

Shawnee Tribe Education Assistance General Information

The Shawnee Tribe Business Council has established an Education Fund in order to provide financial assistance to those tribal members who are attending post-secondary schools. The Fund is supported by a share of the apportionments that the Tribe receives from its motor fuels compact with the state of Oklahoma and by other donations earmarked for education.

Am I eligible?

Tribal members attending any of the following types of accredited schools in the 50 United States on a full-time or half-time basis are eligible:

- A vocational or vo-tech school where you receive a certification in a certified program,
- **A 2yr colleges where you receive an associate's degree (including junior and community colleges),**
- **A 4yr college where you receive a bachelor's degree,**
- A graduate school where you receive a masters or doctoral degree,
- Other graduate schools such as law school or medical school.

Full-time is generally at least 12 semester credit hours or the equivalent, as defined by the school; half-time is generally at least 6 semester credit hours or the equivalent, as defined by the school. Fall school is considered full time if enrolled in 6 hours or more. It is not necessary to meet low income guidelines, and there are no age requirements. However, you must be attending school at least half-time. An accredited school is one that meets the standards of The Council for Higher Education Accreditation or one of its participating or recognized accrediting organizations. Other accreditations may be acceptable.

Assistance is not available for correspondence schools or distance-learning programs.

When are the deadlines?

You must submit a completed application to the tribe by the due dates specified to the coordinating semesters, either by mail or in person. **Fall Semester is due July 31st, Spring Semester is due December 31st and Summer Semester is due April 31st.** It is critical that you submit your application as soon as possible. In the event that more than 30 applications that meet the Education Fund criteria and guidelines are received, assistance will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

What are the requirements?

Along with your application you must submit proof of enrollment in the school you are attending and you must submit proof of your full-time or half-time status. Acceptable documents include the bill for tuition and a copy of the schedule from the registrar that confirms your classes.

You also must submit official proof that you obtained at least a 2.5 grade point average in your previous semester (or other grading period such as a quarter or term). If you are a recent high-school graduate,

we will accept an official copy of your high school transcripts or your GED score.

How much assistance is available?

Assistance will be offered three times a year to help offset tuition expenses for Spring, Summer and Fall semesters. Amounts of assistance are programmed on the basis of full or half-time status and the type of educational institution attended:

- \$1,000 for full-time student in 2yr or 4yr college (including nursing school) or graduate school (including law or medical school)
- \$ 500 for half-time student in 2yr or 4yr college (including nursing school) or graduate school (including law or medical school)
- \$ 500 for full-time student in a vo-tech/or certificate program
- \$ 250 for half-time student in a vo-tech/or certificate program

Is there a total cap on educational assistance that I can receive?

The current lifetime cap for assistance is \$20,000.

What happens if I drop out of school while I'm receiving assistance?

If you drop out during the course of the term for which you have received assistance from the Shawnee Tribe, you may not be eligible to apply for educational assistance again from us immediately. First you will need to return to school and successfully complete two semesters of a 4-yr undergraduate college program or a graduate school program, or 1 semester of a 2-yr college or vo-tech school program. If you drop out twice while receiving Shawnee Tribe education assistance, you may not be eligible to reapply for educational assistance for 5 years.

What if I Drop Out Because of an Emergency?

If you are forced to drop out because of your own severe medical problem or another critical family emergency, the Education Fund Advisory Committee may waive the ineligibility period, if you can show sufficient proof of hardship that required you to leave school for reasons beyond your control. Call the tribal office right away (918-542-2441) and let us know.

How does the Shawnee Tribe make the assistance payment?

Assistance will be paid directly to the school, not to the student. There will be no exceptions. The copy of the bill that you submit should provide us with the school's address and phone number. We will call the school to be sure that we are sending the payment to the right address. Payments will be processed as they are received.

Shawnee Tribe Education Assistance Committee:

Carolyn Smith
Roberta Coombes