

# Native American Students

Transitioning to College



**EAC**  
customer **FIRST**

[www.eac-easci.org](http://www.eac-easci.org)

[www.eac-easci.org](http://www.eac-easci.org) **EAC**  
customer **FIRST**

1-800-592-1802

Education Assistance Corporation (EAC), a private nonprofit corporation, is a guarantor in the Federal Family Education Loan Program and provides financial aid information to students and their families.

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# Prepare for College

- **Understand why you should continue your education.**

The more educated you are:

- The more choice you have about what to do with your life.
  - The better you understand the world around you.
  - The more money you will earn. Nationally, a college graduate earns about \$19,000 more per year than a high school graduate.
- **Contact your high school counselor to ensure you meet high school graduation and college entrance requirements.**
  - **Think about your career.**

A career is when you get paid to do something you love. Some things to consider:

- Your skills and interests.
  - What careers incorporate things you love to do.
  - What kind of education or training you might need.
- **Take the ACT and/or SAT.**
    - South Dakota colleges require the ACT. If you're considering attending college outside of South Dakota, contact the school to see if you should take the ACT and/or SAT.
    - Take the exam(s) as soon as possible, which gives you the opportunity to include your score(s) on scholarship and admissions applications and gives you time to retake the test for a better score if you want to.
    - Visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org), [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), and your school counselor for more information.

- **Choose the college that's right for you.**

Think about:

- How far you want to be from home.
- What services the school offers to Native American students.
- The size of the college and their student-to-faculty ratio.
- How affordable the school will be to your family, including any financial aid offers.
- What degrees they offer, and how that fits with your career plan.
- Whether and what kind of on-campus housing is available, if needed.
- Their "placement rate" or how many of their students find jobs in their area of study.
- Whether they offer extracurricular activities that interest you.



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Crazy Horse Memorial, in the Black Hills of South Dakota.  
Photo Credit: Photos.com





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# Pay for College

## Financial Aid for College in 10 Easy Steps

1. Contact your college to **learn about what types of financial aid programs** are offered.
2. Visit EAC's web site at [www.eac-easci.org](http://www.eac-easci.org) to learn more about:
  - How to pay for college
  - The different types of financial aid
  - More details about all of the information provided in this brochure.
3. Call or write to your **tribal office** to ask about any scholarships or other financial aid for which you might qualify. (See the *Tribal Directory* in this brochure for more information.)
4. Search online for **scholarship** and other opportunities. Pay special attention to any scholarships designed especially for Native American students. (See the *Web Sites to Know* section of this brochure.)



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5. Plan to **work** your way through college. A part-time job is an essential piece of the college finance puzzle.
6. Request a Department of Education **PIN** (personal identification number) at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov), and have a parent do the same. This number will save you time and trouble throughout the financial aid application process.
7. Complete the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon after January 1 as possible. Complete it online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If you need to complete a paper FAFSA, check with your high school counselor or college financial aid office about obtaining one, but keep in mind that the paper version takes much longer for processing.
8. Review your **Student Aid Report (SAR)**. This document summarizes the information you provided on your FAFSA. It's your job to make sure it is accurate. If you provided an e-mail address on your FAFSA, you will be notified via e-mail that your SAR is ready. If not, you will receive a paper SAR.
9. Analyze **award letters**. Schools that you listed on your FAFSA will send you an award letter, which is that college's financial aid offer.
  - Use your award letters to help you decide which college best suits your financial situation.
  - Then follow the directions provided by your chosen college to accept the financial aid you need.
10. Determine if borrowing student loans is right for you. Tribal colleges may not participate in Federal student loan programs, or you may choose to avoid borrowing as a method of financing your education. If you decide to accept Federal Stafford loans, you will need to:
  - Complete a Master Promissory Note, which is your legal agreement to repay and explains the terms of any loans taken out under it.
  - Review your Notice of Guarantee, which lists the loan amount and disbursement dates.
  - Use your loans for educational expenses only.
  - View your loan information online at [www.eac-easci.org](http://www.eac-easci.org).



## Adjust to College

### Maintaining Your Cultural Ties

You can continue your education and still maintain your cultural ties. Here are some ways to do so:

- Learn everything you can about your cultural heritage and share it with those you meet at college, representing your community with pride.
- Get involved with Native American organizations at your college.
- Encourage high school classmates to join you at college.
- Find a mentor from a background similar to yours who has already completed college.
- Return to your community and give back, now and after you obtain your degree.

