

Colleges with Free or Reduced Tuition for Native American Students



CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Appendix B: Resident Tuition for American Indians in Kansas: Research on Various State Laws and Policies

Note: This is a working document and isn't necessarily exhaustive of every state and policy, and may be out of date in some cases.

Also, see this recent story: insidehighered.com/news/2022/05/13/tuition-waivers-native-american-students-spread

Arkansas

University of Arkansas

- Waiver of Non-Resident Tuition for Native Americans (Board Policy 250.1)
registrar.uark.edu/student-records/resident-reclassification

Native American people who reside in other states but are members of tribes that lived in Arkansas before relocation, and whose names are listed by the tribal government as members, shall be classified as in-state students of Arkansas for tuition and fee purposes on all campuses of the University of Arkansas System.

Tribes so identified include:

- Caddo
- Cherokee
- Chickasaw
- Choctaw
- Creek
- Delaware
- Kickapoo
- Osage
- Quapaw
- Shawnee
- Tunica
- Peoria

Arizona

- Arizona Board of Regents Policy (ABOR 4-203.C.8.a-b):

The individual is an enrolled member of an Indian tribe recognized by the United States Department of Interior whose reservation land lies wholly or partially in Arizona and extends into another state and is a resident of the reservation.

For purposes of residency classification, enrollment as a tribal member in a federally recognized Arizona tribe will be sufficient to establish residency for tuition purposes.

- Article about resident tuition for in state tribal members: uanews.arizona.edu/story/instate-tuition-creates-opportunity-american-indian-students

A policy granting members of all federally recognized tribes in Arizona in-state tuition — even those who choose to return after attending an institution elsewhere — is helping to retain American Indian students by making educational costs more affordable.

Since the residency classification policy was approved by the Arizona Board of Regents in 2013, the University of Arizona has enrolled 85 undergraduate and 15 graduate students under the exception.

California

- Native American Opportunity Plan
admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/tuition-financial-aid/types-of-aid/native-american-opportunity-plan.html#:~:text=UC's%20Native%20American%20Opportunity%20Plan,Indian%2C%20and%20Alaska%20Native%20tribes.

UC's Native American Opportunity Plan ensures that in-state systemwide Tuition and Student Services Fees are fully covered for California students who are also enrolled in federally recognized Native American, American Indian, and Alaska Native tribes. This plan applies to undergraduate and graduate students. If you are eligible for the Native American Opportunity Plan, your in-state systemwide Tuition and Student Services Fees will be fully covered by either UC financial aid or another federal, state or other financial aid program. Students with greater financial need can qualify for even more grant support to help pay other educational expenses (like books, housing, transportation, etc.).

Colorado

Colorado State University

- Native American Legacy Award (NALA)
admissions.colostate.edu/nativeamerican

The Native American Legacy Award (NALA) is an award for qualified students who are citizens of state or federally recognized tribes or descendants of tribally enrolled citizens. In short, you can receive in-state tuition if you are from out of state. This award means your non-resident tuition will be reduced to Colorado resident base tuition. This does not include university fees or differential tuition. The award is based on current tuition rates, which are subject to change each year. The actual NALA tuition rate will be reflected in your estimated cost of attendance, financial aid awards (if applicable), and billing statements.

Fort Lewis College (Durango, Colorado)

- Fort Lewis tuition waiver:
<https://www.fortlewis.edu/tuition-aid/native-american-tuition-waiver>

Qualified Native American students can attend Fort Lewis College tuition free. However, they are still responsible for paying their student fees, room and board expenses, purchasing books, and any other educational expenses they may have.

For purposes of the tuition waiver, Native American is defined as follows:

"The term Native American shall include all persons of Native American descent who are members of any recognized Native American tribe now under federal jurisdiction, and all persons who are descendants of such members who were, on June 1, 1934, residing within the present boundaries of any Native American reservation, and shall further include all persons of one-half or more Native American blood. Eskimos and other aboriginal people of Alaska shall be considered Native Americans."

University of Northern Colorado

- Native American Tuition Waiver
<https://admissions.colostate.edu/cost-financial-aid/financial-aid-scholarships/native-american-legacy-award/tribes-with-historical-ties-to-colorado/>

According to [Colorado Senate Bill SB21-029](#), section 23-7-112 IV (b) (effective June 28, 2021), "American Indian students who are registered members of a federally recognized American Indian tribe with historical ties to Colorado" will be eligible for in-state tuition at Colorado public universities and colleges, beginning fall semester 2021-22.

