, go to <http://www.actstudent.org/scores/send/index.html>
 - Fee waivers are also available for these tests. If you are eligible for a fee waiver to register for either of these tests, you may also apply to up to four colleges using these waivers.
 - For more information on the how the fee waivers work, read the information at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees/fee-waivers> and <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/fees.html>

- You can also find free test-prep tools at <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice> and <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html>
 - One other important consideration: if you have taken either exam at least two times and are not happy with the results, a group of more than 1000 schools will accept your application without a test score:
<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>
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, called the *prompt*, is usually included in the application form. Detailed information and coaching on how to write your essay can be found in this guide under the section titled “[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. For the Common App, students are requested to supply the names of one or two teachers, as well as the student’s guidance counselor. One or two “outside of school” recommendations, from individuals such as a band or chorus director, a coach, community or religious leader, or employer are also encouraged. When asking someone for a recommendation, make your request as early as possible, with May of your junior year being the optimal time. At the latest, ask at least six weeks before the college’s deadline. If at all possible, try to have the teacher recommendations include one from the a science or math subject course and one from a humanities class, such as English, foreign language, business, or history. Be sure to follow up with a personal thank you note to those people writing on your behalf and when you are accepted to a school, share the news and joy with these people who have assisted you in obtaining your goal.
 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 of this guide entitled, “[Writing Your Résumé](#).”
 8. **Proof of Tribal Enrollment** Some colleges and most scholarships in this guide will require proof of tribal enrollment or Native American ancestry. This is your tribal card or, perhaps, a letter from your Chief or Tribal Council. Each college and scholarship will have its own requirements, so be sure to read the 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. The purpose of the interview is to expand on what you have already submitted on the application, not to review the application. If you’re too far away for an on-campus interview, many colleges also will do long distance interviews via an Internet application such as Skype. You can also 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 a person you can 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 and procedures.

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

ABOUT COLLEGE ENTRANCE TESTS

The ACT and SAT are two standardized tests that many colleges use to determine whether they feel you would be successful at their college. A college will usually require that you only take one of these tests but you should give each a try to see which is more comfortable for you. All four-year colleges and universities in the United States accept either the ACT or SAT, but individual schools place different weight on standardized-test results when they make their admission decisions. Other factors evaluated during the application process, such as extracurricular activities, community service, and class rank, can also be very important.

Both the ACT and SAT have fees for taking the test. However, for students from low-income families, fee waivers are often available through the high school. This means it is free to take the test one or more times.

Fee waivers are available for the SAT, with or without essay, during junior and senior year, and for two SAT Subject Tests sittings any time during high school. Check out the complete guide to SAT fee waivers on the College Board website at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/fee-waivers>.

Fee waivers are available for the ACT test, with writing or without writing. To obtain a Fee Waiver Form for the ACT, call 319-337-1270 or visit <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/fees.html>.

To determine your eligibility and obtain the fee waiver for either the SAT, SAT Subject Tests, or ACT, see your guidance counselor or someone in your school's office. Local community-based organizations may also have information on or assistance in paying the test fee.

The ACT

The ACT test assesses your general educational development and ability to complete college-level work. The test is three hours and 15 minutes plus an additional 40 minutes for the optional essay. The multiple-choice part of the test covers four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. The writing test measures skill in planning and writing a

short essay. More information on the ACT is available at

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html>.

Free test preparation is available at a website called ACT Academy at

https://academy.act.org/?_ga=2.191087082.1787508033.1542218488-1016863055.1542123611.

The ACT is offered in September, October, December, February, April, and June and is always on a Saturday except for those students with religious obligations.

Students may choose either the ACT Assessment (cost is \$50.50), or the ACT Assessment Plus Writing (cost is \$67.00).

Scores are sent to the student, their high school, and up to four colleges. For information on all ACT fees, visit

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/fees.html>.

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

The SAT

The SAT includes the SAT (a reasoning test) and the SAT Subject Tests (20 tests in five general subject areas). The reasoning test SAT is three hours and 45 minutes long. It measures skills in three areas: critical reading, math, and writing/language. Although most questions are multiple choice, there is also the option to write a 50-minute essay. The SAT is usually offered in August, October, November, December, March, May, and June. The test costs \$47.50 without the essay and \$64.50 with the essay. For more information about fees visit

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/fees>.

A SAT Subject Tests takes one hour and consists of mostly multiple-choice items. 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. Subject tests are offered in August, October, November, December, May, and June. Cost for registration and individual test fees can be found at

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/register/fees-payments/fees>.

Information on how to register for the SAT, testing dates, practice tests, and accommodations for disabled students can be found at

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>.

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 search. To find out more about the PSAT, you can visit the website at

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10>.

How Do the SAT and SAT Subject Tests Differ?

The SAT is largely a test of verbal and math skills. True, you need to know some vocabulary and some formulas for the SAT, but it's designed to measure how well you read and think rather than what you know. The SAT Subject Tests are very different. They are designed to measure what you know about a specific subject. Critical reading and thinking skills play a part in these Subject Tests, but their main purpose is to determine exactly what you know about math (two levels), biology, chemistry, physics, English, US or world history, and nine world languages (Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, and Spanish).

PREPARING 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, as this is the ideal timeline and you can go back and review those items that you have not yet completed. As you complete an item on this list, put a check mark in the box.

Freshman Year (9th Grade)

- Academics** *Your academic achievement in 9th grade counts in the eyes of college admissions officers!* So, take the most challenging math, English, foreign language, and lab science classes that you can do well in, including honors courses. Strive to attain a good GPA so that, later, you may be considered for membership in the National Honor Society.
- 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 more possible 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. Find one activity you love and try to carry your involvement to the local, state, regional, and national level.
- Visiting Colleges** Visit two local colleges (one a small college and one large university) to get a feel for what colleges are like.
- Summer Activities** Investigate summer programs by searching online for "summer programs for high school students" or using books on summer programs in your school or local library. A short one-week or two-week on-campus program in career search such as "So You Want to Be an Engineer," "Beginning Photography," or "Introduction to Sports Medicine" can give you a great taste of college life. Seek out volunteer activities that will expand your experience and, if your high school has a certain number of community service hours to complete, summer is a great time to make a strong start. Take an SAT prep course to get ready for the PSAT. For free PSAT test preparation tools, visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10/practice>

Sophomore Year (10th Grade)

- Academics** *Your academic achievement in 10th grade counts in the eyes of college admissions officers!* 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). Apply for the National Honor Society if you are eligible and your school offers admission to sophomores.
- College Entrance Tests** Take the PSAT in October. The PSAT test is important. The best colleges note students who score well on it. Take two or three SAT Subject Tests in June. Most sophomores usually take the Math Level 1 or Level 2 Subject Test after they have completed Algebra II and biology or whatever sciences you have completed during freshman and sophomore years.

- ❑ **High School Counselor** Your counselor will write letters of recommendation for you when you apply to colleges and for scholarships. The better he or she knows you, the easier it will be to write a strong letter of support about you. So stay in close contact with your counselor and meet with him or her at least two times during your sophomore year.
- ❑ **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. The College Board has a database with detailed information about nearly 4,000 colleges, including a tool to compare three of the schools at a time at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>. Use the database and tool to pick out the schools that interest you the most and that you plan to visit.
- ❑ **Applying for College** Most colleges use either the Common App, the Coalition Application, or their own unique application on their website. Do some exploring on the website of a college that interests you. Then find the undergraduate admissions page, hit “apply”, choosing “freshman applicant,” and check out the requirements, deadlines, costs, and process. If you like what you see, start an account and request more information; this will alert the college that you are researching your future and put you in contact with the admissions office.
- ❑ **Summer Activities** Most “selective” and “very selective” colleges notice what students do during the summer. Seek out meaningful activities, such as summer programs at a local university, sports, music, or coding 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 Study Guide Zone, www.studyguidezone.com.
- ❑ **Scholarships** Begin to check out money for college by researching scholarships on Fastweb at www.fastweb.com or Scholarships.com at <https://www.scholarships.com/>

Junior Year (11th Grade)

Eleventh grade counts the most in your high school career toward 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.
- ❑ **College Entrance Tests** Take an SAT or ACT course, or study on your own. For free study guides, be sure to visit www.studyguidezone.com. Prep yourself for the PSAT in October.
- ❑ **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, he or she 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 your high school’s winter and spring breaks. These are two of the best times to visit college campuses because classes are likely to be in session. Attend college fairs in the area where you live.
- ❑ **Applying to Colleges** Keep a file of every major test and project 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. If you plan to apply to one of the five U.S. military academies, you will need to request a nomination from your senator or congressperson. To see if attending a military academy is for you and how to apply visit the CollegeMapper website at <https://collegemapper.com/2012/09/military-academies-how-to-get-in/>
- ❑ **Scholarships** Check out money for college by researching scholarships on Fastweb at www.fastweb.com or Scholarships.com at <https://www.scholarships.com/>. Speak to your counselor or principal about local scholarships that may be available to graduates from your high school.

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).
- ❑ **College Entrance 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 or ACT test and take it in March or May. If you are planning to apply to “most selective” colleges, register to take two or three SAT Subject Tests 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** Complete 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 [congressperson](#).
- ❑ **College Visits** Spring vacation is a great time to visit colleges. Plan to visit several colleges that interest you.
- ❑ **Scholarships** Check out money for college by researching scholarships on Fastweb at www.fastweb.com or Scholarships.com at <https://www.scholarships.com/>. Speak to your counselor or principal about local scholarships that may be available to graduates.

