

## Tribal (BIA) Funding

### Who qualifies for tribal funding?

To be qualified for tribal funding, a student needs to be an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe to be eligible to apply for a BIA funded tribal scholarship. Each tribal scholarship office has its own requirements so eligibility varies from tribe to tribe. You must also complete a financial aid application using the [Free Application](#) for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). Vista College financial aid office is available to assist with this process after you speak with an admissions advisor.

In addition, the following documents will be required by most tribal scholarship offices:

1. Academic Transcripts
2. Tribal Financial Need Analysis (FNA)
3. Letter of Admission for new students (this can be obtained from the Enrollment Services Office)
4. Verification of Enrollment for continuing students (a print out of the current list of the classes you are enrolled in)
5. Certificate of Indian Blood
6. Be sure to FOLLOW ALL DEADLINES

### What is Tribal Enrollment?

Tribal enrollment can also be known as: Tribal Membership, Tribal Documentation, Tribal Papers, Certificate of Indian Blood, Enrollment Card, Census Card, Tribal Census, BIA Roster, BIA Census, and Tribal Records

- **If a student is enrolled** in a tribe, they can receive a copy of the documentation from their tribal enrollment office.
- **If a student is not enrolled**, they must meet the eligibility requirements for their tribe before they can apply for membership. Students can call the tribal enrollment office to obtain requirements and application for tribal enrollment. Each tribe has specific eligibility requirements for membership.

### Why are only some Native American students eligible?

According to the Bureau of Indian Education, students do not automatically receive funding because they are an American Indian. That is why it is very important for to become familiar with the requirements of tribal enrollment, college admission requirements, as well as the tribe's eligibility terms and the relationship between these various programs and offices.

Undivided attention is needed to successfully complete tribal funding, admission, and financial documentation.

Tribal Scholarship funds are often a direct result of treaty provisions or business contracts between the federal government and individual tribes. The federal government and businesses contract with tribes to pay royalties in exchange for land use or mining rights. Some individual tribes then set up tribal scholarship agencies to distribute the funds among its members.

### **What is the Vista College Hope Scholarship?**

Vista College offers the Hope Scholarship to support local tribes who promote access to affordable higher education and training. The Hope Scholarship provides additional financial support to students who enroll in one of Vista College programs and are receiving tribal (BIA) funding to assist with educational costs not supported by other sources of funding. It is possible for Native American students to graduate and begin or advance their career while reducing the burden of student loan debt. **\*See brochure**

### **What other scholarships are available for Native students?**

There are some private scholarships which do not require documentation of American Indian tribal enrollment, heritage or ancestry. However, obtaining tribal documentation now may make the process easier if it is required later.

Below are links to websites that contain information and scholarship applications for American Indians, and other general scholarship information. Check each site to verify if you need proof of enrollment to qualify for each scholarship. It may be advisable to create a new email used specifically for scholarship searches and applications. These sites will start you on your search; however there are countless sites available to assist you in your scholarship search.

As you apply for more scholarships it will increase your chance of receiving awards. *Plan to spend a lot of time on applications and be sure to pay close attention to deadlines.*

- <http://www.schoolsoup.com/scholarship-directory/academic-major/applied-science/>
- [American Indian Services](#)
- [www.aigc.com/](http://www.aigc.com/)
- [www.indian-affairs.org/scholarships/aaia\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.indian-affairs.org/scholarships/aaia_scholarships.htm)
- <http://collegeapps.about.com/od/payingforcollege/>
- [www.scholarships4students.com/american\\_indian\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.scholarships4students.com/american_indian_scholarships.htm)
- [www.collegefund.org/](http://www.collegefund.org/)
- [www.catchingthedream.org/Scholarship.htm](http://www.catchingthedream.org/Scholarship.htm)
- [www.narf.org/nill/resources/scholarships.htm](http://www.narf.org/nill/resources/scholarships.htm)
- [www.aipc.osmre.gov/student.html](http://www.aipc.osmre.gov/student.html)
- [www.ncidc.org/educ/scholindex.htm](http://www.ncidc.org/educ/scholindex.htm)
- [www.abetterchance.org/abetterchance.aspx?pgID=1082](http://www.abetterchance.org/abetterchance.aspx?pgID=1082)
- [www.finaid.org/otheraid/natamind.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/otheraid/natamind.phtml)
- <http://www.bie.edu/ParentsStudents/Grants/index.htm>
- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- <http://scholarships.fatomei.com/native.html>
- <http://www.ihs.gov/JobCareerDevelop/DHPS/scholarships/index.cfm>
- [http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/codetalk/planet/learn\\_college.html#scholarships](http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/codetalk/planet/learn_college.html#scholarships)