Hawaii

- UH-OHA Ho'ona'auao Higher Education Scholarship Program
oha.org/scholarships#:~:text=Honolulu%20Community%20College%20Hawaiian%20Tuition%20Waiver%20The%20Hawaiian,credits%29.%20http%3A%2F%2Fwww.honolulu.hawaii.edu%2Fnode%2F80%20ALU%20LIKE%2C%20Inc.%20Hana%20Lima%20Scholarships

Native Hawaiian students at any of the University of Hawai'i's 10 campuses may apply for the UH-OHA Ho'ona'auao Scholarship Program. The scholarships are funded through a \$1.1-million grant provided by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and administered by the UH Mānoa [Native Hawaiian Science and Engineering Mentorship Program](#) (NHSEMP).

The scholarship program has two priority areas:

- 1. to support scholarships for Native Hawaiians who plan to pursue vocational certificates, undergraduate and graduate degrees; and*
- 2. to provide wrap-around services for non-traditional Native Hawaiian students in order to help them complete a post-secondary degree or vocational or technical education.*

Idaho

University of Idaho

uidaho.edu/diversity/edu/native-american-student-center/scholarships/tribal-excellence

Open to undergraduates, this scholarship program waives out-of-state tuition for all full-time students enrolled as a member of the tribes with which the University of Idaho has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or students who are enrolled tribal members transferring from an accredited tribal college or university.

Qualifying Tribes Include:

- Coeur d'Alene
- Kootenai
- Nez Perce
- Shoshone-Bannock
- Shoshone-Paiute
- Colville
- Kalispel
- Spokane
- Umatilla
- Yakima

Illinois

University of Illinois at Chicago

- On May 28, 2019, the UIC announced that the school will offer in-state tuition to students from any of the 573 tribal nations in the United States.
today.uic.edu/uic-to-offer-in-state-tuition-to-students-from-any-of-the-573-tribal-nations-in-us

While historically the native Americans indigenous to the region included the Potawatomie, Ojibwa and Odawa tribes, they were driven out of Illinois and the Bureau of Indian Affairs does not list any tribes in Illinois. Nearby states such as Wisconsin and Michigan each list at least a dozen recognized tribes in those states and Indiana also lists one tribe.

Iowa

- Iowa Board of Regents has authority to determine resident tuition policy (1.6.F.ii): iowaregents.edu/plans-and-policies/board-policy-manual/16-fees-and-charges

Iowa Board of Regents determines the “rules for classification of a student as a resident or nonresident for tuition and fee purposes...Those rules include general residency guidelines, with specific discussion of military personnel, American Indians, refugees, and immigrants.”

- Board of Regents State of Iowa Admission Rules Common to the Three State Universities (681-1.4.2.a.8): legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/chapter/681.1.pdf (see p. 5)

At the regent institutions, American Indians who have origins in any of the original people of North America and who maintain a cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition with one or more of the tribes or nations connected historically with the present state of Iowa, including the Iowa, Kickapoo, Menominee, Miami, Missouri, Ojibwa (Chippewa), Omaha, Otoe, Ottawa (Odawa), Potawatomi, Sac and Fox (Sauk, Meskwaki), Sioux, and Winnebago (Ho Chunk), will be assessed Iowa resident tuition and fees.

- Iowa Board of Regents meeting notes October 15-16, 1997 (pp 300-303) where they adopted the applicable guidelines: iowaregents.edu/media/cms/oct97-pdf6CE80D62.pdf
- University of Iowa: diversity.uiowa.edu/awards/iowa-first-nations-tuition-program

The University of Iowa invites members of the Tribes/Nations historic to Iowa to attend the university and pay in-state tuition, regardless of where they live.

Kansas

- Haskell Students deemed residents of the state for purpose of tuition and fees at KBOR institutions: ksrevisor.org/statutes/chapters/ch76/076_007_0031.html

76-731. Certain American Indians deemed residents of state for purpose of tuition and fees. *Any person who is attending or who has attended Haskell Indian Junior College and who is enrolled as an American Indian on a tribal membership roll maintained by the bureau of Indian affairs of the United States department of the interior shall be deemed to be a resident of this state for the purpose of tuition and fees for attendance at any state educational institution under the state board of regents. History: L. 1974, ch. 408, § 1; L. 1977, ch. 237, § 46; April 21.*

Ottawa University (Ottawa, KS)

- Ottawa University Tuition Policy for tribal members of Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma (click on “Tribal Students” tab): ottawa.edu/ouks/admissions/tribal-students

Ottawa University is privileged to carry on the legacy of providing a free education to Ottawa Tribe members that was begun by our Baptist and Tribal founders. Because of the special heritage you enjoy as part of the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, you are allowed to attend Ottawa University free of any tuition or room and board charges. This is due in part to the renewal and expansion of the original agreement by Chancellor Kevin Eichner in 2008. Since the agreement’s expansion, we have enjoyed more Tribe members on campus than ever before.