Summer Before Your Senior Year

- ❑ **Applying to College** Most colleges prefer you apply online using either the Common Application, the Coalition Application, or their own application. Many colleges encourage students to set up accounts on the college website as early as freshman year. You can set up

your Common Application account at <https://www.commonapp.org/how-apply#component-wrapper-10> and your Coalition Application at <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/mycoalition-intro.html>. 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. If for any reason you would like to use a paper application, you may call the college admission office and ask if you can be sent a copy.

- ❑ **College Entrance Tests** Take an SAT or ACT course during the summer, or study on your own. Register for the ACT, SAT, or SAT Subject Tests by the end of the summer if you still need to take them or if you want to improve your previous scores.
- ❑ **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 (coding, 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. Visiting a college not only provides information about the college but also helps you decide what aspects of college are most important to you.
- ❑ **Scholarships** Check out money for college by researching scholarships on Fastweb at www.fastweb.com or Scholarships.com at <https://www.scholarships.com/>. Speak to your counselor or principal about local scholarships that may be available to graduates.

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 or ACT if you didn't take it your junior year or if you want to improve your score. It doesn't hurt you to take it again to raise your test scores. Take SAT Subject Tests 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** Fall holidays and breaks can give you a last chance to visit colleges with November, December, or January deadlines. Winter break is a good time to visit colleges on your final list that have later deadlines. Arrange interviews during your visits if possible. Check each college website to determine if interviews are offered and to schedule one if possible. Note: In addition to on-campus interviews, many colleges offer interviews with alumni who live nearer to your home.
- ❑ **College Essay** This is *very important* and you should expect to put time, energy, and thought into writing (and rewriting) your application essays. Seek feedback on your essays from your teachers, counselors, tutor, mentor, or parents.
- ❑ **Letters of Recommendation** Follow the directions on the college application about listing the names and emails of your counselor, teachers, and outside recommenders (coaches, music

directors, club administrators, and people you have worked with through your community service activities or summer jobs). If you have not politely requested recommendations from these individuals during May or June of your junior year, ask for their assistance immediately. The earliest application deadline is October 15. Make sure that these important people have received your request for a letter of recommendation *six weeks before you need it*. Note: These letters may also be used for scholarship applications.

- ❑ **Financial Aid** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early in October as possible. The application is available at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm>. If a college you plan to apply to requires the CSS Profile, complete it at <https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/getting-started-your-css-profile-application>. Just as with the FAFSA, submit the CSS Profile as early in October as you can.
- ❑ **Applying to College** The ideal time to complete and submit regular applications is by late November. “Early” applications for Early Decision or Early Action submission are usually due on either October 15, November 1, or November 15, but check each college website to be sure. Keep track of the deadline dates for each of your schools and *DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!*

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. As always, seek out help from teachers if you are falling behind. Remember to request that a final copy of your transcript be sent to the college you are attending.
- ❑ **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. Note how much is *gift money (grants)* that does not have to be repaid and how much represents *student loans* that must be repaid? You will need to make your final decision and *postmark your acceptance by May 1*. (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.

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 a 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.

Ask Yourself Six Questions

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, a four-year school, a two-year 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- and 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 in which you are interested and resources that will help you be successful at college.

Do Your Research

Once you have answered these questions, use one of the college search websites to identify colleges that may meet your needs. For example, The [College Board](#) allows you to search its database using filters. Record 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 suits 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, visit the website for each college. Make sure that you thoroughly read all of the material available to you.

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. Junior year during school holidays is a good time to visit because classes may be in session. For those schools you have not visited junior year, complete your visits during the summer before senior year. Be sure to make your appointments early. Dress up when you go so that you put your best foot forward. Be on time! The interview is an opportunity for the college to get to know you. You should have researched the college's website and brochures by now and prepared a list of questions you have. Remember, you are interviewing them as much as they are interviewing you. Note: large universities may offer alumni interviews closer to your home, but only after you have submitted an application.

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

- the general appearance of the campus
- the library resources in your field of interest
- the student-to-faculty ratio
- the 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 support services
- whether the majority of students live on campus or commute
- the cost

Think About Your Needs

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 to attend, 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, 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.

Consider the Types of Schools

One factor to 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 These institutions offer educational instruction beyond high-school level in a two-year or four-year program.

Online Degree Program These are college- or university-sponsored programs students can pursue at home and at their own pace.

Junior/Two-Year College This type of two-year institution of higher learning provides career and vocational training and an academic curriculum (terminal and transfer). Community colleges are two-year colleges.

Liberal Arts College This is a four-year institution that emphasizes a program of broad undergraduate education. Pre-professional or professional training may be available, but it is not stressed.

Transfer Program These are academic programs at a two-year college that are designed to lead into a four-year program at a four-year college or university. The two-year graduate transfers as a junior to the four-year institution.

University Universities are academic institutions that grant 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). A university 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 earn a degree in business administration, administrative assistance, or secretarial science in conjunction with liberal arts courses. Other institutions primarily offer business or admin/secretarial courses and may or may not be fully accredited.

Engineering or Technological College These are 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 College Federal military academies prepare officers for the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Merchant Marines. These institutions ([West Point](#), the [US Naval Academy](#), the [US Naval Air Force Academy](#), and the [US Merchant Marine Academy](#)) require recommendations and nomination by a [US senator](#) or [US congressperson](#). 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 a 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, or photography.

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.

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, 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 recommend 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.

Other Factors to Consider

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

colleges. 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. 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 many of the larger colleges and universities do)?
- Are the athletic facilities important to me? (Generally, 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 visiting the campus in person and talking with as many people as you can. You can also speak to graduates of the college (alumni) who live near you and research the college's website.

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. You 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.

Gender Issues

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.

If attending a college that is friendly to LGBTQ students is important to you, seek out websites that provide rankings and evaluations relevant to these members of the student body. One source is www.bestcolleges.com/features/best-colleges-for-lgbt-students/.

Choose Your Final List

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 and hoping one will be the right one. 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 that 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:

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

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. Have several schools that fit under each category because it will ensure two or more acceptances and provide you with some choices.

How to Evaluate a College

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.

More 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 WORKSHEET

Your Top Choices (Reach Schools)

--

Your Second Choices (Realistic Schools)

--

Your Back-Up Choices (Safety Schools)

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COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST			
	College 1:	College 2:	College 3:
Applications			
Request Information/Create Website Account			
Early Application Deadline			
Regular 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 two people)			
Revise Essays (as needed)			
Essay Sent with Application			
Résumé			
Write Résumé			
Proofread Your Résumé for Spelling and Grammar			
Get Feedback on Your Résumé (from two people)			
Revise Résumé (as needed)			
Send Résumé to Colleges Requesting One			
Interviews			
Interview at College			
Alumni Interview			
Send Thank-You Notes to Interviewers			

College Application Checklist (continued)			
	College 1:	College 2:	College 3:
Tracking Your Application			
Save and Download a Copy of All 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			
College's Financial Aid Deadline			
Complete & Submit FAFSA Online in October			
Submit CSS/Financial Aid Profile in October (if 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 personality and passion, your experiences, what you learned from those experiences, and how that learning impacts your goals for the future. 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. Just as important is reviewing your essay with your guidance counselor.

What Topics Will Be Addressed?

Most colleges provide several prompts (topics) from which you may choose, often related to one of the following categories.

- **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 a word limit. Most online applications provided text boxes and warn you with messages if your essay is too long. If you do not consider yourself a strong writer then take care, start early, and be prepared for several rewrites. Colleges expect that you are familiar with and use the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.

How Important Is It, Really?

Very. 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.

WRITING YOUR RÉSUMÉ

Suggestions for Preparing an Effective Résumé

First, read over the tips for preparing a résumé and select powerful words that might describe you from the table on this page. Next, jot down answers to the three questions on the next page. Then, when you are ready to design your resume, use the sample on the page that follows.

1. There is no universal résumé format. There are only guidelines you may follow.
2. Résumés can be helpful to colleges that request them in determining admission and scholarships. So make sure your résumé is a concise (one page), factual, and positive listing of your activities, experience, employment, travel, and accomplishments.
3. Test your résumé for relevancy. If you have no definite purpose for including something, leave it out.
4. Weigh your choice of words. Select strong action verbs, concrete nouns, and positive modifiers for emphasis (see table below). Use concise phrases and clauses rather than complete sentences.
5. Try your résumé out on someone who knows you and who will be objective in his or her opinion.
6. Keep a separate list of references, and/or copies of recommendations, and make them available upon request.

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

Questions Your Resume Should Answer

Answering the following questions in a fully persuasive way will greatly increase your odds of developing a winning résumé to help you reach your educational goals. 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 that follows as a point of reference.

Who are you and where are you headed?

That's your Summary statement. Spend a bit of time crafting this short but engaging description of yourself. Try to intrigue the readers so they will want to keep reading your résumé.

What are your accomplishments?

That's the Honors section. List your accomplishments in easy-to-read bullet points with

enough detail that the reader can appreciate why you were honored. Don't be afraid to make yourself shine. Not everyone has big national or state-level honors, but everyone can think of something smaller they were recognized for closer to home. Did your classmates choose you for a role in a school play? Did a teacher ask you to tutor another student in your class? Were you selected for a key program or award? Were you recognized for your community service? This section should show your worth and satisfy your audience that the rest of your résumé is worth reading.

What are your school, work, and other experiences?

That's the Extracurricular, Employment, and Community Service sections. The reader needs to relate to the experience you've had. Describe only the experiences that help define you and showcase your value. Be sure to describe how you showed initiative and/or leadership.



