



Native American Tuition and Housing Waiver Program Agreement

Our goal is to provide support for all Washington County Community College (WCCC) Native American students who wish to obtain an academic credential that will assist them personally and professionally as they plan for the future.

Student Eligibility/Criteria

The program covers tuition and housing charges for:

I. Members of Maine Tribes

- A. Students whose names are included on the current tribal census, or who have at least one parent or grandparent included on the current tribal census of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet, and Aroostook Band of Micmac, *and*
 - 1. *Who are residents of the State of Maine for a minimum of one year prior to enrollment and*
 - 2. *Who provide WCCC with official proof directly from the tribe, Nation or band within the first month of the semester in a sealed envelope, similar to the process used for official transcripts, and meet additional requirements stated below in section IV.*

II. Members of Other North American Tribes

- A. Must be included on the current tribal census or enrolled in a federally recognized tribe. Must provide an original letter or certificate from the tribal official who certifies membership, or a certificate of degree of Indian blood issued by the United States or Canadian government is required. Additionally, must provide documentation of Maine State residency for the past twelve months immediately prior to application and meet additional requirements stated below in section IV.

III. Descendants of a Tribal Member

- A. Descendant of a Tribal Member who has the responsibility to obtain clear documentation that proves decendancy from a member of a North American Indian Tribe. Proof can be provided in the following manner:
 - 1. *An original document from a federally recognized tribal office stating that a parent or grandparent is an enrolled member of that tribe, or has enrollment on the tribal census, must be presented for eligibility. An original letter or certificate from the tribal office who certifies membership or certificate of degree of Indian blood issued by the United States or Canadian government is required.*
 - 2. *If a parent or grandparent is from a Canadian tribe, you must provide an original document showing their band number.*

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- a. Once enrollment documentation of the parent or grandparent has been provided, documentation from the applicant showing state residency for the past twelve months prior to enrollment must also be provided. Examples of forms of documentation include rental receipts, lease agreements, proof of home ownership and utility bills.
 - b. To trace descendancy, the applicant must present original birth certificates naming the parent and possibly another birth certificate tracing the parent to the grandparent.
 - c. The documents will be photocopied and the originals will be returned to the applicant.
- B. Descendants must also meet requirements stated below in section IV.
- IV. Other Additional Eligibility Requirements for the program to cover tuition and housing charges:
- A. Continuing students who sign this Agreement and apply for financial aid. (Assuming documentation from the tribe was previously provided.)
 - B. Students who provide a statement of support identifying all financial assistance provided by the tribe, Nation, or band. (This must be official documentation provided by the Tribal office responsible for assisting students with the cost of education.)
 - C. Students who meet with a financial aid office staff member to:
 1. Submit their application and supporting materials.
 2. Discuss the relationship between the waivers and other federal or state financial aid, and
 3. Sign the required Agreement.
 - D. Matriculated students, enrolled in academic, credit-bearing courses at Washington County Community College:
 1. Who remain academically eligible to register for classes, and
 2. Who complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for financial aid by October 1st for the fall semester and/or academic year, or February 15th for spring semester, and
 3. Who maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress in compliance with Title IV Federal Financial Aid policies in the Student Financial Aid Handbook on the college web site www.wccc.me.edu .
 - a. Students who *have only one major program of study* at WCCC may not receive financial aid or the Native American Waiver if the total number of attempted credits in combination with accepted transfer credits is equal to or more than 150% of the credit length of the active program. Withdrawals and repeat courses are considered attempted credits.
 - b. Students who graduate from a WCCC associate degree program may not receive an additional Native American waiver.
 - c. Students who graduate from a WCCC certificate/diploma program may receive the Native American waiver for one additional certificate/diploma program.
 - d. Students who *change their major or add another major* at WCCC may not receive financial aid or the Native American Waiver if the total number of attempted credits in combination with accepted transfer credits is equal to or more than

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- the 150% of the credit length of their active program. Withdrawals and repeat courses are considered attempted credits.
- e. Students will be able to receive the Native American waiver for the equivalent of two certificate/diploma programs and/or one associates degree program within a related program, but not two certificate or associate degrees in an unrelated program; (e.g., a student who successfully completes a certificate in Heavy Equipment Operations may receive a Mechanical Technology Associates Degree, but would not be eligible for the Native American waiver to pursue another unrelated certificate or associates degree program such as Medical Office Procedures or Medical Assisting.)
4. Students who are NOT employed by the Maine Community College System on a half-time or greater basis, and who are not carried on the MCCC employee payroll.

Native American Indian Tuition/Housing Waiver

- A. An eligible student's bill will be credited with a Tuition and Housing (if applicable) Waiver after initial authorization from WCCC's Financial Aid Office.
- B. The total funds received by the student from all sources including the waiver may not exceed total cost of attendance.
- C. All sources of gift, grant and scholarship assistance from federal, state, institutional and outside agencies will be used to pay the student's bill for institutional charges, **prior** to determination of the amount of the Tuition and Housing Waiver each semester.
- D. The Tuition Waiver will be awarded using a budget established by the Financial Aid Office. In the event of over-award, the tuition waiver will be adjusted first.
- E. All other charges will be the responsibility of the student.

Addendum:

Matriculated students at Washington County Community College enrolled in 5 or less credit hours in credit-bearing courses are considered less than half-time at WCCC. Students who are less than half-time may be granted a Native American Waiver based on the Student Eligibility/Criteria.

APPEALS

A student who disagrees with a decision made under this program agreement may appeal through the appropriate campus appeals process. A student who disagrees with the decision made under this program agreement may submit an Appeal Form to the appropriate appeals committee for review. The Appeals Committee decision on the appeal will be final.

I have read and agree to the above terms of this program. I understand that the Financial Aid Office has the authority to deny the Tuition or Housing Waiver based on academic or disciplinary action by the campus.

_____	_____	_____
Student (Print Name)	Student ID #	Date

Student (Signature)		
_____		_____
Parent's or Guardian's Signature (if applicant is under 18 years old)		Date
_____		_____
Financial Aid Staff		Date