American Indian Student Aid Information

Non-Federal Types of Financial Aid:

**American Indian Tuition Waiver** – This waiver is designated to tuition only for students who meet all the qualifications specified on application and listed below. It does not, however, waive any other charges such as mandatory fees, class fees, etc. Copies of the American Indian Tuition Waiver are available at the Financial Aid Office, Griz Central, 2nd floor OR on the Financial Aid Office website (www.umt.edu/finaid), under Forms. Complete the application only if you meet the following qualifications:

- You are a resident of the State of Montana when you enroll in one of the two or four year college of the Montana University System, and
- You are at least one-quarter (¼) degree of Indian blood; or are an enrolled of a state or federally recognized Indian tribe which is located within the boundaries of the State of Montana. Accepted documentation as follows: CIB (Certificate of Indian Blood) letter or card; Tribal Enrollment Card; Form letter(s) documenting descendancy (birth certificate) that equal ¼ or more; and document of parent (grandparent) enrollment and/or degree of blood, and
- You have demonstrated financial need as defined by Board of Regents Policy 940.13 (F) (4) and verified by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and
- You must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), see “Important Additional Information” section.

**Tuition Waiver renewal** – current students who have consecutive enrollment, have received tuition waiver and have approved proof of Indian descent do not need to re-submit an application and/or documentation. However, they must make sure they have a FAFSA completed for the academic year they are applying for and meet all other qualifications specified above, no later than the 1st day of term in order to be processed in a timely manner.

**Summer Tuition Waiver**

- For entering new students during summer session, students must submit American Indian Tuition Waiver application and proof of Indian descent as stated plus meet all other qualifications specified above.
- For continuing students, student must complete and submit a Summer Financial Aid Application.  
  Special Note: Proof of Indian descent/documentation only needs to be submitted once, as long as it has been within five years of last term attendance while receiving the tuition waiver at the University of Montana.

**Higher Education/Tribal Funding** – funding is administered by each Tribe/Agency based on their criteria and standards. Questions regarding deadlines and eligibility should be directed to the respective Higher Education/Tribal Office. Contact information is available online on American Indian Student Services website (www.umt.edu/aiss) in the Tribal Higher Ed section or check the designated handbook/guide.

- **Financial Needs Analysis (FNA)** form may need to be completed by UM’s Financial Aid Office; the completed FNA form (student portion) from the higher education office or financial aid office should be submitted to the financial aid at least two weeks prior to the deadline. If you wait later than two weeks you may jeopardize your funding.
- In order to have an FNA completed you must complete a FAFSA processed by the school before the deadline and must be meeting/maintaining SAP.
- Student loan eligibility will be determined after any higher education/tribal funding has been reported; at that time a request for loans must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office in writing.

**Scholarships:**

- Scholarship information can be found on American Indian Student Services website (www.umt.edu/aiss).
- Individual academic departments may also have scholarships available specifically to American Indian students and should be referred to department offices or websites for more information.
- Additional Scholarship Opportunities:
  - Montana Resident Scholarships for Entering students - undergraduates pursuing their first bachelor’s degree will automatically be considered for a scholarship known as the Montana Academic Achievement (MAA). The application for admission serves as the scholarship application. Students who are receiving the American Indian tuition waiver are not eligible for the MAA.
  - Non-Resident Scholarships for Entering students - undergraduates pursuing their first bachelor’s degree are automatically considered for either the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) program or the Leadership, Achievement and Service (LAS) scholarship. The application for admission serves as the scholarship application.
Financial Aid Important Dates:

- **Prerequisites** – All student files must go through a process known as “Final Review”, the awards reflected at that time are final. To ensure that aid will be available prior to the start of each semester all documentation must be complete and received by June 15th.

Financial Aid Important Dates:

- **December 1st** – UM FAFSA priority filing date. To file visit the Federal Student Aid FAFSA homepage (fafsa.ed.gov).
- **May 1st** – National College Decision Day, for high school seniors to pick their college.
- **June 15th** – All required documentation should be submitted to avoid delays in the disbursement of your autumn semester aid.
- **July 1st** – All student files must go through a process known as ‘Final Review’, the awards reflected on the initial estimated offer are pending until final review is complete. Once complete you will receive an email.
- **August 24th** – Aid begins to be disbursed for those students whose: files have been reviewed and have confirmed payment on their autumn semester bill.

Who to contact for help - If you have questions or would like more information, please visit us in the Emma B. Lommasson building, 2nd floor – room 218. For specific Higher Education/Tribal funding, tuition waiver or scholarship questions, please contact Sarah Wade at sarah.wade@umontana.edu.