Steve Summers

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

Summary: An outdoors enthusiast passionate about athletics, leading youth in outdoor and Abenaki cultural experiences, and pursuing a degree in environmental studies

Educational Status: Missisquoi Valley Union High School, Swanton, VT 05488, Class of 2019

Honors:

- Honor Roll (4 years), GPA: 3.0
- Elected Co-Captain, Varsity Nordic Skiing (Senior Year)
- Member, National Honor Society (Induction Junior Year)
- Elected Class Vice-President (Freshman and Senior Years)

Extracurricular Activities:

- Varsity Nordic Skiing Team (Sophomore–Senior years)
- Co-Captain, Varsity Nordic Skiing (Senior Year)
- Sprinter, Varsity Cross-Country Running (4 years)
- Co-Founder, “Ultimate Frisbee Club” (Intramural, Junior and Senior Years)
- Member, Spanish Club (3 Years)
- Participant, Circle of Courage After-School Program (3 Years)
- Student Participant, UVM “Abenaki Summer Happening” (2 Years)

Employment Experience:

- Counselor-In-Training, Vermont Fish & Wildlife Conservation Camp, full-time, summer 2017. *Assisted in supervising 12- to 14-year-old campers during meals, recreation, and overnight*
- Counselor-In-Training, UVM “Abenaki Summer Happening” Program, part-time, summer 2018. Actively guided 9th through 11th grade students through a weekend of experiences to maximize their introduction to college campus life

Community Service Experience: Abenaki Heritage Weekends, Volunteer (2015–2018)
Completed hanging artwork for Abenaki Artists exhibition, led bracelet making activity for children, directed other student volunteers to help break down the craft and cooking demonstration areas

References: Provided on request

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

About the FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (known as the [FAFSA](#)) is a form that is filled out annually by college applicants as well as 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 October 1 of each year. The version you complete depends on the year you will be in college; for example, the FAFSA 2019–2020 version would apply to students who will be attending college for the 2019–2020 school year. Applicants who have filled out a FAFSA in previous years are able to fill out a Renewal FAFSA, but some information, such as items on academic year in school, 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 sets of 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 the student’s or family’s race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, or religion.

A Student Aid Report (SAR), which is a summary of your FAFSA responses, will be accessible on the FAFSA website, emailed, or mailed to you, depending on how you applied. Review the SAR carefully for errors and make any corrections. An electronic version of the SAR, called the 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. **Very Important:** *Schools may award aid on a first-come/first-served basis, so 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 or will have a high school diploma or GED at the time of entrance to a post-high school program;
- 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 and are working on the online version, click on the top of the page where the *help* button is. You can also visit the main page at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> and click on Get FAFSA Help to search the frequently asked questions. You can also [call, chat online, or email](#) with a FAFSA specialist. The telephone number at 800-433-3243 (TTY for hearing impaired students is 800-730-8913). Call centers are open 8:00 a.m. to 11 p.m. (ET) Monday through Friday, 11a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Additionally, information is available at www.finaid.org and at the [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts for FAFSA. You may also seek assistance from your school counselor or from the financial aid office of one of the schools to which you are applying.

The online application is the preferred method of applying but you can request a paper FAFSA form, if you so desire, from your high school guidance counselor.

Completing Your FAFSA

Note: The FAFSA form may be completed using the mobile app called *myStudentAid*. Make sure you always have the latest version of the app before using it.

Get a FSA ID (Federal Student Aid ID)

If you are considered a dependent student, then at least one of your parents will also need a FSA ID.

First go to

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid/>

to read about the FSA ID and its uses. Important points are that the FSA ID is unique for each person and is linked to her or his social security number; and the number is for life and is necessary to log in to the Federal Student Aid systems to complete, make corrections, and serve as your legal online signature on the applications. For these reasons, it is important that you keep your FSA ID and password in a safe place.

Students and parents must complete the FSA ID application themselves, but of course you can assist each other in the process if you have difficulties. Check the website and talk to your guidance counselor if you encounter problems you cannot solve by yourself. Keep in mind that, while the parent's FSA ID remains the same in relation to each child's FAFSA application, each individual child will apply for her or his unique FSA ID.

Complete the FAFSA as Early as Possible

Since the application opens October 1 each year, any time in October would be ideal to begin. Even though many college deadlines (meaning the very last date you can file for that college's consideration) might be in January, February, or March, financial aid is not unlimited, so the sooner you file, the better chance you will have to obtain the aid to which you are entitled. If you qualify as a dependent student, you will need your parents' help filling out this form because questions will ask about their income and other information. (As you fill out the application, your initial answers will determine if you are

considered a dependent or independent student). Income tax information requested is based on the previous year's tax return. On the 2019–20 FAFSA form, for example, you (and your parents, as appropriate) will report your 2017 income information, rather than your 2018 income information. The FAFSA application is located at fafsa.gov. Just click on the Start Here button.

Review Your Student Aid Report

After your application has been processed, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). If you provided a valid email address when you filed your FAFSA online, then you should receive an email a few days after you submitted the application. The email will provide directions for you to view your SAR online. If you did not provide a valid email address, then you will be mailed a paper SAR or SAR Acknowledgement. The paper SAR lists your FAFSA information and has space to make corrections. The SAR Acknowledgement lists your FAFSA information but you will have to make corrections at fafsa.gov.

The SAR, whether viewed electronically or on paper, shows your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) in the upper right hand corner, as well as a four-digit Data Release Number (DRN) which also appears in the upper right corner. For more in-depth and up-to-date information about the SAR, go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/next-steps/student-aid-report>

The SAR will also list all types of aid for which you may be eligible, including the following:

- **Grants** A grant is money that you will NOT have to pay back. Many low-income students receive one or more grants from the federal and/or state governments. The [Pell Grant](#) is one of the most common federal grants. Grants may also be available through application from private foundations and other sources in your state.
- **Stafford Subsidized Loan** A federal subsidized loan is money you must repay but the interest on the loan will be paid by the government while you are attending college. The [Stafford Subsidized Loan](#) is based on financial need, and you must file a FAFSA in order to qualify. Six months after

you graduate or terminate your college attendance for any reason, you will need to make long-term arrangements to repay the funds, and from the date you leave school, the government will no longer pay the interest but that will become your responsibility.

- **Stafford Unsubsidized Loan** A federal unsubsidized loan is money that you will have to pay back with interest. “Unsubsidized” means that the federal government will NOT pay the interest on the loan while you attend school. This loan is based on financial need, and you must file
- **Work-Study Program** [Federal work-study](#) provides part-time employment to students to help with expenses while enrolled in college. To be eligible for consideration, the student must have submitted a FAFSA application.

a FAFSA in order to qualify. Repayment of the borrowed funds must begin six months after you leave school at graduation or for any other reason terminate your college attendance. The loan starts to accrue interest as soon as you receive the money and throughout the life of the loan.

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 are 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.

There are quite a number of websites designed to guide 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.

College Guidance Websites

You likely use general search engines, such as Google's, every day. You also know that the quality of the results the search engine gives you depends on the how well you have chosen the search terms (keywords) you submit.

Some college guidance websites allow you to search without registering (for example, collegeboard.org). Others (for example, fastweb.com) may ask you to register and complete a profile. To register, you may 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 websites that take personal identifying information stay in business? Well, they may sell your 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. For these reasons, you might want to set up an

email address that is used exclusively for conducting your online scholarship research. Google's Gmail (<https://www.google.com/gmail/about/>) is one place to set up a free email address for yourself.

Another way these college search sites stay in the business of providing free information is by displaying advertisements and special offers. Special offers, such as for jobs (e.g., taking online surveys or being a mystery shopper) may be displayed as check off buttons in the search form you are submitting. Read this information carefully and *decline* their offers. You won't make money and your junk email will double.

So pay careful attention before you hit the Submit button. Once you do, you will be rewarded with scholarship opportunities that are likely appropriate for you. Each scholarship listed is linked directly to their website, so that you can begin the application process.

AIE

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

AIE is formerly known as *Adventures in Learning*. Enter "Scholarship Search" into the search tool on the home page. The first result should be the [Scholarship Search page](#). You can type in any keywords you can think of. For example, you might wish to search by career or major. You can search by state or the name of a college. Use unique keywords that describe you (e.g., high school student, woman, first-generation student, disabled, minority, Native American, etc.) because they will return more matching scholarship results. Running multiple keyword searches is strongly recommended. You will find that you are eligible for more scholarships than just those for Native American students. *Note: When you hit Search, you will need to accept cookies before seeing any results.*

This site also provides information on planning, applying, and paying for college, as well as managing your money.

College Board

Website: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>

This is the organization that administers the SAT test. Use the link on the home page to Scholarships. Complete the Personal Information and other forms

and Scholarship Search will find potential opportunities from their database of more than 2,200 sources of college funding.

To give you an added incentive to use their site, the College Board introduced the College Board Opportunity Scholarships for all high school students, beginning with the class of 2020. Students who register and complete each step related to applying to college are eligible for monthly random drawings awarding \$500 to \$2,000 scholarships. After completing all six steps, you will be entered in a \$40,000 drawing.

FastWeb

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

Fastweb is a free scholarship search service where you join, 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 three pages of scholarships. You can also expect a lot of junk email from FastWeb for the next several years.

International Education Financial Aid

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

This scholarship search website is for students who wish to pursue their education outside of the country in which they live. If you'd like to find the names of scholarships to study in Latin America, Europe, Africa, or anywhere else on Earth, you can use a quick search tool without registering. When you find a scholarship you are interested in, you will be prompted to register so that you can learn more about the awards and save your search results. In addition to providing scholarship searches, it also hosts a Student Blog and links to resources.