Maine

- Native American Waiver and Educational Program maine.edu/apls/apl-ix-g/#::-:text=The%20University%20of%20Maine%20System%20has%20tuition%20waiver%20and%20room,public%20higher%20education%20in%20Maine

The University of Maine System has tuition waiver and room and board grant programs for eligible Native American students. The purpose of these programs is to encourage Native American students to participate in public higher education in Maine. The goal is to provide sustained support for all UMS Native American students who wish to pursue post-secondary study and, in particular,

those who wish to obtain a certificate and/or an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree or some other appropriate credential that will serve them personally and professionally as they plan for the future.

- Native American Waiver Program

This program covers tuition and mandatory fees. Tuition and mandatory fees will be waived for qualified students, both matriculated and non-matriculated, who are enrolled in academic, credit-bearing courses at the undergraduate, graduate, or continuing education level at the campuses of the University of Maine System. Mandatory fees are required fees charged of all students enrolled at the institution and automatically assessed at the time of registration exclusive of fees associated with contracted training or other educational activities provided by an external agency, business or organization including but not limited to travel and accommodation fees related to travel courses and other extraordinary fees such as health insurance.

- Native American Room and Board Grant

The Native American Room and Board Grant is a need-based award for qualified native students living in a residence hall of the campus where they are matriculating. Students will be subsidized at the double occupancy rate for the student's residence. Charges for single, double single, or computer or telephone devices, for which there is a separate charge, will be the responsibility of the student tenant. Room and board charges will be covered only during the traditional academic year (fall and spring terms).

Massachusetts

- Native American Tuition Waiver:

mass.gov/service-details/native-american-tuition-waiver

Over the last two decades the Massachusetts Commission on Indian Affairs has assisted in the determination of eligibility of Native Americans in Massachusetts for tuition waivers at state colleges and universities. It is authorized by the Board of Education to certify that individuals are of Native American descent and eligible for the tuition waiver.

The Commission uses membership in a Massachusetts tribal group (tribe, band, or clan) that is acknowledged by the Commission as a legitimate, historical tribal group as a criterion for making recommendations about tuition waivers. In addition, the Commission uses official state and federal recognition status for issuing tuition waivers to individuals whose tribes are located outside of Massachusetts.

To be eligible for a tuition credit, the applicant must: (1) Be Native American; (2) Be a Massachusetts resident; (3) Be enrolled in a degree program at a Massachusetts college or university.

Michigan

- Michigan statute: MCL 390.1251, MCL 390.1252, MCL 390.1252a, MCL 390.1253 (also known as Michigan Public Act 174 of 1976) Available at: [legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(d5drne3mxmnavtcmljpm5v544\)\)/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Act-174-of-1976.pdf](https://legislature.mi.gov/(S(d5drne3mxmnavtcmljpm5v544))/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-Act-174-of-1976.pdf)

An act to provide free tuition for state resident North American Indians in Michigan public community colleges, public universities, and certain federal tribally controlled community colleges; and to prescribe certain powers and duties of certain state departments, commissions, and agencies.

- For more information on background, origins of the tuition waiver program, student recipient profile, and more, see "Indian Tuition Waiver Program," Michigan Legislative Service Bureau, Legislative Research Division, Research Report vol. 20, no. 3 (May 2000). Available at: turtletalk.files.wordpress.com/2009/03/2000_milegservicebureau_tutionwavier00011.pdf

Minnesota

University of Minnesota

- Native American Promise Tuition Program:
system.umn.edu/native-american-promise-tuition-program

As of Fall 2022, newly admitted University of Minnesota freshmen undergraduate students and transfer students from one of the four Tribal colleges in Minnesota who are enrolled citizens of one of the 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota, who complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and meet income requirements will automatically be considered for Native American Promise Tuition Program. Prospective students for Fall 2022 and beyond, at any of the five U of M campuses must establish eligibility within their first enrollment year (either as a new freshman or transfer student from one of the 4 Tribal Colleges). Students enrolled prior to Fall 2022 are not eligible for this program.