### Be Aware of Services Available to You

It's worth your time to take advantage of these programs if they are available to you:

- **TRIO**  
Federal TRIO programs provide support to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and includes:
  - Talent Search, which provides academic, career, and financial counseling to high school students.
  - Upward Bound, which helps high school students through the college entrance process.
- **GEAR UP**  
The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program helps prepare middle and high school students for college.
- **NASA**  
Many colleges offer a Native American Student Association or club, which can be a great source of peer support as you begin college.

## Where Do I Start?

### Make your first stop the EAC home page

[www.eac-easci.org](http://www.eac-easci.org)

### This site contains financial aid and other information for students and parents. Find out how to:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- Apply for a student loan
- Choose a college and contact the college of your choice
- Find lenders who participate in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP)
- Search for scholarships
- Plan a career



## Web Sites to Know

### Education Assistance Corporation (EAC)

[www.eac-easci.org](http://www.eac-easci.org)

EAC provides information on college, careers, financial aid, and scholarships for all students.

### American Indian College Fund

[www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org)

This site offers information about tribal colleges, their locations, and scholarship funding for Native American students to attend these colleges. Click on "Scholarships and Students" for a list of available scholarships including the:

- **Morgan Stanley Tribal Scholars Program**

Morgan Stanley offers scholarships to American Indian students who have an interest in business and financial services and are attending tribal colleges or universities.

- **Nissan North American Scholars Program**

These scholarships are awarded by Nissan North America, Inc. to outstanding American Indian sophomore students enrolled in a tribal college and intending to pursue a bachelor's degree.

- **Citigroup Scholarship and Career Exploration Program**

These need-based scholarships are for students attending tribal colleges in South Dakota.

- **General Mills Tribal College Scholarship Program**

Scholarships are available to students attending tribal colleges in Minnesota, New Mexico, and California.

### American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC)

[www.aigcs.org](http://www.aigcs.org)

This organization is the largest provider of scholarships for American Indian and Alaska Native students.

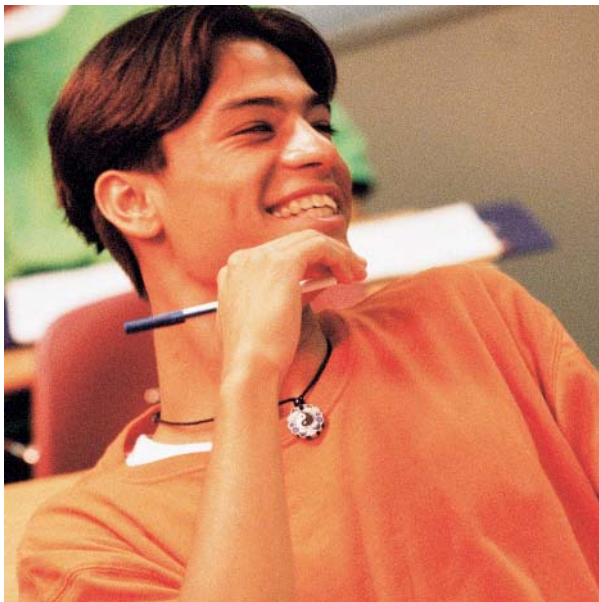


Photo Credit: eyewire.com

### American Indian Science and Engineering Society Scholarships

[www.aises.org/highered/scholarships/](http://www.aises.org/highered/scholarships/)

This scholarship listing is for Native American students pursuing engineering degrees.

### American Indian Education Foundation Scholarship Fund

[www.aiefprograms.org](http://www.aiefprograms.org)

View this website for information on scholarship programs and information on getting into college.

### APS Scholarship for Minority Undergraduate Physics Majors

[www.aps.org/programs/minorities/honors/scholarship/index.cfm](http://www.aps.org/programs/minorities/honors/scholarship/index.cfm)

This scholarship helps students receive their degrees in physics by providing up to \$3,000 per year for tuition, room & board, and educational materials.

### Association on American Indian Affairs

[www.indian-affairs.org/](http://www.indian-affairs.org/)

This site provides information on several scholarships created to help Native American students achieve their educational goals.

### A Better Chance

[www.abetterchance.org](http://www.abetterchance.org)

This organization provides support to help increase the number of well-educated minority youth.