Sallie Mae

Website: www.salliemae.com/college-planning/

The SLM Corporation, commonly known as Sallie Mae, is a private company whose business involves originating, servicing, and collecting on student loans. The company primarily provides federally guaranteed student loans. However, the site also contains a wealth of information on the student loan process and FAFSA, and gives tips on applying for scholarships

and writing scholarship essays. In addition, Sallie Mae funds its own scholarship for high school juniors and seniors, called *Bridging the Dream*, contests, and sweepstakes.

Go to the College Planning page using the link provide above. Click on the Scholarships link. In order to search the database, you will need to register with the site. Read the Official Rules before entering the \$1,000 monthly sweepstakes. In particular, notice that if you are under 18, checks will be sent to your parent or guardian and you consent to having your name used in advertising. *Be sure to write down your login ID (user name) and password if you wish to return to the site.*

Next, you will be invited to complete a profile, including your GPS, class rank, test scores, and activities. The Sallie Mae search engine pairs the information you provide in your profile with scholarships where you match the eligibility requirements. Each scholarship listed is hyperlinked to the sponsoring organization. You can spend hours looking through your list, saving those you're interested in or discarding them. The toolbar at the top of the page allows you to easily go back to your scholarship profile, edit it, and rerun your search.

Other Websites with Scholarship Information

National Indian Education Association (NIEA)

Website:

<http://www.niea.org/scholarship-opportunities/>

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. The Scholarship Opportunities page is worth exploring.

Financial Aid: The SmartStudent™ Guide to Financial Aid Scholarships

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

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 three windows where you will input your personal information. Then, you will be matched with scholarships.

Guaranteed-Scholarships.com

Website: <http://www.guaranteed-scholarships.com/>
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.

IES Study Abroad Programs

Website: <https://www.iesabroad.org>

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.

From the Scholarships & Aid menu at the top of the home page, select Our Scholarships. Explore the varied categories of scholarships that help pay for a student’s participation in a standard IES Abroad program. If you believe you might qualify in any of these categories, click the online aid application link and follow the directions. One online application is used for all scholarships in these categories.

Also explore the study abroad scholarships offered outside the IES organization. These are listed under Additional Resources. Use the category menus and link to outside websites for more information.

DIRECTORY OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The following pages contain detailed information on scholarships available to Native American high school and college 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 are open to state-recognized Native American students entering college freshmen year or already in undergraduate college programs. 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 and/or other minority students.

Does the website navigation look different from what we've described? Don't worry. Website designs change frequently; pages get added, pages get deleted. The important thing is to search through the website looking for similar navigational titles. If the site has a search tool (usually located at the upper right), use it!

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, contact the sponsoring organization by phone or email to clarify.

Always take responsibility yourself for confirming the timeline for applying, deadlines, and other requirements by contacting the sponsoring organization yourself. You will not be annoying anyone. Instead, you'll be showing the organization that you are truly interested in what they have to offer.

Scholarships that are specific to a certain school have not been included. We suggest using scholarship search websites to identify 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 specific to your needs will increase the quality of your search results.

Scholarships for students who are already in college (freshman, sophomores, and juniors) are identified with a note at the top of their description. There are also numerous scholarships available for Native American students who are interested in graduate school, as well as those seeking internships and fellowships. Also, once you are in college, we suggest you continue to search for additional or new scholarships for undergrads—new ones are offered every year. New scholarships are established every year.

We have organized the scholarships alphabetically by the name of the sponsoring organization. Included are eligibility requirements, timelines, website URLs, 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 the online applications early or contact the sponsoring organization.

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

Actuarial Diversity Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: The Actuarial Foundation

Timeline: The application period begins on November 1 and the 2019 deadline was March 31.

Website: <https://actfnd.academicworks.com/opportunities/144>

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: Promotes diversity within the profession through an annual scholarship program for Black/African American, Hispanic, Native North American, and Pacific Islander students. The scholarship award recognizes and encourages the academic achievements of full-time undergraduate students pursuing a degree that may lead to a career in the actuarial profession.

Eligibility: Candidates 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.
- be enrolling or enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at a US accredited educational institution.
- have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), with emphasis on math or actuarial courses.
- have (for high school seniors) a minimum ACT math score of 28 or SAT math score of 620.
- have an intention to pursue a career in the actuarial profession.

Requirements:

- General application form, including required transcripts
- Answers to the Supplemental Questions regarding clubs, exams, or your attendance at actuarial-related programs (See <https://actfnd.academicworks.com/opportunities/144>)
- Entering freshmen must upload a PDF of their official SAT or ACT score report.
- Résumé
- Names and emails of a current teacher, professor, or employer in a math, actuarial science, economics, or finance field

Awards: The number of awards and amounts may vary from year to year. \$1,000 for freshmen, \$2,000 for sophomores, \$3,000 for juniors, and \$4,000 for seniors; about 40 scholarships were awarded in 2018.

American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholars

Sponsoring Organization: American Chemical Society (ACS)

Timeline: Application opens November 1; application closes (deadline) March 1.

Website: <https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/scholarships/acsscholars.html>

Contact Info: Dr. Racquel Jemison, Program Manager
Toll-Free Phone: 1-800-227-5558, Ext. 6250
Fax: 202-872-4361
Email: scholars@acs.org

American Chemical Society (ACS)
1155 16th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

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: Candidates must

- be African-American/Black, Hispanic/Latino, or American Indian (a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition).
- be a US citizen or permanent US resident.
- be a graduating high school senior or college freshman, sophomore or junior. Seniors can apply for their fifth year.
- intend to major or already major in chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, chemical technology, or another chemistry-related science.
- be planning to pursue a career in a chemistry-related science.
- 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).

Requirements:

- Scholarship application
- Form for New Applicants
- FAFSA SAR report
- Official transcript
- ACT or SAT scores
- Two letters of recommendation (one from a chemistry, science, or math teacher)

Awards: Up to \$5,000 each year, depending on school year, financial need, and available funding; awards are renewable; 350 scholarships are awarded each year.

Full Circle Scholarship Program

Sponsoring Organization: American Indian College Fund

Timeline: Applications are available January 1; the closing deadline is May 31.

Website: <https://collegefund.org/scholarships>

The website has lots of support for students, including an [Application Walk Through Video](#) and [Tips to Fill Out Your Scholarship Application](#).

Contact Info: Student Success Services

Email: scholarships@collegefund.org

Phone: 800-776-3863

Purpose: Full Circle is a group of individual scholarships that have a single application.

Eligibility: Candidates must

- be U.S. citizen or Canadians eligible to attend college in the U.S. under provisions of the Jay Treaty.
- be enrolled full-time in an accredited tribal, public, or private nonprofit college or university.
- be registered as an enrolled member of a federal or state recognized tribe, or a descendant of at least one grandparent or parent who is an enrolled tribal member.
- have at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Requirements:

- Electronic application
- Electronically uploaded essay, answering *all three* questions
- Official or unofficial digital transcript with most recent cumulative GPA
- Proof of tribal enrollment.
- Professional photo of yourself, minimum of 1.5 MB in size

Awards: The average award is \$500 for each semester. Each student must resubmit an application every year, regardless if they were awarded a scholarship the previous year.

Wells Fargo Scholarship for Undergraduate American Indian and Alaska Natives Students

Sponsoring Organization: American Indian Graduate Center/Wells Fargo Foundation

Timeline: In 2019, the application and Tribal Eligibility Certificate were due May 1; a financial needs form is due July 15.

Website: <https://aigc.academicworks.com/opportunities/32088>

Scroll down to the footer of the webpage and click Online Application Instructions. After reviewing the instructions and when you are ready to apply, click the Log In/Apply Here link at the top of the scholarship's page to create a user account for the online application.

Contact Info: American Indian Graduate Center
3701 San Mateo NE #200
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Toll-free Phone: 800-628-1920

Phone: 505-881-4584

Fax: 505-884-0427

Email: fellowships@aigcs.org

You may also get help by using the web form at <https://www.aigcs.org/contact-aigc>

Purpose: AIGC provides financial support for American Indians and Alaska Natives seeking higher education, and supports them in attaining undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees.

Eligibility: An applicant must

- be a full-time and degree-seeking college freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior.
- have a GPA of 2.7 or higher.
- be an enrolled member of a federally-recognized American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group *or* a state-recognized tribe in the United States *or* provide documentation of ancestry to possession of one-fourth degree Indian blood of a state or federally-recognized tribe.
- prove financial need through submission of a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the AIGC Financial Needs Form (FNF).

Requirements:

- Submission of written answers to supplemental questions (Wells Fargo Undergraduate Scholarship Questions)
- Submission of the AIGC Tribal Eligibility Certificate (TEC)
- Official transcript with GPA (AIGC does not accept National Clearinghouse documents/information)
- Name and email address of someone who can attest to your academic record and abilities
- Name and email of someone who can attest to your community engagement
- Completed FAFSA and the AIGC Financial Needs Form (FNF).

