

American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) 2022-2023 Application Instructions & Information Sheet



Read this entire information sheet before completing the application. Keep a copy for your records.

What is the American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) program?

AIES provides educational scholarships on a competitive basis to outstanding students with close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe or community in Washington State. Recipients are selected using criteria based on academic merit and a commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington. Scholarship awards come from the interest earnings of an endowment established from funds appropriated by the Washington State Legislature in 1990, with matching contributions from private individuals, organizations, and tribes.

Who is eligible to apply?

Applicants must:

- Have close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe, or an American Indian community, in Washington State.
- Intend to use their education to benefit other American Indians in Washington.
- Have demonstrated financial need (as determined by the college financial aid office).
- Meet Washington State residency requirements for state financial aid. (<https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>)
- Be enrolled as a full-time student at an eligible Washington college or university by fall term of the award year, and for every term in which the student receives the scholarship.
- Not be pursuing a degree in theology.
- Have received fewer than five years of this scholarship in total.

How do I apply for the scholarship?

- Complete the application form and print a hard copy for signature and mailing. The form requires Adobe Acrobat Reader software, Version 11.0 or newer, for download. Download the free Adobe Reader here: <https://get2.adobe.com/reader/othersversions/>.
 - Renewal applicants must have their academic dean, department head, or advisor complete and sign the supplemental attachment certifying their academic progress.
- Attach a detailed statement, carefully describing your close social and cultural ties to an American Indian community within the state.
 - If your original ties are to an out-of-state tribal community, include in your description how you have established close social and cultural ties to the American Indian community within Washington State.
- Attach a separate statement describing how you intend to use your education to serve the American Indian community in Washington.
- Attach all cumulative academic transcripts from the last five years, to include through the end of fall term of the current academic year. Official transcripts or copies of official transcripts are acceptable.
 - If it has been more than five years since you last attended college, attach a transcript from the most recent college attended that includes your full, accumulative higher education history.
 - If you have fewer than two years of full-time college, you also must attach a copy of your high school transcript or GED scores with your college transcript(s).

- Attach letters of recommendation; these should be from individuals who are not members of your immediate family.
 - **Applicants for first-time awards.** A minimum of three recommendation letters are required. Of these, at least one must address your personal commitment to serve the American Indian community in Washington, and at least two must describe your social and cultural ties to the American Indian community in state. A fourth letter from a recent teacher, addressing your academic performance, is encouraged.
 - **Renewal applicants.** At least **one or more current** letter(s) of recommendation are required, that describe your close social and cultural ties to the American Indian community in the state, as well as your continued personal commitment to serve the community. WSAC strongly encourages that renewal candidates attach **multiple** recommendation letters.
- Sign and mail a hard copy of the application, with all required attachments, to the American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) program at the Washington Student Achievement Council.
- Apply for state and federal need-based financial aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The college or university you attend next academic year will use the information to determine the amount of your financial need. Financial need is among the required criteria for selection as an AIES scholarship recipient. The FAFSA is available online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

How are recipients selected?

The AIES scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. A selection committee composed of representatives from the American Indian and higher education communities in Washington will review and score applications. Selection criteria emphasize the applicant's social and cultural ties, and commitment to return service to the American Indian community within the state, as documented by the applicant's two personal statements and supported by the letters of recommendation. Additional criteria include academic merit and a priority for upper-division and graduate students. Financial need is a criterion as determined by the college financial aid office based on the applicant's FAFSA filing.

How much will I receive if I am awarded?

The committee decides the total number and value of scholarships awarded each year after a discussion of current scholarship issues and an analysis of endowment interest earnings received during the previous year.

Historically, the scholarships have been awards of \$500–\$2,000 each for one academic year. Awards will not exceed the recipient's financial need as calculated by the college student aid office. In some cases, the scholarship may be adjusted to prevent conflict with the receipt of other student financial aid.

The recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student beginning fall term of the award year, at an eligible, participating college or university in the state of Washington, and be financially needy as determined by the college financial aid office, at the time of scholarship disbursement. Funds are disbursed through the recipient's college, in installments by term, during the academic year.