University of Minnesota Morris

morris.umn.edu/native-american-students-morris/financial-aid-american-indian-students

The University of Minnesota Morris will admit American Indian students qualified for admission free of charge for tuition, as mandated in federal law and state statute.

Students with American Indian heritage are admitted to the University of Minnesota Morris on the same basis as other students. For the purposes of this tuition waiver, American Indian is defined as: an enrolled member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe, Alaskan Native Village, or Canadian First Nation; a direct descendant of a parent or grandparent who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe, Alaskan Native Village, or Canadian First Nation; or a direct descendant of a tribally verified member of a federally recognized American Indian tribe, Alaskan Native Village, or Canadian First Nation, other than parent or grandparent. American Indian students do not need to establish residence on trust lands, nor do they need to be Minnesota residents.

Montana

- American Indian Tuition Waiver
mus.edu/borpol/bor900/940-13.pdf
mus.edu/AIMA/brochure.html#:~:text=The%20Montana%20Board%20of%20Regents%20adopted%20Policy%20940.13,waive%20tuition%20for%20eligible%20undergraduate%20American%20Indian%20students

The Montana Board of Regents adopted Policy 940.13 in order to increase access to higher education for resident American Indian students. The policy requires that the campuses of the Montana University System waive tuition for eligible undergraduate American Indian students. During the 2018-2019 school year, the Montana University System waived over \$2.9 million in tuition for 832 American Indian students. Although this policy is sometimes called a fee waiver, it allows only waivers of tuition. Fees, program fees and other charges are not waived by this policy.

Persons who have at least one-fourth (1/4) degree Indian blood or are enrolled members of a state recognized or federally recognized Indian tribe which is located within the boundaries of the State of Montana may be eligible for a waiver upon demonstration of financial need. "Financial need" is defined as having at least one dollar of remaining need after subtracting Expected Family Contribution, all Title IV grant aid and institutional aid from the cost of attendance. Duplication of tuition designated awards is not allowed.

The campuses follow federal financial aid guidelines in awarding and renewing tuition waivers. These rules may be obtained from the financial aid office on each campus. Students may continue to receive these waivers from year to year, if they make reasonable academic progress. Students should check each campus's policy about satisfactory progress.

Nebraska

- Nebraska Board of Regents Policy (RP 5.7.1, 3j) - Page RP 172: nebraska.edu/-/media/unca/docs/offices-and-policies/policies/board-governing-documents/board-of-regents-policies.pdf?la=en

Resident Tuition Categories:

Members of Native American Tribes that are indigenous to or have historically migrated to or from the State of Nebraska.

- University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL): admissions.unl.edu/specialized-information/native
Tribes eligible for in-state tuition: The University of Nebraska-Lincoln offers in-state tuition rates to enrolled members of the following 24 tribes listed below who have historical and present ties with Nebraska, whether they are residents of Nebraska or not. Arapaho, Hidatsa, Missouria, Sac and Fox, Arikara, Jicarilla Apache, Omaha, Dakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, Iowa, Otoe, Lakota Sioux, Southern Cheyenne, Kickapoo, Pawnee, Nakota Sioux, Comanche, Kiowa, Ponca, Santee Sioux, Crow, Mandan, Potawatomie, and Winnebago.
- University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC): unmc.edu/student-services/rse/recruitment/native-american.html
Native American tribes are woven into the diverse fabric of Nebraska. Respecting this, the University of Nebraska Medical Center offers in-state tuition rates to enrolled members of the 25 tribes listed below who have historical and contemporary ties with Nebraska, whether they are currently living in Nebraska or not. These Native American students applying to UNMC will be considered Nebraska residents - a significant advantage both financially and for admission when applying to our competitive programs. (includes list of tribes thereafter)
- University of Nebraska, Omaha (click on “How do you apply for residency?” Then click on “Application for Residency Classification” and see letter J on form): unomaha.edu/admissions/undergraduate/residency-faq.php

New Mexico

- 2005 New Mexico Laws Ch. 155 (S.B. 482): law.uh.edu/ihehg/undocumented/NMLEGIS155.pdf
Defining “resident student” at state post-secondary educational institutions to include members of Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located wholly or partially in New Mexico.
- University of New Mexico Office of the Registrar: *Exceptions for Resident Tuition, members of an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo located wholly or partially in New Mexico*
A member of an Indian nation, tribe or pueblo that is located wholly or partially in New Mexico, regardless of the residence of the member prior to acceptance, is charged at resident rates.