Awards: Up to \$5,000 per year; may be renewable

AISES A. T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship

- Sponsoring Organization:** American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)
- Timeline:** Closes March 31 (Application period opens December 15.)
- Website:** <http://www.aises.org>
Under For Students, click on Scholarships and then select the scholarship name from the list.
- Contact Info:** American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES)
Email: scholarships@aises.org
Phone: 720-552-6123
- Mail:
AISES Scholarship Department
6899 Winchester Circle, STE 102A
Boulder, CO 80301
- Purpose:** AISES's 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
- have a 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA).
 - be a full-time undergraduate at an accredited 4-year college/university.
 - be enrolled in a program leading to a Mathematics, Medical Sciences, Physical Science, Technology, Science, Engineering, or Natural Resources degree.
 - be an enrolled member or a decedent of an enrolled member of a federal or state recognized American Indian Tribe. Enrollment documents and/or a copy of birth certificate(s) showing descendance from an enrolled citizen, are accepted.
 - be a current member of AISES. To obtain an AISES membership go to https://aises.site-ym.com/general/register_member_type.asp?%20. *Link is available on the scholarship application.*
- Requirements:**
- [Application](#) (using the online OASIS scholarship portal)
 - Official transcript
 - Personal essay
 - two letters of recommendation
 - Résumé
 - Proof of tribal enrollment
 - AISES membership (you must join; student membership is available)
- Awards:** \$1,000 for the academic year

AISES Chevron Corporation Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and Chevron Corporation

Timeline: In 2018–2019, the application period opened December 15, 2018 and closed March 31, 2019 at 1:59 a.m. (ET).

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

Under For Students, click on Scholarships and then select the scholarship name from the list.

Contact Info: AISES Scholarships
Brianna Hall
Email: bhall@aises.org or scholarships@aises.org
Phone: 720-552-6123, Ext. 119
Mail: AISES Scholarship Department
6899 Winchester Circle, STE 102A
Boulder, CO 80301

Purpose: Awarded to American Indian, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, First Nations, and other indigenous peoples of North America who are students in higher education, this scholarship supports the advancement of students with technical and leadership accomplishments, as well as a commitment to and passion for the energy field. The scholarship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students pursuing STEM degrees.

Eligibility: Applicant must

- be pursuing a degree that is beneficial to Chevron business (STEM or business).
- have a minimum of one noteworthy achievement/recognition.
- have a 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- be a full-time undergraduate at an accredited four-year college/university.
- be an enrolled member or a decedent of an enrolled member of a federal or state recognized American Indian Tribe.
- be a current member of AISES. To obtain an AISES membership, go to https://aises.site-ym.com/general/register_member_type.asp?%20. *Link is available on the scholarship application.*
- demonstrate knowledge and interest in Chevron and the energy industry through a scholarship-specific essay.

Additional consideration will be made for freshmen with related internship or non-technical work experience.

Requirements:

- **Stage 1 (General Admission)**—Set up an account and complete an application on the OASIS scholarship platform.
- **Stage 2 (Application)**—Submit a résumé, three letters of recommendation, and three essays.

- **Stage 3 (After Acceptance)**—Submit a transcript, academic institution enrollment verification, Online Scholarship Agreement, recent photo/headshot, tribal enrollment documents and/or birth certificate showing decedency from an enrolled citizen, AISES membership (you must join; student membership is available)

Awards: \$5,000 per academic year. Continuing scholarships may be awarded, but student must re-apply annually.

AISES Intel Growing the Legacy Scholarship Program

Sponsoring Organization: American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and Intel Corporation

Timeline: The application period opens December 15 and closes May 15.

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

Under For Students, click on Scholarships and then select the scholarship name from the list.

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

Email: scholarships@aises.org

Phone: 720-552-6123

Postal Mail:

AISES Scholarship Department
6899 Winchester Circle, STE 102A
Boulder, CO 80301

Purpose: The AISES Intel Growing the Legacy Scholarship has the purpose of increasing the number and success of Native Americans in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. In addition to the scholarships, Intel provides mentors, paid internships, and employment opportunities.

Eligibility: Applicant must

- have a 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average (GPA).
- 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.
- be majoring in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, or Electrical Engineering. Students majoring in Chemical Engineering and Material Science will also be considered.
- be an enrolled member or a decedent of an enrolled member of a federal or state recognized American Indian Tribe. Enrollment documents and/or a copy of birth certificate(s) showing descentance are accepted.
- be a current member of AISES. To obtain an AISES membership, go to https://aises.site-ym.com/general/register_member_type.asp?%20. *Link is available on the scholarship application.*

Requirements: [Application](#) (using the online OASIS scholarship portal), official transcript, three personal essays, letters of recommendation, résumé, proof of tribal enrollment), AISES membership (you must join; student membership is available)

Awards: \$5,000 per academic year; awardees may reapply each year; 20 students per year

AICHE Minority Scholarship for Incoming Freshmen Award

Sponsoring Organization: American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE)

Timeline: In 2019, the deadline was August 9. *Always check the website for the current timeline.*

Website: <https://www.aiche.org/> (*home page*)
<https://www.aiche.org/community/awards/minority-affairs-committees-minority-scholarship-awards-college-freshmen>

Download the Nomination Packet (Word file) and fill out the practice application there. When you are sure it is complete, go to the Online Nomination Form and transfer your data. You cannot edit your application after it is submitted.

Contact Info: Email felig@aiiche.org

Purpose: This award is presented to selected incoming college freshmen annually.

Eligibility: Applicant must be

- a high school senior, graduating during the current academic year.
- a member of a minority group that is underrepresented in chemical engineering (African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander).
- planning to enroll in a four-year college or university offering science/engineering degrees.
- enrolled in a science/engineering program, with preference given to students in a chemical engineering program.

Requirements:

- Completed application
- Career essay not to exceed 300 words outlining the college or university chosen to attend, reasons for choosing science/engineering, possible career choices that may be of interest
- Résumé
- Unofficial student transcript
- EFC (Expected Family Contribution) provided by the College Board; optional: a letter from the parent/guardian verifying financial need can also be included with the EFC. Please include a list of financial resources for educational support.
- Letter of recommendation from the high school counselor, math teacher, or science teacher containing verification of nominee's GPA and graduation date, verification of senior class average grade, confirmation of minority group of the student, and information about the student's school, job, and other activities

Awards: A one-time award of \$1,000 per student. Approximately ten scholarships are awarded annually. The organization offers a similar scholarship to student members, called the AIChE Minority Scholarship Award, for undergrads with renewable awards of \$1,000 each year.

AMS Minority Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: American Meteorological Society (AMS)

Timeline: For 2019, applications were due on February 8. *Always check the website for deadlines in the year you apply.*

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

Type in the name of the scholarship into the “Search the Site” box.

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.
- intending to make atmospheric science a career.
- pursuing a degree at a US institution.

Requirements:

- Completed application
- Official high school transcript
- One letter of recommendation
- SAT scores (or scores from a similar national college entrance exam)

Awards: \$3,000 a year for freshman and sophomore years (\$6,000 total); renewable; applicant may also apply for the AMS Freshman Scholarship Program but can only accept one scholarship if selected for both.

AWG Minority Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: Association for Women Geoscientists

Timeline: Applications are due June 30 of each year.

Website: <http://www.awg.org>. Click the Awards link from the menu on the home page. Here you will find a list of scholarships. Click on AWG Minority Scholarship.

Contact Info: Applications should be postal mailed to

Association for Women Geoscientists
Attn: Minority Scholarship
1333 West 120th Street, Suite 211
Westminster, CO 80234

Questions may be emailed to Christina Tapia at 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.
- a high school senior or college student, but if she is 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.

Requirements:

- Scholarship application (typed)
- High school and college transcripts
- Two letters of recommendation
- Personal letter of academic and career goals
- 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. Prior recipients of AWG Minority Geoscience Scholarships may reapply for continuing support during each of their undergraduate years.

AAIA Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA)

Timeline: The 2019 application deadline was July 1. *Always check the dates for the year in which you are applying.*

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

Select Scholarships & Summer Camps from one of the pull-down menus.

Contact Info: Association on American Indian Affairs
Danielle Haskins, Office Administrator
966 Hungerford Drive, Suite 30-A
Rockville, MD 20850

Phone: 240-314-7155

Email: general.AAIA@indian-affairs.org

Purpose: The Association on American Indian Affairs offers scholarships to students who are connected to their culture, including to members of tribes that are not federally recognized.

Eligibility: Applicant must

- have a 2.5 or higher GPA.
- be an enrolled in either a federally-recognized tribe, a state-recognized tribe, or a tribe not recognized by the federal government. Tribes must be continental U.S. or Alaskan. Proof of enrollment can be a copy of a Tribal ID card or a copy of an official letter from the Tribe. There is no minimum blood quantum requirement for eligibility.
- be enrolled as full-time students attending an accredited school 2-year, 4-year, or technical school and seeking an Associate's or higher degree. Certificate programs do not qualify. Any non-religious degree or major would qualify.

Requirements:

- Completed application (email is strongly preferred but postal mail will be accepted if the application arrives in the AAIA office by 5 p.m. Eastern time on the deadline date.)
- Proof of tribal enrollment (Tribal ID or copy of official letter from your tribe)
- A current class schedule and transcript

Awards: \$1,500 (annually); renewable until the degree is completed; 6 undergraduate scholarships were awarded in 2018.

Catching the Dream Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: Catching the Dream

Timeline: Applications are available online year round. Summer session deadline is March 15; fall semester deadline is April 30; spring semester deadline is September 15.

Website: <https://www.catchingthedream.org/>

Click on the link to Application Forms.

Contact Info: Return completed application to

Catching the Dream
8200 Mountain Road, N.E., Suite 103
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Phone: (505) 262-2351

Purpose: The mission of Catching the Dream, founded in 1986, is to help improve the quality of life in Indian communities through the higher education of Indian people. We provide scholarship funds for students who demonstrate academic achievement, clearly defined goals, leadership, the determination to succeed, and the desire to return to their communities and help others realize their dreams.