NOTE: It is the recipient's responsibility to report all sources of educational scholarships to the college financial aid office. If you receive new scholarships after your initial eligibility for AIES

has been determined, it may result in rescission of the AIES award if your documented financial need is met fully through other awards.

Recipients must submit a renewal application each year for award consideration. Renewals are for one academic year, decided on a competitive basis, and at the discretion of the committee after a thorough review of the applicant's renewal application, letter(s) of recommendation, academic merit, and continued commitment to return service to the American Indian community in Washington. Individual recipients may receive up to a cumulative maximum of five academic years of scholarship assistance through the program.

Typewritten materials are preferred. Illegible handwritten materials will affect the committee's ability to read and score your application.

Postmark your application no later than March 1, 2022.

Late or incomplete applications are not considered.

Mail the application (including all required attachments) as a single unit to:

American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) Program
Washington Student Achievement Council
PO Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430 *(use PO Box for US Postal Service delivery)*
917 Lakeridge Way, Olympia, WA 98502 *(use street address for UPS or FedEx delivery)*

Questions? Contact:

Ann Voyles, Program Associate
Phone: (360) 485-1311
Fax: (360) 704-6243 *(A printed hard-copy original must follow faxed applications)*
Email: aies@wsac.wa.gov

American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) 2022-2023 Application Instructions & Information Sheet



Eligible Institutions 2022 2023 Academic Year

Public four-year research institutions:

University of Washington
Washington State University

Public four-year comprehensive institutions:

Central Washington University
Eastern Washington University
The Evergreen State College
Western Washington University

Private four-year institutions:

Bastyr University
City University of Seattle
Cornish College of the Arts
Gonzaga University
Heritage University
Northwest University
Pacific Lutheran University
Saint Martin's University
Seattle Pacific University
Seattle University
University of Puget Sound
Walla Walla University
Western Governor's University-WA
Whitman University
Whitworth University

Public two-year technical colleges:

Bates Technical College
Bellingham Technical College
Clover Park Technical College
Lake Washington Institute of Technology
Renton Technical College

Public two-year community colleges:

Bellevue College
Big Bend Community College
Cascadia College
Centralia College
Clark College
Columbia Basin College
Edmonds Community College
Everett Community College
Grays Harbor College
Green River College
Highline College
Lower Columbia College
North Seattle College
Olympic College
Peninsula College
Pierce College
Seattle Central College
Shoreline Community College
Skagit Valley College
South Puget Sound Community College
South Seattle College
Spokane Community College
Spokane Falls Community College
Tacoma Community College
Walla Walla Community College
Wenatchee Valley College
Whatcom Community College
Yakima Valley College

Private two-year technical institutions:

Perry Technical Institute

Tribal colleges:

Northwest Indian College

American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES) 2022-2023 Application



Application Deadline: March 1, 2022

I am applying as a New Renewal Applicant

Applicant Information

Name

First, MI, Last

SSN

Required

Mailing Address

Street

City, State, Zip

Permanent Address

Street

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Include area code

Alternate Phone

Include area code

Email Address

Required

Washington resident

<https://wsac.wa.gov/student-residency>

Yes If yes, resident since Month Year
 No

Tribal Affiliation

Enrolled Tribal Member

Yes - Membership/Enrollment # if applicable
 No

Education Plan

Intended College

Next Fall _____

Class Standing

Next Fall

Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate/Prof.

Expected Graduation

MM/YYYY _____

Major/Field of Study

*** Has Major changed**

within the past year?

* This question is for renewal applicants only

Yes No If "Yes," describe reason for change below:

Educational Background

Date of High School

Graduation or GED

Month

Year

Schools Attended

List in order of attendance (most recent first; attach transcripts)

Name of high school/college	City & State	Dates of attendance	Degree, if any	Cumulative GPA
-----------------------------	--------------	---------------------	----------------	----------------

Extracurricular Activities

Describe major school, community, and leadership activities here. Attach an additional sheet, if necessary. (Renewal applicants must provide comprehensive updated information. Do not assume that prior-year information is available to committee members.)

Statement of Close Social and Cultural Ties

Describe in detail your personal close social and cultural ties to an American Indian community within the state. If your original ties are to an out-of-state tribal community, include in your description how you have established close social and cultural ties to the American Indian community in Washington. Attach an additional continuation sheet if space on this page is too limited. (Renewal applicants must provide comprehensive updated information. Do not assume that prior-year information is available to committee members.)