New York

- New York State tuition “grant”: hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/nys-aid-to-native-americans.html
Enrolled members of a New York State tribe and their children who are attending, or planning to attend, a college in New York State and are New York State residents.”
American Indian students are eligible to receive grant awards of up to \$2,000 per year for up to four years of full-time study.

Oklahoma

Northeastern State University

scholarships.nsuok.edu/OutOfState/TribalHeritageScholarship.aspx

This scholarship program has been designed to assist in funding American Indian students education at Northeastern State University. Those students eligible for the program will receive a non-resident tuition waiver scholarship for 100% of their non-resident tuition. Non-Resident tuition is \$288 per hour for undergraduates and \$314.50 for graduate students, in addition to in-state tuition. Students are responsible for paying the in-state portion of their tuition.

Oregon

- Oregon Tribal Student Grant

oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-tribal-student.aspx

The Oregon Tribal Student Grant program was established to provide grants to eligible Oregon tribal students to offset the cost of attendance for attending eligible Oregon colleges and universities. Current continuing and new students are encouraged to apply for this grant for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The grant is intended to cover the average cost of attendance after all federal and state grants/scholarships have been applied.

- Oregon State University

admissions.oregonstate.edu/resident-tuition-federally-recognized-indian-tribes

Starting with the fall term 2022, Oregon State University students who are enrolled members of the 574 federally recognized Tribes as included on the Federal Register, shall be considered residents of the state of Oregon for tuition purposes. This policy shall include enrolled members of any Tribes added to the Federal Register in future years. The policy shall apply to tuition charged for any for-credit course offered at OSU, whether at the undergraduate or graduate level, and as a part of any academic program, including but not limited to degree, certificate, digital badges, or course sequences.

Portland State University

pdx.edu/student-finance/native-american-tuition-program

Portland State University's (PSU) Native American Tuition Program (NATP) ensures that undergraduate students who are enrolled members of any one of the U.S. Federally Recognized Tribes will pay the equivalent of resident tuition regardless of their state or country of residence. This discount cannot be used to pay for housing costs at PSU.

Utah

- Utah State Statute (53B-8-102-10): le.utah.gov/xcode/title53b/chapter8/53b-8-s102.html

Any American Indian who is enrolled on the tribal rolls of a tribe whose reservation or trust lands lie partly or wholly within Utah or whose border is at any point contiguous with the border of Utah, and any American Indian who is a member of a federally recognized or known Utah tribe and who has graduated from a high school in Utah, is entitled to resident student status.

- University of Utah residency for tuition purposes policy: admissions.utah.edu/apply/residency

Qualifying tribes include:

- Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
- Navajo Nation (Diné)
- Northwestern Band of Shoshoni Nation of Utah (Washakie)
- Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (Cedar City Band of Paiutes, Kanosh Band of Paiutes, Koosharem Band of Paiutes, Indian Peaks Band of Paiutes, and Shivwits Band of Paiutes)
- Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians of Utah
- Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation
- Hopi
- Zuni
- Shoshone-Bannock Tribe

Washington

- “Resident Tuition Rates - American Indian Students,” RCW 28B.15.0131. This Washington statute focuses on in-state tuition for residents of Washington state and neighboring states who are members of federally recognized tribes with historical ties to their state. It reads:

For the purposes of determining resident tuition rates, resident students shall include American Indian students who meet two conditions. First, for a period of one year immediately prior to enrollment at a state institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the student must have been domiciled in one or a combination of the following states: Idaho; Montana; Oregon; or Washington. Second, the students must be members of one of the federally recognized Indian tribes whose traditional and customary tribal boundaries included portions of the state of Washington, or whose tribe was granted reserved lands within the state of Washington. Federal recognition of an Indian tribe shall be as determined under 25 C.F.R. by the United States bureau of Indian affairs.

Any student enrolled at a state institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 who is paying resident tuition under this section, and who has not established domicile in the state of Washington at least one year before enrollment, shall not be included in any calculation of state-funded enrollment for budgeting purposes, and no state general fund moneys shall be appropriated to a state institution of higher education for the support of such student.

Found at: app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28B.15.0131