Eligibility: The applicants should

- be Native American Indian students who are ¼ or more degree American Indian and an enrolled member of a U.S. tribe. “U.S. Tribe” is defined as federally recognized, state recognized, or terminated.
- attend a college or university on a fulltime basis, seeking a BA or higher. CTD does not fund students studying out of the country or attending nonaccredited institutions, vocational, technical institutions, distance learning, or online programs.
- apply for ten other scholarships and all other sources of funding for which they are eligible.

- Requirements:**
- Completed application form typed on a computer, printed, signed, and postal mailed, and received by the deadline
 - Three letters of recommendation, received by the deadlines above
 - Essay, which must be five pages, typed, and double-spaced
 - List of ten other scholarships for which you have applied
 - Financial Need Analysis submitted by the college’s financial need officer
 - Copy of the IRS 1040 Federal Tax Return (student’s or parent’s) for the previous year
 - Official transcript
 - Test scores and percentiles from ACT or SAT
 - Copy of your letter of admission from an accredited college/university, or graduate school and degree program in the U.S.

- Formal color photo of good quality (2 by 3 inches) of the head and shoulders of the student, without any other people in the photo

Awards: Awards vary from year to year, and funds are disbursed as money becomes available to the fund. Catching the Dream scholarships are awarded for life. If you win, you will never have to apply again.

The Native American Scholarship

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

Timeline: Applications are available April 1; applications due June 15.

Website: www.csdiw.org

Click on the [Scholarships](#) link from the More pull-down menu.

Contact Info: Leslie Vander Meulen Richards, Scholarship Chairman

Email: leslie@khs65.com

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

Eligibility: The applications should

- 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 sophomore, junior, or senior 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 if the link to the application is no longer on the scholarship webpage. Submissions should include

- Completed application form
- Certification of tribal enrollment
- Written statement of financial need
- Verification of current address
- Official transcript of grades for the last two semesters or last three quarters of academic work, sealed and sent by postal mail

Awards: \$5,000 to at least one student each year; renewable

ESA Foundation Scholarship Program

Sponsoring Organization: Entertainment Software Scholarship Foundation

Timeline: In 2018–2109, the application opened November 15, 2018. The deadline in 2019 was February 21. *Dates may change from year to year. Always check the website for current deadlines.*

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

Click on Scholarship Program. After reading about the scholarship and reviewing the Frequently Asked Questions, use the link to the online application administered by International Scholarship & Tuition Services (ISTS). The ISTS application website is used by many organizations. You may already have an account. If you do not already have an account, register with your email address and create a password. Note: Be sure to write down your login information.

Contact Info: Questions about this scholarship are answered by ISTS.

Web “Contact Us” form: <https://istscustomer care.applyists.com/contact-us/>

Phone: 855-670-ISTS (4787)

Purpose: To assist women and minority students who are pursuing degrees leading to careers in Computer & Video Game Arts

Eligibility: Applicants should

- be a U.S. citizen.
- be a woman or a minority.
- be pursuing a degree leading to a career in computer and video game arts.
- be a current high school senior or college freshman, sophomore ,or junior.
- be enrolling or enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States.
- have a grade point average of 2.75 or above.

Requirements: All supporting documents must be uploaded in acceptable file formats to your online application:

- Completed online application
- High school transcript, official or unofficial
- ACT or SAT score
- Acceptance letter to college

Awards: \$3,000 per year; 15 scholarships to graduating high school students and 15 to current college students; the scholarship is not renewable

IHS Preparatory Scholarship

NOTE: This scholarship is only for college sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

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

Timeline: Applications open in late December. Applications are due in late March. *Check the scholarship website for specific deadlines for the year in which you apply.*

Website: <https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/>

The IHS Scholarship Program web page has a navigation menu and links to Program Materials. Explore all the web pages listed on the menu. Then, thoroughly read the Application Handbook (under Program Materials) before applying.

When you are ready to apply, click Apply Now. If you visit the site within the application time period, you can follow the directions to create an account and apply online. If you visit outside the application period, you will not be able to go any further.

Contact Info: New applicants should contact their Area Scholarship Coordinator:

Nicholas Mayo, Eastern U.S., IHS Scholarship Coordinator
711 Stewarts Perry Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

Phone: 615-467-1711

Fax: 615-467-1569

Email: nicholas.mayo@ihs.gov

Web form for more information at <https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/contact/>

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to undergraduate American Indian and Alaska Native students who enroll in courses in preparation for entry to eligible health professional degree programs.

Eligibility: *NOTE: Students are not eligible for this scholarship until their sophomore or junior year of college.* Applicants should

- be enrolled, full- or part-time, in an undergraduate degree program in pre-clinical psychology (junior and senior years only), pre-nursing (sophomore, junior, and senior years), pre-pharmacy (junior and senior years), or pre-social work (junior and senior years).
- be a US citizen, American Indian or Alaska Native, and a descendant or member of a federally-recognized, state-recognized, or terminated Tribe/Village.
- be, if male and age 18 and over, registered with the Selective Service.
- be a high school graduate.
- have a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- be capable of completing a health profession course of study

- intend to serve Indian people as a health care provider in your chosen discipline or specialty
- be willing to sign an IHS Scholarship Program Agreement (IHS-817) documenting that you're committed to continuing your education in your identified health profession degree program.

- Requirements:**
- Completed application, including course curriculum verification and faculty/employer evaluation
 - Official college transcripts
 - Proof of acceptance to an eligible college course of study with a start date
 - Tribal documentation (birth certificate, birth/death certificate of enrolled parents or grandparents, and evidence of your parent's or grandparents' tribal membership)
 - Proof of citizenship
 - Declaration of Federal Employment-OMB Form 3206-0162
 - Addendum of 306 Form-OMB Form 0917-0028

Awards: Full tuition costs and mandatory fees, books, and other educational expenses for two or three years, depending on the degree program; a monthly stipend of \$1500 or more covering reasonable living expenses; up to \$700 for summer school tuition and fees, but must be requested separately. See Application Handbook for details.

IHS Pre-Graduate Scholarship

NOTE: This scholarship is only for college juniors and seniors.

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

Timeline: Applications open in late December. Applications are due in late March. *Check the scholarship website for specific deadlines for the year in which you apply.*

Website: <https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/>

The IHS Scholarship Program web page has a navigation menu and links to Program Materials. It is highly recommended that you explore all the web pages listed on the menu. Then, download and thoroughly read the Application Handbook (under Program Materials) before applying.

When you are ready to apply, click Apply Now. If you visit the site within the application time period, you can follow the directions to create an account and apply online. If you visit outside the application period, you will not be able to go any further.

Contact Info: New applicants should contact their Area Scholarship Coordinator:

Nicholas Mayo, Eastern U.S., IHS Scholarship Coordinator
711 Stewarts Perry Pike
Nashville, TN 37214

Phone: 615-467-1711

Fax: 615-467-1569

Email: nicholas.mayo@ihs.gov

For more information, use the form at <https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/contact/>

Purpose: To provide financial assistance to undergraduate American Indian and Alaska Native students who are enrolled in courses leading to a bachelor's degree in pre-medicine, pre-dentistry, pre-podiatry, and other subjects needed by the Indian health programs.

Eligibility: *NOTE: Students are not eligible for this scholarship until their junior and senior years of college.* Applicants should

- be enrolled, full- or part-time, in an undergraduate degree program in pre-dentistry psychology (junior and senior years only), pre-medicine (junior and senior years), pre-optometry (junior and senior years), or pre-podiatry (junior and senior years).
- be a US citizen, American Indian or Alaska Native, and a descendant or member of a federally-recognized, state-recognized, or terminated Tribe/Village.
- be registered with the Selective Service if male and 18 or older.
- be a high school graduate.
- have a minimum 2.0 GPA.
- be capable of completing a health profession course of study.
- intend to serve Indian people as a health professional in your chosen specialty.

- be willing to sign an IHS Scholarship Program Agreement (IHS-817) documenting that you're committed to continuing your education in your identified health profession degree program.

Requirements:

- Application (online or postal mail) including course curriculum verification and faculty/employer evaluation
- Official college transcripts
- Proof of acceptance to an eligible college course of study with a start date
- Tribal documentation (birth certificate, birth/death certificate of enrolled parents or grandparents, and evidence of your parents' or grandparents' tribal membership)
- Proof of citizenship
- Declaration of Federal Employment-OMB Form 3206-0162
- Addendum of 306 Form-OMB Form 0917-0028.

Awards:

Full tuition costs and mandatory fees, books, and other educational expenses for two years; a monthly stipend of \$1500 or more covering reasonable living expenses; up to \$700 for summer school tuition and fees, but must be requested separately. *See Application Handbook for details.*

Native America Scholarship Program

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

Timeline: Send an email to namericanindiandirector.kds@gmail.com or postal letter request for application between November 1 and March 1. Completed applications and support documents must be sent by postal mail and postmarked on or before April 1.

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

Pull down the menu for Scholarships and select [Native American Scholarship Program](#).

Contact Info: Send email letter of interest to namericanindiandirector.kds@gmail.com or postal letter of interest to

IOKDS
Native American Scholarship Director
P.O. Box 1040
Chautauqua, NY 14722

Completed applications should be mailed to

IOKDS
Native American Scholarship Director
P.O. Box 1040
Chautauqua, NY 14722

Purpose: Native American needs have been a concern of The King's Daughters and Sons since 1934. IOKDS wishes to help meet the needs of Native American youth to receive post-secondary education.

Eligibility: Applicants must be Native American. Scholarships are given for technical, vocational, or college study. Scholarships are not granted for study beyond a Bachelor's Degree.