Statement of Commitment to Return Service

Describe how you intend to use your education to serve the American Indian community in Washington. Attach an additional continuation sheet if space on this page is too limited. (Renewal applicants must provide comprehensive updated information. Do not assume that prior-year information is available to committee members.)

Supplemental Attachment for Renewal AIES Applicants Only

Certification of Institutional Academic Dean, Department Head, or Advisor

Applicant Name

First, MI, Last

Major/Field of Study

Academic Progress

- EXCEEDS expectations
- MEETS expectations
- DOES NOT MEET expectations

Expected Graduation

MM/YYYY

This student is on track to complete the degree or certificate by:

Comments

Provide in the space below any additional comments that will help the committee distinguish this student academically from other applicants:

I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Certifying Official
Signature**

Date

**Certifying Official
Name, Title, Dept.**

**Institution Name
and Address**

Email Address
Required

Phone Number
Include area code

Applicant Certification and Release of Information

I certify that the above information, and all attachments to this application, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. By my signature below, I give the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) permission to contact the institution I will attend to verify my initial and continued eligibility for the scholarship. I authorize the institution to release all necessary information about my schooling to assist WSAC in its administration of the American Indian Endowed Scholarship program. This may include demographic, enrollment, financial need, satisfactory academic progress, and academic transcript information, and other documentation as needed.

If awarded the scholarship, I understand that I must meet program requirements to be eligible for funding. Requirements include Washington residency, and full-time enrollment at an eligible, participating college or university within the state of Washington, beginning fall term of the award year and for each academic term for which I am to receive the scholarship, and that I must have sufficient financial need as determined by the college financial aid office.

I understand that the Washington Student Achievement Council may release certain information contained in this application to interested parties, such as the news media and legislative personnel, for recognition of the accomplishments of scholarship recipients. **I have checked the box below only if I DO NOT wish the release of my information for recognition purposes.***

* If checked, I **DO NOT** authorize WSAC to release my information for recognition purposes.

Institution Enrolled _____

Applicant Name
First, MI, Last _____

Applicant SSN _____

Applicant Signature _____

Date _____

Required Attachments (see separate application instructions for additional detail)

All Applicants: All attachments must be present for the application to be considered complete. **The selection committee will not review incomplete applications.** Apply for state and federal student financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online form located at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. Disclose all sources of educational scholarships to the college financial aid office so that the amount of your financial need may be accurately determined.

Typewritten materials are preferred. Illegible handwritten materials will affect the committee's ability to read and score your application.

Renewal Applicants: Do not assume the selection committee has access to information contained within a prior-year application.

- **Statement of Close Social and Cultural Ties.**
- **Statement of Commitment to Return Service.**
- **Letter(s) of Recommendation.** (From individuals who are not immediate family members)

New applicants. A minimum of **three recommendation letters.** At least two letters must describe your close social and cultural ties to an American Indian tribe or community in Washington, and one letter must describe your personal commitment to serve the American Indian community in this state. A **fourth letter**, from a recent teacher or instructor regarding your academic performance, is encouraged.

Renewal applicants. **One or more current letters of recommendation** that describe your close social and cultural ties to, and your continued personal commitment to serve, the American Indian community in Washington is required. **WSAC strongly urges renewal applicants to submit multiple recommendation letters.**

- **Academic Transcript(s).**
 - Attach **all cumulative college transcripts** from the last five years, to include through the end of fall term of the current academic year.
 - If you have not attended college in more than five years, attach a transcript from the most recent college that includes your full, **accumulative higher education history.**
 - If you have fewer than two years of full-time college, you must **also attach your high school transcript** (or GED scores) with the college transcript(s).
 - Official transcripts or copies of official transcripts are acceptable.

Questions? Contact: Ann Voyles, Program Associate, at 360-485-1311 or aies@wsac.wa.gov
Mail application package to WSAC by March 1, 2022:

American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES)
Washington Student Achievement Council
PO Box 43430, Olympia, WA 98504-3430 (via regular U. S. Postal Service delivery)
917 Lakeridge Way, Olympia, WA 98502 (via FedEx or UPS delivery)