

Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Higher Education Program



Thinking about college?
A guide to the process

You Can Earn A College Degree

When you reach middle school it's a good time to think about planning for your adult life. The choices you make today will determine your tomorrow. There are many paths for you to choose from and middle school is the time to start thinking about the rest of your life.

You may have been thinking about attending college. If so, then you need to start preparing now. You have a wide choice of career fields to pursue in college. It's good to remember that the grades you get in high school will be on your record for the rest of your life. Good grades also improve your chances of winning scholarships to pay for college.

Perhaps you've considered technical school. Technical school will provide you with a certain set of skills in order to prepare you for specialized employment. This includes fields like auto mechanics, carpentry, welding, culinary arts, office management, computer repair, etc.

You might not want to attend college or technical school. Many young people are anxious to go to work. A high school diploma or GED certificate is usually required of most job applicants. High school graduates can expect to earn at least the minimum wage in jobs they are hired for. If you want a higher paying job, you will have to work to gain job experience or attend college or vocational school.

Most employers on the Rosebud Reservation require applicants to have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED. The major employers on the Rosebud Reservation are the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the Indian Health Service (IHS) and the local school districts. The BIA and IHS employ several tribal members on the Rosebud Reservation, many of whom have established lifelong career in federal service. Employees with the federal government generally enjoy excellent retirement and health insurance benefits.

What you do with your life is your choice. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe wants you to be successful. There are many paths to building a successful life. In today's society, it is difficult to find a high paying job without some educational or experience skills to back you up.

You are the Future of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate!

If you've made the choice to pursue a college or technical education – congratulations! The Rosebud Sioux Tribe's Education Department believes you've made a wise decision to begin the application process to the college of your choice. This booklet is designed to help you search for and complete applications for financial aid.

Even if you aren't sure that college is for you, we encourage you to complete all the steps required for admission and financial aid. You can always delay your financial aid and educational plans. But it's good to be prepared just in case you decide to attend college at the last minute!

Ready, Set, Go!

The first requirement in completing the college funding application process is to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You can submit your FAFSA application online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> as soon as you or your parents have filed a federal income tax return.

One of the most important things to keep in mind is DEADLINES. The FAFSA deadline is usually not until June 30 of the academic year you intend to attend school. The FAFSA information is used to determine whether or not you are eligible for a Pell Grant. It is best to get the FAFSA submitted as soon as you or your parents file your federal income tax return. The majority of colleges and funding sources require this information in order to determine how much financial aid you are eligible to receive.

You should also create a FAFSA ID. After you have created your FAFSA ID, be sure to keep this information in a safe place. This FAFSA ID consists of a user name and password which is required on the US Department of Education websites. The FAFSA ID is also required to access your personal information, as well as to sign any applications for federal aid that you submit. Keep in mind that most colleges, universities and technical schools require you submit the FAFSA information to their Financial Aid Officer in order to determine your eligibility for financial aid.

Rosebud Sioux Tribe Higher Education Scholarship

Enrolled members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe are eligible to apply for a Higher Education Scholarship. The Education Department makes scholarship awards to qualified students who plan to attend an **off-reservation college, university or technical school**. Students who attend Sinte Gleska University can apply for a scholarship through the SGU financial aid officer.

The purpose of this scholarship is to serve eligible Sicangu people and provide them with an opportunity to achieve their educational goals. This opportunity is provided as a privilege with the intent that tribal members will return to the Rosebud Reservation to apply their learning to the development of the Sicangu Oyate.

Applicants are prioritized in the following order: (1) continuing students, (2) Reservation students beginning with seniors, (3) in-state students beginning with seniors, (4) out of state students beginning with seniors. All documents must be submitted by the deadline date for the terms you are applying. Deadlines are July 1 for the academic year (fall, winter and spring semesters, quarters, etc.) and December 1 for the spring semester or quarter only. Your file must be complete before review and awards are contingent upon academic progress, financial needs and availability of funds. Students must be enrolled full-time (twelve (12) credit hours) and have a 1.5 grade point average (GPA) for freshman students.

Applicants must have completed the FAFSA, in order for the college of your choice to fill out your Financial Needs Analysis form. Students in financial default are not eligible for funding. Certificate programs are also not eligible for funding. In addition, if you are interested in a vocational non-degree program, contact the AVT Scholarship officer at Sinte Gleska University. Awards are based on funding priorities and are awarded on a first come, first served basis until funding is depleted for the term. You must submit a new application each funding year and meet the minimum GPA requirements: 1.5 for freshmen, 2.00 for sophomores and 2.5 for juniors and seniors.

