



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. I have an old application – will you still accept it?

- A. Yes – we accept all former versions of the application. If you submit a 2018-2019 application for the 2019-2020 school year, it will still be accepted and applied to the 2019-2020 school year.

2. How do I prove that I am Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian?

- A. Are you enrolled in a federally recognized tribe?
- If **yes**, then you will submit a copy of your tribal card/enrollment document.
 - If **no**, you can demonstrate lineage by submitting a copy of your parent's enrollment document/card.
- B. If you know that you are Native and do not know if you are enrolled, please call your Tribal enrollment office. Follow this link to the Tribal Leader Directory for this information:
http://www.bia.gov/tribalmmap/DataDotGovSamples/tld_map.html
- C. If you are Native Hawaiian, please submit a copy of your birth certificate or your OHA Hawaiian Registry card (which you can apply for here: <http://www.oha.org/registry>)

3. Does a one year certificate program count?

- A. Yes, as long as you're attending full-time.

4. What if my GPA isn't the highest?

- A. We encourage you to apply! The American Indian Education Fund selects students who are often overlooked by other scholarship programs. This can mean students with GEDs, mid-range GPAs, and adult students who may not have taken the typical path in terms of higher education. As long as you show focus, determination, and a passion to improve life for you and others, we would love for you to apply!

5. ACT/SAT – are they required?

- A. Not necessarily. If you are an incoming freshman and you have taken the ACT and/or SAT, we request that you submit your scores in the designated section on the application and also attach your score sheets to the end of your application. (Your ACT and SAT score sheets can be printed online.)
- If you have not taken the tests or the test is scheduled after the scholarship deadline, this is fine. Please make a note in the allotted space on the application.
 - If you are not going to be a college freshman, they are not necessary.

6. Online schools – are they applicable?

- A. If the school is strictly online and does not offer traditional on-campus courses, then it is not eligible.
B. However, if you are enrolled in classes both online and on-campus, then you may still apply.

7. Is this scholarship for tuition and books only?

- A. Yes. If your tuition is taken care of and you still have AIEF scholarship funds in your student account, they may be applied towards books. You will need to contact your school's financial aid office to do this.

8. How much and when is it awarded?

- A. The scholarship is worth up to \$2,000 for a full year (1/2 Fall & 1/2 Spring semester.)
- Graduate scholarship funds are dependent on the amount of credits being taken.

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9. **When will the students be notified?**
 - A. The scholarship award recipients will be notified by mid-July.
10. **What is the “Community Involvement Form”?**
 - A. The Community Involvement Form is not an individual form. It can be found within the application on the 4th page.
 - i. Please fill out the form, extra sheets will not be considered.
11. **What if a non-traditional student has not been in high school for a while?**
 - A. If you are a non-traditional student, please demonstrate your community involvement through any activities you may currently be involved in. (ie: tribal activities, church activities, committees etc.)
12. **Can I attach a resume?**
 - A. No. However, we encourage you to further state your activities within the essay.
13. **Can I attach a letter of recommendation?**
 - A. No.
14. **Do we attach anything regarding financial need or financial aid?**
 - A. No. AIEF does not select scholarship recipients based on financial need, therefore we do not need copies of tax returns or any financial records. Instead, we ask that you please describe your needs and how you plan to fund your educational goals within your essay.
15. **Is the due date post marked by or received by?**
 - A. It must be postmarked by April 4, but we ask that you try to submit as early as possible.
 - i. You receive (1) extra point on your application if it is submitted by March 1st.
16. **Where do I send the application?**
 - A. The completed application must be sent with everything requested to our Rapid City, SD address listed on the application.
17. **Does the photograph have to be a professional photograph?**
 - A. No. We would like a 4 x 6 color photo, high resolution if possible, with your name signed and printed on the back. (We may use the photo for future publications.)
18. **What if a student does not have access to photograph paper for a photo?**
 - A. Photo paper is not necessary. We only ask that you do the best with what you have and absolutely send in a photo (otherwise your application is considered incomplete.)
19. **Do I need to be accepted to a college or university at the time I submit my application?**
 - A. No, but please list your prospective school on your application for the time being. If you are chosen as a scholarship recipient, you will have the opportunity to notify us of what college you will be attending.
20. **Can this award be used in the summer?**
 - A. No. The scholarship is awarded for a full school year (fall & spring semester.) If your school is on the quarter system, your financial aid office will determine how to split the funds.
21. **Can PhD students apply?**
 - A. Yes, we have a Graduate Application.
22. **Can First Nation’s students apply?**
 - A. Yes, but they need to be accepted into and attending a college/university in the United States.