Requirements:

- Completed application
- If the request for application is sent by postal mail, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope (9.5 x 4.3 or #10)
- Documentation of the tribal registration
- Two letters of recommendation
- Copy of an acceptance letter from the college of choice
- Official transcript
- Personal statement
- A minimum of nine credit hours must be taken each semester or quarter.

Awards: \$500 to \$700; students who receive scholarships may reapply for additional academic years.

Milliman Opportunity Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: Milliman, Inc.

Timeline: The application period begins in mid-February and the deadline is in mid-April. *Always check the website for the dates in the year you are applying.*

Website: <https://www.scholarsapply.org/milliman-opportunity/>

Applications are online. From the scholarship page, you can create and log into an online account for your application.

Contact Info: Email: milliman-opportunity@scholarshipamerica.org

Phone: 507-931-1682

Purpose: “The Milliman Opportunity Scholarship assists students from ethnic groups and races that are under-represented in the fields of actuarial science, data science, computer science, economics, programming, mathematics, statistics, data analytics, or finance.”

Eligibility: Applicants in the United States and Canada must

- identify as Black or African American, Latino/Hispanic, American Indian or Alaskan Native, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.
- be living in and enrolled in a university in the United States.
- be intending to major in Actuarial Science, Computer Science, Data Analytics, Data Science, Economics, Finance, Mathematics, Programming, or Statistics.
- be academically high achieving with demonstrated interest and proficiency in their declared or intended major.
- be planning to attend an accredited college or university on a full-time basis.

Requirements:

- Completed online application
- Uploaded transcript
- Online recommendation from a school counselor, teacher, or work supervisor

Awards: \$5,000; 16 scholarships were awarded to students in the United States, Australia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom in 2018; students can receive awards in multiple years.

DAR American Indian Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Timeline: Applications must be emailed by February 15 midnight EST.

Website: www.dar.org

Select the Scholarships link and then American Indian. Then look for the DAR American Indian Scholarship. Or use the search tool.

Contact Info: Susan Lemon, National Vice Chair—American Indian Scholarships

Email: americanindiansschol@nsdar.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: Applicant must

- be Native American.
- be in financial need.
- have a grade point average of 3.25 or higher.

Requirements:

- Completed application (available as a PDF file)
- Letter giving family history, financial status, and educational objectives
- Official copy of last semester transcript, or last transcript obtained
- Three 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: a card issued by a tribal council or a letter from the tribal council
- Note: No ACT or SAT scores are required

Awards: \$4,000; nonrenewable

Frances Crawford Marvin American Indian Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Timeline: Applications must be emailed by February 15 midnight EST.

Website: www.dar.org

Select the Scholarships link and then American Indian. Then look for the Frances Crawford Marvin American Indian Scholarship. Or use the search tool.

Contact Info: Viola M. Kelly, National Vice Chair–American Indian Scholarships

Email: FCMarvinAmericanIndianScholarship@nsdar.org

Purpose: This scholarship is awarded once a year to a Native American student.

Eligibility: A candidate for this scholarship must

- be enrolled full-time at a two- or four-year college or university.
- be Native American.
- demonstrate financial need.
- demonstrate academic achievement and have a 3.25 or higher grade point average.

Requirements:

- Completed typed or computer-generated application (available as a PDF file)
- Letter giving family history, financial status, and educational objectives
- Official copy of last semester transcript, or last transcript obtained
- Three 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: a card issued by a tribal council or a letter from the tribal council

Note: No ACT or SAT scores are required.

Awards: Awarded to one student each year. The dollar amount varies from year to year. Recipients may reapply.

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

Sponsoring Organization: National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE)

Timeline: Applications must be received by March 1.

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

Enter “scholarship” into the search tool at the top of the home page and look for the name of the scholarship in the search results. Or use the Education & Practice menu to navigate to Students and then Scholarships.

Contact Info: Mail official transcripts to

The Maureen L. & Howard N. Blitman, P.E., Scholarship
1420 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-2794
Phone: 888-285-6773

Applications and other support materials can be emailed to
students@nspe.org

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 member of an underrepresented ethnic minority in the field of engineering: African-American, Hispanic, or Native American.
- have been accepted into an ABET-accredited engineering program at a four-year college or university.
- be a US citizen.
- have SAT scores 700 and above in math and 600 and above in verbal and ACT scores at or above 29 in math and English.

Requirements:

- Completed application form (PDF)
- Complete transcript of high school grades
- SAT and/or ACT scores
- Résumé or summary of internship/co-op experience(s) and involvement in other activities
- Two recommendation letters (from faculty who taught applicant)

Awards: \$5,000

American Indian Nurse Scholarship Award Program

Sponsoring Organization: The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America (NSCDA)

Timeline: Fall semester applications are due June 1. Spring semester applications are due December 1.

Website: <http://nscda.org/>

Click on Student Resources and then Scholarship Opportunities. Read the description of this scholarship and link to the downloadable PDF application.

Contact Info: Send completed application by postal mail to

Dumbarton House
Attn: Indian Nurse Scholarship
2715 Q Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20007-3071

Email HQAssistant@DumbartonHouse.org

Purpose: To help students fill a basic health care need of their people

Eligibility: Applicants should

- be one-quarter American Indian, enrolled in a tribe or can prove direct tribal ancestry.
- be a high school graduate or equivalent.
- be enrolled in the nursing program, having achieved good scholastic standing in pre-nursing; or enrolled in a health care or health education program.
- be expected to graduate two years after enrollment if in an Associate Degree program.
- be expected to graduate in four years if pursuing a B.S.
- be recommended by your counselor, teacher, or other school official.
- be in need of financial assistance.
- not be receiving an Indian Health Service Scholarship.
- have a career goal directly related to the needs of the Indian people.

Requirements:

- Completed application form
- Official transcript
- Small photo
- Biographical statement, including educational background, financial need, career goals, special achievements or other pertinent information

Awards: \$1,500 each semester (\$3,000 per year), as long as the student remains in good academic standing

NAJA Facebook Journalism Project Scholarship

NOTE: This scholarship is for only for college juniors and seniors.

Sponsoring Organization: Native American Journalists Association (NAJA)

Timeline: This scholarship began in 2018 and will make awards through 2023. In 2019, applications were due April 30.

Website: www.naja.com *On the Students menu, click on Scholarships.*

Contact Info: Bryan Pollard, NAJA Director of Programs and Strategic Partnerships
bpollard@naja.com

Purpose: The Native American Journalists Association is committed to increasing the representation of indigenous journalists in mainstream media. NAJA supports and empowers members through annual scholarship opportunities for Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and First Nations students.

Eligibility: Applicants must

- be enrolled junior or senior at an accredited university in the United States.
- be pursuing a degree in digital media/journalism/communications.
- have a commitment to storytelling as demonstrated by completed coursework, clips/work samples, and a letter of recommendation from a professor or internship supervisor familiar with their work and attesting to career commitment.
- be NAJA members.

- Requirements:**
- Membership in NAJA (\$10 for high school students and \$20 for college students)
 - Completed application
 - Linkable folder (Dropbox, for example) containing all required documents (please ensure there is open access)
 - Cover letter including bio, area of interest (print, broadcast, photojournalism, new media, or journalism education), reason(s) for pursuing a career in media, and anticipated graduation date
 - Link to current photo and permission to use it in NAJA media release announcing scholarship recipients
 - FAFSA report
 - Contact information for at two professional references
 - Current college transcript (can be unofficial copy)
 - Two letters of recommendation
 - Work samples, portfolio (magazines or newspaper clips, tapes, etc.), or other examples of student work such as class essays
 - Proof of enrollment in a federally or state-recognized tribe; if not formally enrolled, a letter from a tribal official on tribal letterhead stating the applicant's status or relationship with the tribe
 - Complete financial profile information (within application)

Awards: One-time award of \$10,000

American Indian Education Fund (AIEF) Undergraduate Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: Partnership With Native Americans

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

Website: www.aiefprogram.org

Select the Services menu at the top of the page. Then select Scholarships and click on Undergraduate.

Contact Info: American Indian Education Fund
2401 Eglin St.
Rapid City, SD 57703

Toll-free phone number: 1-866-866-8642

Email: (Student Contact) rschad@nativepartnership.org

Purpose: The American Indian Education Fund supports educational opportunities for American Indian, Alaska Native, and native Hawai'iian students. Their vision is supporting strong, self-sufficient American Indian communities.

Eligibility: Applicants

- must be Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawai'iian descent (student or one parent must be enrolled and have documentation).
- must be attending or accepted by an accredited 2- or 4-year college/university or technical/vocational school.
- must be enrolled as a full-time student.
- are most desirable with a GPA between 2.0 and 3.5, but *all* current or future undergraduate college students are encouraged to apply.
- are most desirable with an ACT score of 14 or above .
- must be seeking scholarships for undergraduate studies only; online colleges are not applicable.
- can only use scholarship awards for tuition and books.

Requirements:

- AIEF Undergraduate Scholarship Application form
- Community Involvement form
- Essay
- Photo
- Tribal enrollment document/card (copy only; do not send originals)
- Recent transcript (does not have to be official)
- GED documentation, if applicable
- ACT score (only for incoming freshmen who have taken the ACT)
- SAT scores (only for incoming freshmen who have taken the SAT)

Awards: About 200 scholarships annually; \$2,000 per year; renewable

Paumanauke Native American Indian Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: Paumanauke Native American Festival, Inc.

Timeline: Applications are accepted between February 1 and June 1.