### Catching the Dream

[www.catchingthedream.org](http://www.catchingthedream.org)

These scholarships are awarded to enrolled members of any U.S. tribe attending or planning to attend a college or university full time. Awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 per academic year.

### Consortium for Graduate Study in Management

[www.cgsm.org](http://www.cgsm.org)

This group provides scholarships that promote diversity in American business.

### Daughters of the American Revolution American Indian Scholarships

[www.dar.org/natsociety/edout\\_scholar.cfm#general](http://www.dar.org/natsociety/edout_scholar.cfm#general)

This \$500 scholarship, designed for Native Americans from any tribe or state, is based on financial need and academic achievement.

### Financial Aid for Native American Students

[www.finaid.org/othersaid/natamind.phtml](http://www.finaid.org/othersaid/natamind.phtml)

This resource lists a number of links with detailed information on additional sources of funding specifically for Native American students.

### Hagen-Harvey Scholarship

<http://doe.sd.gov/scholarships/hagen>

This is a scholarship for enrolled tribal members whose reservation is located in whole or in part in South Dakota who are attending college in South Dakota.

### The Gates Millennium Scholars

[www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org)

This merit-based scholarship covers the remaining college costs for minority students after universities award financial aid packages.

### IBM Research Internship for Black, Hispanic, and Native American Students

[www.almaden.ibm.com/almaden/diversity](http://www.almaden.ibm.com/almaden/diversity)

This 10-week salaried internship includes a \$2,500 grant and an opportunity to work with an IBM mentor.

### Indian Health Service Scholarship

[www.ihs.gov/JobCareerDevelop/DHPS/Scholarships/index.html](http://www.ihs.gov/JobCareerDevelop/DHPS/Scholarships/index.html)

This web site provides information on scholarship programs that help train health personnel to staff Indian Health Services programs.

### Inroads Minority Scholarship Program

[www.inroads.org/interns/internWhatItTakes.jsp](http://www.inroads.org/interns/internWhatItTakes.jsp)

Start your career early with an paid internship with a Fortune 1000 company.

### Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarships for Minority Youth

[www.jackierobinson.org/apply/index.php](http://www.jackierobinson.org/apply/index.php)

This foundation provides scholarships of up to \$7,500 annually to minority high school students showing leadership potential and financial need.

### Magic Johnson Foundation Taylor Michaels Scholarship Program

<http://mje001.pieheadproductions.com/index.php?/foundation/programs/taylormichaels/>

This foundation has provided scholarships to more than 250 minority students since 1998.

### Mapping Your Future

<http://mappingyourfuture.org>

This site provides information on career planning, college selection, and financial aid. This site is a public service project, sponsored in part by Education Assistance Corporation (EAC).

### Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program

<http://www.getreadyforcollege.org/gPg.cfm?pageID=149>

To qualify for this scholarship, you must be an eligible Minnesota resident with one-fourth or more Indian ancestry and financial need.

### Morris K. Udall Native American Congressional Internship Program

<http://www.udall.gov/OurPrograms/MKUScholarship/MKUScholarship.aspx>

This site lists information about scholarships available to Native American students who have demonstrated commitment to careers related to tribal public policy or Native health care.

### Native American Education Grant

[www.pcusa.org/financialaid/programs/nativeamericanedugrant.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/financialaid/programs/nativeamericanedugrant.htm)

This grant is awarded to Alaska Natives and Native Americans pursuing full-time post-secondary education.

### Native Vision Scholarships

[www.nativevision.org/Scholarship\\_Recipients/Scholarship\\_Recipients.html](http://www.nativevision.org/Scholarship_Recipients/Scholarship_Recipients.html)

Three \$1,000 scholarships are given away each year by this organization.

### Native Web

[www.NativeWeb.org](http://www.NativeWeb.org)

This web site provides resources for indigenous cultures around the world.

### Native Workplace

[www.NativeWorkplace.com](http://www.NativeWorkplace.com)

This site lists resources for Native American job seekers.

### Office of Indian Education Program

[www.oiep.bia.edu/](http://www.oiep.bia.edu/)

This is the web site of an organization dedicated to lifelong education for Native Americans.

### Pirnie Scholarship Program

[www.pirnie.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=76&Itemid=339](http://www.pirnie.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=76&Itemid=339)

These scholarships encourage minority engineers and environmental scientists.

### Public Policy & International Affairs Fellowship Program (PPIA)

[www.ppiaprogram.org](http://www.ppiaprogram.org)

This program assists college juniors or rising seniors in pursuing graduate studies in public and/or international affairs.

### Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program

[www.itcnet.org](http://www.itcnet.org)

This program awards scholarships to students planning to study or currently studying Natural Resources.

### Xerox Technical Minority Scholarship

[http://www.xerox.com/go/xrx/template/009.jsp?ed\\_name=Careers\\_Technical\\_Scholarship&view=Feature](http://www.xerox.com/go/xrx/template/009.jsp?ed_name=Careers_Technical_Scholarship&view=Feature)

This scholarship provides funding to minority students enrolled in one of the technical sciences or engineering disciplines.

### Young Native Writers Essay Contest

[www.indian.hklaw.com/2008/index.asp](http://www.indian.hklaw.com/2008/index.asp)

Win scholarship dollars by writing an essay on Native American life and history.

## Higher Education Programs

Contact your tribe to find out what programs may be available to help you continue your education.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

**Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 590  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625  
1-800-898-CRST (2778)  
(605) 964-4000

**Crow Creek Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 458  
Fort Thompson, SD 57339-0050  
(605) 245-2221

**Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 283  
603 W. Broad Ave.  
Flandreau, SD 57028  
(605) 997-3512  
1-888-922-0016  
[www.fsst.org](http://www.fsst.org)

**Lower Brule Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 187  
Lower Brule, SD 57548  
(605) 473-5561  
[www.lbst.org](http://www.lbst.org)

**Oglala Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 562  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770  
1-800-832-3651  
(605) 867-5338  
[www.lakotamall.com/oglalasiouxtribe/](http://www.lakotamall.com/oglalasiouxtribe/)

**Rosebud Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 490  
Rosebud, SD 57570  
(605) 747-2375  
[www.rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov/](http://www.rosebudsiouxtribe-nsn.gov/)

**Sisseton/Wahpeton Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 509  
Agency Village, SD 57262  
(605) 698-3966, ext. 704

**Yankton Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 248  
Marty, SD 57361  
(605) 384-3997

### NORTH DAKOTA

**Three Affiliated Tribes**  
HC1 Box 2  
New Town, ND 58763  
(701) 627-4413  
(701) 627-4112

**Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box 359  
Ft. Totten, ND 58335  
(701) 766-4221

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe**  
P.O. Box D  
Fort Yates, ND 58538  
1-800-854-2095  
(701) 854-7408

**Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa**  
P.O. Box 900  
Belcourt, ND 58316  
(701) 477-8102

### MINNESOTA

**Fond du Lac**  
1720 Big Lake Road  
Cloquet, MN 55720  
(218) 879-4593, ext. 2633

**Grand Portage**  
P.O. Box 428  
Grand Portage, MN 55605  
(218) 475-0121

**Leech Lake**  
6530 Hwy. 2 NW  
Cass Lake, MN 56633  
1-800-711-0443  
(218) 335-8252

**Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe**  
HCR 67, Box 194  
Onamia, MN 56359  
1-800-532-9059  
(320) 532-4457

**Nett Lake/Bois Forte**  
P.O. Box 16  
Nett Lake, MN 55772  
1-800-221-8129  
(218) 757-3261

**White Earth**  
P.O. Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591  
1-800-950-3248  
(218) 983-3285

**Lower Sioux**  
P.O. Box 308  
Morton, MN 56270  
(507) 697-6185

**Prairie Island**  
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road  
Welch, MN 55089  
(612) 385-2554

**Shakopee Mdewakanton**  
2330 Sioux Trail NW  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
(612) 496-6134

**Upper Sioux**  
P.O. Box 147  
Granite Falls, MN 56241  
(320) 564-2360

**Red Lake Tribe**  
P.O. Box 90  
Redby, MN 56670  
(218) 679-3350

### WYOMING

**Shoshone Tribe**  
P.O. Box 628  
Ft. Washakie, WY 82514  
(307) 332-3538

**Arapaho Tribe**  
P.O. Box 8480  
Ethete, WY 82520  
(307) 332-5286

## Who Can Help?

Repayment Problems	1-800-874-8982
Loan Questions	1-800-592-1802, Press 1
Automated Loan Information System (ALIS)	1-800-592-1802, Press 7
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-752-3949
EAC E-Mail	<a href="mailto:eac@eac-easci.org">eac@eac-easci.org</a>
EAC Home Page	<a href="http://www.eac-easci.org">www.eac-easci.org</a>