



HIGHER EDUCATION POLICIES
Revisions Approved By the Yurok Tribal Council August 20, 2010

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Tribal Higher Education awards serve as a supplemental source of aid for enrolled members of the Yurok Tribe for students pursuing regular course work required to meet the degree objective. Grant funds may be used for tuition, living expenses, required fees, textbooks, and miscellaneous expenses related to attendance at an accredited college.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURE

- Applicants must be an enrolled Yurok Tribal Member.
- Applicants must apply for Federal Financial Aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA must be completed for each academic year (July 1 – June 30) of attendance.
- Applicants are required to apply for acceptance into an accredited college or university and meet all of the educational institution's deadlines for admission.
- Applicants are eligible at 17 years of age if they are a high school graduate or have earned a General Equivalency Degree (GED). All other applicants must be at least 18 years of age.
- Students should submit an application for scholarship funds to the Yurok Tribe after they have secured admission to an accredited college.
- Students must be currently enrolled in the semester for which he/she is seeking funding assistance.
- Application forms for educational grant assistance are available upon request by contacting the Yurok Tribe or can be downloaded from www.yuroktribe.org under the Education Department.
- Applications are accepted year round.
- Completed applications will be funded on first come first serve basis pending availability of funds.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND AWARD AMOUNTS

- **Full Time Students:**
Funds may be awarded to those students who are attending college full time and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units. Current allocation amount is based on availability of funds and is paid each semester.
- **Part-time Students**
Funds may be awarded to those students who are attending college part-time and must be enrolled in a minimum of 6 units. The amount is half of what a full-time student receives. Current allocation amount is based on the availability of funds and is paid each semester.

- **Graduate Students:**

Applications for graduate students will be accepted. Graduate students should contact the American Indian Graduate Center for further assistance at (505) 881-4584.

Minimum number of units required for full time or part time Graduate Student funding may vary and is determined on the university's policy for full time or part time status of a Graduate Student.

- **Summer Students:**

Funds may be awarded to those students attending summer school pending availability of funds. Current allocation is \$175.00 for a minimum of 3 units. A copy of the student's class schedule and previous semester grades should be sent to the Yurok Tribe's Education Department's Higher Education Program.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

The college or university the student elects to attend must be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency, by the State accrediting agency or be an institution whose credits are accepted on transfer by no fewer than three institutions which are accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association on the same basis as if transferring from an accredited institution. This latter alternative is referred to as "three institutional" certification. Junior colleges may qualify, if they meet the above-denoted criteria.

CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF GRANT

Students receiving grants must maintain an acceptable academic standing at college; submit a written request (application) in advance for the next year's funding and successfully complete the school year or grant period for a period specified by the college. Grade reports of each student are to be reviewed at the end of the semester or quarter. Students earning less than a "C" average will be placed on a probationary status for one semester and will receive only half funding. If student doesn't bring his GPA up to 2.0 by the third semester, his funding will be suspended and he will be required to complete a semester with a 2.0 GPA without Yurok Tribe Higher Education funding before funds can be reinstated. **In the event that the student has experienced "extreme circumstances" and has not completed their semester the student will be required to provide medical documentation, the Department Director will review the documentation provided and notify student in writing of their decision.**

APPLICATION REVIEW

- Completed grant applications must be admitted for each school year.
- Completed applications will be reviewed on an individual basis and either approved or disapproved by the Education Department.

The following chart indicates what constitutes a completed grant application:

Documents Needed	New Applicant	Renewal Applicant	Former Applicant
Grant Application* (Submit each academic year)	X	X	X
Proof of Tribal Membership	X		
College Letter of Admission*/Class Schedule	X	If transferring	X
Current College Transcripts (unofficial)*	X	X	X

*It is the applicant's responsibility to have these forms sent to the Yurok Tribal Education Department as needed.

RELEASING TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

- Approved Grant Award will be paid by check, to the student.
- When a student withdraws or is dropped from college, a refund of the unused grant funds will be made to the Yurok Tribe.
- Student may be required to reimburse the award amount to the tribe or the amount will be deducted from the student's eligible allocation the following term the student seeks funding assistance.
- Student will not be eligible for any educational grant award until the debt is resolved.

PROBATIONARY STATUS

- All students are required to submit their term grade reports to the Education Department.
- Funding for the upcoming semester will not be allocated until the grade report is received.
- A grant recipient who does NOT meet the established academic requirements will be placed on Financial Aid Probation for a period of one (1) term.
- To remove the probationary status the student must meet the minimum standards of eligibility by the end of the probationary term. If the student does not meet minimum standards, the grant will be suspended until they successfully complete a term.

SUSPENDING GRANT ELIGIBILITY

- A student receiving a Tribal Scholarship and who is on Financial Probation and fails to meet the academic minimum standards will be suspended from the Scholarship Program.
- A student who is suspended will not be considered for future funding until the student, at their own expense or through non tribal financial aid, meets all minimum requirements including earning a minimum of at least a 2.0 GPA.
- A suspension notice will be sent to the student.

Decisions of the Tribal Education Department can be appealed based upon a written request. The Grievance process shall be as follows:

Step 1

The complainant shall submit the written grievance to the Yurok Tribal Director of Education Programs. The Education Director will review all material available, including any new information submitted, within 15 working days and make a determination. If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily then the complainant can move to the next level of the grievance process.

Step 2

The complainant shall submit the written grievance to the Executive Director of the Yurok Tribe. The Executive Director will review within 10 working days and make a determination. If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily then the complainant can move to the next level of the grievance process.

Step 3

The complainant shall submit the written grievance to the Yurok Tribal Council. The Tribal Council will review all material available and make a determination. The decision of the Tribal Council is final.