Website: <http://www.paumanauke.org/index.html>

Click on Native American Scholarship Fund. Then, download and print the PDF application form.

Contact Info: Completed applications should be postal mailed to

Paumanauke Native American Festival, Inc.
c/o Scholarship Fund
2059 Merrick Road
Suite 221
Merrick, NY 11566

Write to the attention of Tony Moon Hawk Langborn on the envelope.

Purpose: “The Scholarship program was the dream of Nat Sales. Mr. Sales explained that “The children are our future and it is our obligation to these native young people to encourage them through scholarship programs to help preserve the cultural past in creating a bright new future.”

Eligibility: Applicants must be

- tribally-enrolled Native American Indians.
- attending college, university, or accredited post-secondary educational institutions on a full-time basis.

Requirements: Please *do not* send originals; send copies only:

- Completed application form
- Copy of your tribal documentation
- Proof of post-secondary school acceptance/enrollment on a full-time basis
- Community service information
- Personal biography
- Two letters of recommendation

Awards: \$500; up to six students are awarded each year; one applicant will be awarded \$750 for the Nat Sales Memorial Award.

SAA Arthur C. Parker Scholarship for Archaeological Training for Native Americans

Sponsoring Organization: Society for American Archaeology

Timeline: The application period begins each fall and the deadline is in mid-December.
NOTE: Dates vary from year to year, so always check the website for current information.

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

On the home page, use the search tool to find Native American Scholarships Fund. Then read about the available scholarships.

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: Provides funds to support training in archaeological methods and cultural resource management, including fieldwork, analytical techniques, and curation for Native Americans and Native Hawaiians enrolled as high school seniors, college undergraduates, and graduate students or who work in tribal or Native Hawaiian cultural preservation programs. Individuals may apply; or a professor, a cultural preservation supervisor, or an SAA member may nominate them.

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: Submit the following in a single email to nasf@saa.org:

- Completed application form, including a personal statement, a proposed budget, a proposed study program
- Documentation of Native identity (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)
- 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.*)

Awards: Up to \$6,000; a student may only receive one of these scholarships in a calendar year.

SAA Native American Undergraduate Archaeology Scholarship

Sponsoring Organization: Society for American Archaeology

Timeline: The application period begins each fall. The deadline is in mid-December.
NOTE: Dates vary from year to year, so always check the website for current information.

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

On the home page, use the search tool to find “Native American Scholarships Fund.” Then read about the available scholarships.

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: Submit the following in a single email to nasf@saa.org:

- Completed application form, including a personal statement, a proposed budget, a proposed study program (Arthur C. Parker Scholarship only)
- Documentation of Native identity (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).
- 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.*)

Awards: Up to \$6,000

Udall Undergraduate Scholarship

NOTE: This scholarship is only for college sophomores and juniors.

Sponsoring Organization: Udall Foundation

Timeline: The application is available online in September. Faculty reps must register students and submit applications in early March.

Website: <https://udall.gov/OurPrograms/Scholarship/Scholarship.aspx>

Contact Info: Jason Curley, Program Manager
curley@udall.gov

Phone: 520-901-8564

Purpose: The Udall scholarship honors the legacies of Morris Udall and Stewart Udall, whose careers had a significant impact on Native American self-governance, health care, and the stewardship of public lands and natural resources.

Eligibility: Candidates should be

- a sophomore or junior in a two-year or four-year college.
- working toward positive solutions to environmental challenges or to issues impacting Indian country.
- a US citizen or US permanent resident
- an enrolled member or descendant of an enrolled member of a federally or state-recognized tribe.
- able to submit enrollment forms, cards, birth certificates or other forms of documentation.

Requirements:

- You must have a college faculty rep, such as a professor, dean, or faculty advisor, who will submit everything for you.
- You will also have to choose from two broad areas of interest, either Tribal Public Policy or Native American Health Care.
- In addition to the online application and essay, you will need to submit college transcripts and letters of recommendation.

Awards: In 2019, 50 scholarships were awarded of up to \$7,000 each. Financial awards may be used toward tuition, books and supplies, and room and board. All awardees are required to attend an all-expenses-paid five-day Udall Scholarship Orientation, held each August in Tucson, Arizona.

VT EPSCoR Native American and First Generation Student Scholarship

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

Timeline: In 2019, application deadline was April 1. Reference letters were due April 8, 2019.

Website: Website: <https://epscor.w3.uvm.edu/2/node/134>

Contact Info: Vermont EPSCoR Center for Workforce Development & Diversity

Saint Michael's College
1 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. One scholarship is awarded annually scholarships to a Native American (including Abenaki) student interested in STEM areas, as evidenced by coursework and outside activity.”

Eligibility: An applicant should

- be a Vermont resident and US citizen.
- be 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.
- be enrolling or enrolled in a STEM (examples: biological, chemical, physical, and geological/astronomical sciences, computer science, mathematics, social sciences, or science education) major in college
- be of Native American ancestry *or* a First Generation to complete a four-year degree college student

Requirements:

- Completed online application form
- Essay detailing career goals
- Current résumé
- Two letters of recommendation (one from a teacher/faculty member and one from a clergy, community member, or employer)
- Transcripts are only required for students already enrolled in college
- Proof of Native American ancestry (photocopy of Tribal Enrollment Card)

Awards: \$5,000 for tuition and fees; one-time award

The Vermont Space Grant Undergraduate Scholarship Competition

Sponsoring Organization: Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VTSGC)

Timeline: Applications are accepted beginning January 1; deadline is March 1

Website: <https://www.uvm.edu/spacegrant/undergraduate-scholarships>

Contact Info: Vermont Space Grant Consortium/NASA EPSCoR
University of Vermont
Farrell Hall, Room 120
210 Colchester Avenue
Burlington, VT 05405

For more information, contact Debra Fraser, Program Coordinator.

Email: dfraser1@uvm.edu

Phone: (802) 656-1429

Purpose: “VTSGC Awards are funded by NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. The recipients are recognized for outstanding achievements as scholars. The purpose of this program is to establish a national network of universities with interests in aeronautics, space, and related fields; to encourage cooperation among universities, aerospace industry, and government; to encourage interdisciplinary training, research, and public service programs related to aerospace; to recruit and train professionals for careers in aerospace science; and to promote a strong science, mathematics, engineering, and technology educational base from elementary through university levels.”

Eligibility: Applicant should

- be a Vermont resident and US citizen.
- be 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.
- be planning to pursue a professional career that has direct relevance to the US aerospace industry and the goals of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), such as studies in astronomy, biology, engineering, mathematics, physics, aeronautical engineering, and other basic sciences, including earth sciences, and medicine. *Cross-disciplinary and other areas of study may also apply.*

Requirements:

- Completed online application form, including three essays
- Transcript
- One or two letters of recommendation from a mentor or academic advisor
- If selected, completion of the Vermont Space Grant Student Profile Form
- If selected, agreement to participate in the NASA tracking process

Awards: \$5,000; not automatically renewable; current scholarship recipients may reapply by completing all requirements for up to four years.

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 (Headshot) 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 guide, 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 this guide, [Applying to College](#), beginning with [Preparing 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.

Be sure to consider the [six questions](#) designed to stimulate your thinking about the kind of college you wish to attend. Then, use the tips and forms included to help you research schools that best fit your needs and narrow down your selection.

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.

We have provided coaching on how to write an effective essay and résumé. It is never too early to write a professional résumé, as 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, hoodies, or hats. Save the photograph as a JPG file with two resolutions (300 dpi for print; and 72 dpi for uploading online).

The second section of this guide, [Funding College](#), focuses on paying for college. It describes what a [FAESA](#) is and how to submit this critical document to raise money for tuition. This section also has information on how to locate scholarships online.

The [Directory of Scholarships](#) contains numerous scholarships, organized alphabetically by the sponsoring organization's name. Many of the scholarships are available to high school students or entering college freshmen. However, there are also several excellent scholarships listed that you will be eligible for once you are in college. We 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 2 also provides you with the tools you need to locate these types of scholarships.

The last section in this guide, [My Notes](#), 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 materials 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 guide. You have guidance available from your parents,

grandparents, family members, friends, Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), Abenaki Outreach Program, Title VI 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!

Jeff Benay, Ed.D.
Director, Indian Education Programs of Franklin County
Missisquoi Valley School District, Vermont
June 2019
(Revised Edition)

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. Some of these books are available online for as little as one cent plus shipping.

Financial Aid for Native Americans: 2017–19 Edition by Gail Ann Schlachter and R. David Weber, October 12, 2017. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Website:
https://kdp.amazon.com/en_US/1/print-on-demand

First Person, First Peoples: Native American College Graduates Tell Their Life Stories by Colleen Larimore, edited by Andrew Garrod, with foreword by Louise Erdrich, 1997. Cornell University Press.
<http://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100849580>

“Paying for a College Education” *Developing Your Vision While Attending College* Series (Book Two), 1999. American Indian College Fund. Downloadable booklet: <https://collegefund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/nefetwo.pdf>

The Seventh Generation: Native Students Speak about Finding the Good Path by Amy Bergstrom, et al., 2003. ERIC/CRESS, P.O. Box 1348, Charleston, WV. Tel: 800-624-9120. This book identifies how over 100 Native American students overcame challenges and struggles to succeed in school and achieve their goals. Downloadable booklet:
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED472385.pdf>

Tools for Success: Scholarship Directory & Guidelines for Getting Into College. Published by American Indian Education Fund. Fifth Edition, January 2018. Downloadable booklet:
http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/DocServer/pdf_Tools_For_Success.pdf?docID=6106

MY NOTES