It is your responsibility to provide the college or university with an RST Higher Education Financial Needs Analysis form. The Financial Aid Officer must complete this form for you and return it to us as soon as possible for you to be considered for funding. Also, if there are any issues with your Financial Needs Analysis, please contact our Higher Education Office immediately.

College Tuition Waivers for Native American Students

Some states have enacted laws providing for scholarships, tuition waivers, or grant programs for Native Americans. Most of the states require that students be residents of the state prior to enrolling in a state college/university and/or be a member of a tribe from that state. Students should check with the colleges they are interested in attending to see if Native American scholarships or tuition waivers are offered.

The following states and colleges/universities offer either in-state tuition rates or tuition waivers to Native American students, with additional requirements such as tribe, state residency or graduation from a Bureau of Indian Education high school in that state. Visit the state college/university website and search under Financial Aid for American Indian tuition waivers:

California

In-state tuition for American Indian students who graduated from a California Bureau of Indian Education high school.

Iowa

In-state tuition for 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). Check with the college of your choice for more information.

Colorado

Fort Lewis College at Durango – Student must be 1/4 Native American OR enrolled in a federally recognized tribe OR a direct decedent of a tribal member who lived on a reservation prior to June 1, 1934. <https://www.fortlewis.edu/financialaid/NativeAmericans.aspx>

Kansas

Haskell Indian Nations University – Students do not need to be tribally enrolled, but must document 1/4 or more tribal descent. <http://www.haskell.edu/>

Montana

Montana University System – Tuition waiver for Montana residents enrolled in a federally recognized tribe. Check with the college of your choice for more information. http://www.mus.edu/Prepare/Pay/Tuition_and_Fee_Waivers.asp

Minnesota

University of Minnesota at Morris – Student must be enrolled in a federally recognized tribe OR a parent OR grandparent must be enrolled. Check with the college of your choice for more information.

<http://www.morris.umn.edu/financialaid/scholarshipswaivers/americanindiantuition/>

North Dakota University System

The ND Indian Scholarship Program assists American Indian Students in obtaining a college education by providing grants based upon scholastic ability and financial need.

<http://www.ndus.edu/students/paying-for-college/>

Searching for Scholarships

There is a lot of money available for college students. The trick is to find grants or scholarships you are eligible for and to begin your application well before the deadline so you will be considered for funding. It is a good idea to begin searching for scholarship or grant money when you are a sophomore or junior in high school.

Today's technology allows you to conduct a more extensive search for college funding. The internet has many search engines which you can use to look for scholarships that are specific to your field of study. When you begin searching for college funding early, you will be more empowered to win a scholarship if you write a good essay. Most scholarships are highly competitive and many applications require you to submit an essay as part of the process.

Some prospective students may cringe when they think about writing an essay. It doesn't have to be a difficult process. Most applications ask for an essay of approximately 500 words, which isn't really that much when you think about it. For example, if you wrote 20 words a day for 25 days, you will have written 500 words. A scholarship application that requires a 1000 word essay will only require you to write 40 words per day for 25 days.

Do not let the application process intimidate you. ***Many sentences you write without much effort (such as this one you are reading) will contain 20 or more words.*** So, when you break down the essay portion of a college scholarship application into writing a sentence or two for 25 days, it doesn't seem quite as intimidating. And that is why we want you to start your application early – we want you to have as less stress as possible as you search and apply for college funding.

We have included websites for some organizations who provide scholarships on the following pages. Please check with them to see if you are eligible. Good luck!

Cobell Scholars Program

<http://cobellscholar.org/>

American Indian Science and Engineering Society

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

American Indian College Fund

http://www.collegefund.org/students_and_alumni/content/scholarships

American Indian Education Foundation

http://www.nativepartnership.org/site/PageServer?pagename=aief_home

American Indian Graduate Center

<http://www.aigcs.org/scholarships/>

American Indian Services

<http://www.americanindianservices.org/students.html>

Association on American Indian Affairs Scholarships

<http://www.indian-affairs.org/scholarships.html>

Native American Scholarship Fund

<http://catchingthedream.org/category/scholarship-requirements/>

Indian Health Service Scholarships

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

National Indian Education Association

<http://www.niea.org/Scholarships/Scholarships-and-Opportunities.aspx>



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