

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, Aber Hall 5th floor or on the [Financial Aid Office website](http://www.umt.edu/finaid) (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 ($\frac{1}{4}$) 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 descendency (birth certificate) that equal $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 below for details.

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](http://www.umt.edu/aiss) (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. Submit any FNA request to the Financial Aid office as soon as possible but at least *two weeks* prior to the deadline. If you submit a FNA request late, you may jeopardize your funding.
- In order to have an FNA completed, you must complete a FAFSA and must be meeting/maintaining satisfactory academic progress. If no FAFSA is on file, we will report back that there is no FAFSA.

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 University of Montana Academic Achievement (UMAA). The application for admission serves as the scholarship application. Students who are receiving the American Indian tuition waiver are not eligible for the UMAA scholarship.
- 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 University of Montana Academic Achievement (UMAA) scholarship. The application for admission serves as the scholarship application.
- UM Scholarship Portal – Offers one centralized General Application, regardless of a student's major or program of study for new and continuing students. Many individual departments, school and colleges use this for scholarship awarding. For more information see [UM's scholarship website](http://www.umt.edu/scholarships) (www.umt.edu/scholarships).
- Campus-Wide Scholarships Administered by Financial Aid Office – Complete the General Application through the UM Scholarship Portal by March 1st each year for priority processing. If you miss deadline, complete as soon as possible before 15th day of Autumn semester. For more information see [UM's scholarship website](http://www.umt.edu/scholarships) (www.umt.edu/scholarships).

Types of Federal Financial Aid:

Federal and State Grants - Students will be offered the maximum grant aid possible, based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the FAFSA application. Some funds are limited, so applying early is vital for receiving the largest possible award. Priority date for 24-25 is April 1st.

Loans - The types of loans available to you will depend on many variables. For more information about the individual types of loans available, visit the [Financial Aid Office's Loans page](http://www.umt.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/loans) (www.umt.edu/finaid/types-of-aid/loans).

Work-Study – Students who are awarded work-study will only receive the funding if they secure a work-study position. Payment comes in the form of a paycheck after work is performed. Students can apply for jobs by inquiring in individual departments or by using [UM's electronic job board](http://www.umt.edu/career/StudentEmployment) (www.umt.edu/career/StudentEmployment).

Special Note: Jay Treaty – American Indian Students are not subject to the requirement to be US citizens and are eligible to fill out the FAFSA to receive federal aid due to the protection of the Jay Treaty.

Additional Information:

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) - Students receiving federal financial aid are required to make timely and satisfactory progress towards the completion of their degree/certificate. This policy, known as Satisfactory Academic Progress, looks at a student's grade point average (GPA), and the percentage of credits they have successfully completed, known as pace or completion rate. Student's that fail to make SAP may be placed on warning or financial aid suspension. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA (undergraduates) and successfully complete at least 67% of the credits they attempt. If students withdraw, fail or get incomplete grades in a course it will decrease the percentage of completed credits and may affect a student's eligibility to receive financial aid. If placed on financial aid suspension students must file a SAP Appeal form. Further information can be found on our website (www.umt.edu/finaid).

Verification – Historically, approximately 30% of all students that submit a FAFSA are selected for a process known as verification. Since the Department of Education have now implement the Direct Data Exchange of information directly from the IRS. Verification is now more targeted. If selected, a student will need to provide documentation to our verification partner, Inceptia, before their application can go through the final review process or aid can be disbursed. Please reach out if you have any difficulty completing the verification tasks with Inceptia. Visit www.umontana.verifcationgateway.org if selected for verification.

Who to contact for help - If you have questions or would like more information, please visit us on the 5th floor of Aber Hall, or call our office at 406-243-5373.