

2026-2027 Scholarship Program Application Guide

The Washington Indian Gaming Association (WIGA) Scholarship Program provides scholarships to Native American and Alaska Native students pursuing opportunities in higher education. Awards generally range from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for each academic year.

This guide contains all the information needed to apply for a 2026-27 WIGA scholarship. Please read the entire guide before completing your application.

Applicant Requirements

Applicants must be enrolled members of one of Washington's 29 federally recognized tribes or American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled in a federally recognized tribe who are attending or plan to attend a higher education institution in the state of Washington.

Applicants may be pursuing degrees at community and technical colleges, four-year colleges, or post-graduate and professional schools.

Scholarship recipients from the previous year are also eligible to re-apply under a reduced format.

How to Apply

Please read all instructions carefully. In order for an application to be considered it must be complete, including all required attachments. Please see the applicant checklist below for details:

Checklist

- SECTION I:** Applicant Information – Fill out your personal information/Tribal affiliation along with proof of enrollment or statement from a Tribal Enrollment Officer.
- SECTION II:** Current Education Plan – Tell us which academic institution that you will attend, major, field of study and when you expect to complete the program.
- SECTION III:** Educational Background – List your educational history. Include a copy of your most recent and up-to-date transcripts. Unofficial transcripts are acceptable.
- SECTION IV:** Extracurricular Activity – List your extracurricular activities, awards or experience; attach additional sheets if needed.
- SECTION V:** Two Letters of Recommendation – You must submit two (2) letters of recommendation. If a renewing applicant, please see the renewing application guidelines.
- SECTION VI:** Personal Essay – Submit a personal essay that is between 250-500 words. If a renewing applicant, please see renewing application guidelines.
- SECTION VII:** Statement of Need – Please submit on a separate sheet of paper indicating your anticipated financial situation for the academic year including: all sources of income, Tribal contributions (Tribal policy must be included, contact your tribe's education department for a copy), other scholarships, student loans, grants, etc. As well as, estimated expenditures for: tuition, books, house, misc., etc.

Please submit all paperwork single-sided with no staples. Print a copy for your records and postmark your application no later than March 31, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will NOT be considered.

Scholarship Renewal Application Guidelines

Please read all instructions carefully. All returning applicants must have a 2.5 GPA or higher. Students who received a WIGA scholarship in 2025-26 and are continuing in their current level of study may apply under the reduced format application. (For example, a 2025-26 WIGA Scholarship awardee who attended a community college last year and will continue to attend community college in 2025-26 is eligible to reapply under the reduced format.

For the reduced format application, a copy of your tribal ID and your tribe's education policy are not required; the two letters of recommendation are optional; and Section VI should be a 250-word statement of progress.

Students who received a WIGA scholarship in 2025-26 and are now moving into a new degree program must apply as a new student. For example, a 2025-26 WIGA Scholarship awardee who completed an undergraduate program last year and is now pursuing a Master's degree must fill out the full scholarship application as a new student.

Award Distribution

Scholarship recipients will be notified by email in May 2026.

At the discretion of the Scholarship Committee, scholarship payments will be made either directly to the student or to the financial aid office of the institution the recipient is attending, in the name of the student.

Checks will be distributed in August 2026. **Proof of class enrollment is required for all new scholarship recipients before checks will be distributed.**

How to Submit

Please submit the entire application as a single unit (including all attachments), single sided and no staples, signed/dated and mail to:

Washington Indian Gaming Association
525 Pear St SE
Olympia, WA 98501-2251

Questions

Contact Rosina DePoe at (360) 352-3248 or by email at deputy@washingtonindiangaming.org.

Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2026



Scholarship Application

*Application must be completed in full to be considered. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
Only submit single-sided, staple free applications.*

SECTION I: Applicant Information

First time applicant? Or previous scholarship recipient, renewing application

1. Last name	First name	M.I.	2. Social Security#:
3. Current address:	Street	City	State
		Zip	4. Phone ()
5. Permanent address (if different):	Street	City	State
		Zip	6. Alternate phone ()
7. E-mail address:	8. Preferred Pronouns (<i>Optional</i>):		
9. Tribal affiliation:	Membership/Enrollment#:		
<i>(Proof of enrollment is required. Please attach copy of enrollment card or statement from Tribal Enrollment Officer)</i>			

SECTION II: Current Educational Plan

10. Academic Institution you will attend:	11. Class level & degree next fall (indicate degree pursuing): (i.e., frosh, soph, junior, senior, & associates, bachelors or advanced degree)				
12. College mailing address:	Street	City	State	Zip	Phone ()
13. Intended field of study:	14. Date expected for program completion:				

SECTION III: Educational Background

15. Date of high school graduation or GED received:	16. School/Institution name:			
Month	Year			
17. Education information. List schools in order of attendance (most recent first; you must attach your most recent transcripts or GED certification, they may be unofficial).				
Name of school	City/State	Dates of attendance	Degree, if any	Cumulative GPA

Application continues on next page...

SECTION IV: Extracurricular Activities

18. Extracurricular activities/awards/experience (List honors, awards, elected positions, volunteer or work experience in order of importance to you. Attach extra sheet(s) if desired).

Activity	Position	Year

SECTION V: Two letters of recommendation: (Optional for renewal applicants)

19. You must submit two letters of recommendation written by someone who is not related to you. The person can be a teacher, counselor, community leader, Tribal leader, etc.

SECTION VI: Personal Essay

20. In addition to this application, students should submit a Personal Essay. The statement of purpose is a very important part of this application. Applicants should be as specific as possible about their academic and professional interests for consideration by the Scholarship Committee. The statement should be approximately 250 words in length, but not more than 500 words. For scholarship renewals, a statement progress under 250 words will suffice.

Essay topic: Why are you considering your intended major and how will it help you reach future career objectives? How will your education benefit your home community, whether urban or rural?

SECTION VII: Statement of Need

21. Please indicate on a separate sheet of paper, your anticipated financial situation for the 2026-2027 academic year including the following incomes and expenditures:

A. Student income-all sources:

- Income (including family contributions)
- Tribal contribution (Attach policy) Required - Attach a copy of your Tribe’s Educational Assistance Policy.
(Not required for renewing applicants.)
- Scholarships (total)
- Student loans (total)
- Grants (total)

B. Educational expenditures:

- Tuition
- Books
- Housing
- Misc.

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____