University-Wide Programs

Program Description

The Native American Waiver and Education Program is funded by the University of Maine System to encourage eligible, qualified Native Americans to pursue higher education at the university. The tuition waiver program waives tuition and mandatory fees. Students may also qualify for the need-based room and board grant.

Specialized Information

What does the tuition waiver cover?

Tuition for any regular credit-bearing course is waived whether the student is or is not enrolled in a degree program. Mandatory fees are also waived.

Are there any fees that the program does not cover?

The program will not cover the application fee, medical expenses, fines and other fees that are not required for enrollment in classes. It does not cover books and supplies.

What are the requirements for a Native American room and board grant?

- Meet eligibility requirements for the Native American Waiver.
- Apply for federal financial aid. The FAFSA must be completed each academic year in order to remain eligible.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Be admitted into a degree program as a full-time student.
- Maintain enrollment in a minimum of 12 credit hours each semester.
- Reside in a residence hall on campus.
- Continue to show satisfactory academic progress as defined by institutional policy and/or federal guidelines.

What if I receive other types of financial assistance such as payments from the tribe or band? Will such assistance affect my federal financial aid?

Federal regulations require that a student's financial assistance for educational purposes from all sources may not exceed the total cost of attendance.

What documentation do I need to provide?

You must provide an original official document verifying your tribal or band membership in a state, federal, or provincially recognized native American Tribe and have lived in Maine for at least twelve months, for purposes other than education, immediately prior to application; or be a member and be included on a current tribal census of a federally, state or provincially recognized native American Tribe and have lived in Maine for at least twelve months, for purposes other than education, immediately prior to application; and apply for financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and supplying all required documentation to the Office of Student Aid by September 1st for the academic year or fall semester and by Jan. 1 for the spring semester; and maintain satisfactory academic progress and be eligible to register for classes.

Application Procedure

New Students: Visit our website (naps.umaine.edu) to learn more. Returning Students: You are required to visit your waiver coordinator and sign the new agreement letter. You may also have to provide an updated application and documentation of your eligibility.

Academic Programs 2011–12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.