

**Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Indian Education Office**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK
ON
EDUCATIONAL FUNDING**



(Revised December 2008)

**FSST EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT HANDBOOK**

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FSST EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT HANDBOOK

PURPOSE

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) encourages tribal members to continue their training and education beyond high school for the purpose of enhancing their worth as members of the Tribe and society at large.

POLICY

Congress appropriates the funds for the BIA Higher Education/AVT programs which aid qualified Native American students in need of financial assistance (after other funding resources are considered) pursue a higher education. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) has set aside additional funding from the Tribe's gaming revenues to provide financial assistance toward meeting the financial need of eligible FSST tribal members desiring to continue their training and education beyond High School. Tribal funding is supplemental to other forms of federal and campus-based financial aid.

This booklet has been designed to inform students of the requirements for the Adult Vocational Training Program, the BIA Higher Education Grant, the Tribal Higher Education Scholarships, the Wowapi Scholarship and any restrictions regarding such funding. All continuing students must reapply in the fall of each year. Scholarship/Grants are based on the availability of funds in each program. Application does NOT guarantee funding for any student.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Higher Education Committee (HEC) is comprised of five tribal members appointed by the FSST Executive Committee. All committee members have attended colleges or vocational schools, are aware of student needs, and what students need to be responsible for in order to become productive students and community members.

The FSST Education Director processes applications for scholarships. All data required must be received by the Education Department before the applications are brought before the HEC. The HEC will meet once a month and as needed, to review applications or address other education related issues.

UNMET FINANCIAL NEED

Financial assistance from the AVT, BIA Higher Education, or Tribal Higher Education program is based on a student's *unmet* financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer. All applicants must apply for federal funding using the Free Application for Student Aid Application (FAFSA) each year. Students apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The institution's financial aid office or the FSST Education Office can help students complete the FAFSA. Failure to meet this requirement will deem the student ineligible for any kind of funding through FSST, except for the Wowapi scholarship.

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Your school's financial aid officer, using the Student Aid Report (SAR) based on the completed FAFSA, establishes your unmet financial need. Your unmet financial need is the difference between Expenses and Personal plus Other Resources shown on the Needs Analysis form.

Upon review of your Needs Analysis Form by the HEC, the amount of Federal Student Loans for which you are eligible may be excluded from your resources to determine your unmet financial need. In addition, if you are unmarried, without dependents, and under 24 years of age and submit a copy of your Individual Income Tax Return showing you are an emancipated individual, your parents income may be excluded from your resources to determine your unmet need.

You must have a financial need to be eligible for financial assistance from the Tribal Education Department except for the Wowapi scholarship. The total higher education award will not exceed the student's unmet financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer.

AVAILABLE GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

BIA/AVT Grants. The purpose of this grant is to assist native students in acquiring job skills necessary for full time satisfactory employment. Up to 24 months of vocational training may be funded for institutional, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training courses. Grants are for tuition and fees and are paid directly to the institution.

BIA Higher Education Grants. The purpose of this grant is to assist FSST members entering or attending college who are seeking an associate degree leading to a baccalaureate degree or a baccalaureate degree. Grants are for tuition and fees and are paid directly to the institution.

FSST students may receive one of the two scholarships listed below. FSST Scholarships include the:

- Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are for FSST members funded through a BIA/AVT grant, BIA Higher Education grant or Graduate Students. The purpose of these scholarships are to assist students with school expenses, such as; tuition, books, fees, housing, tools, supplies, equipment, uniforms, and transportation costs. Scholarships are sent directly to the student. These scholarships are also subject to collection by FSST in the event that any student fails to attend school, changes from enrolled to non enrolled status, or is dropped administratively.
- FSST Wowapi Scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist FSST members that are full-time employees seeking to improve their job related skills, take a college class for enrichment, test their interest in a college program of study, or introduce themselves to academic rigors. Students are limited to 1 class up to 3 credits per semester. Students are limited to a total of 12 funded credits under this classification. Scholarships are sent directly to the institution.

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CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES – What to Do When

New Student (planning to start Fall term)

- Nov. & Dec. – Write to each school for an admission application and financial aid form, to determine which forms are required.
- Jan. – Apply for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) also known as the Pell Grant. Remind your parents that your financial aid application will be due so they can begin gathering financial records. It can take up to 6 weeks for your FAFSA and Student Aid Report (SAR) to be processed and returned. Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students under 24 years of age must report your parents income unless you are married or/and have a child/ren.
- Jan. – Obtain a tribal scholarship application from the Tribal Education Office.
- Feb. – Fill out FAFSA. Submit your FAFSA as early as possible.
- March – To receive federal student aid, some colleges require the FAFSA be completed as early as March 1.
- July – Aug. - Submit completed scholarship applications to the Tribal Education Office one month before the beginning of the full term.

Continuing Student (a student currently receiving FSST funding)

- Submit a copy of your grades for the term/semester just completed verifying a term and cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better.
- Submit copy of classes registered for the next semester.
- If the next semester is the beginning of a fall semester, submit a new FAFSA to re-verify your financial need and a completed tribal scholarship application packet.

FUNDING DEADLINES

For an initial application, the completed application and associated documents must be submitted to the Tribal Education Department **one month before** funds are needed. For a continuing student, evidence (grade reports) of “successfully completing” the preceding term, course registrations and, if applicable, FAFSA information must be received by the Tribal Education Department as soon as possible to ensure timely review of their funding request by the Higher Education Committee.

The Higher Education Committee will meet:

Spring Quarter	During the first week of February
Summer Semester / Quarter	During the first week of June
Fall Semester / Quarter	During the first week of August
Spring Semester / Quarter	During the last week of December

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It is the responsibility of the student to submit their application and other required paperwork by these dates to ensure prompt processing and payment to the institution.

The FSST Tribal Education Office can not guarantee that payment will be in time for the start of classes. Students who fail to complete their applications on time will not automatically be denied funding. However, the Higher Education Committee will decide when applications for the current term will no longer be accepted or considered.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the Tribal Education Office of the start and end dates of their term.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Students with completed applications submitted before funding deadlines are funded in the following order. Priority for funding is 1. Continuing undergraduate students, 2. continuing graduate students, 3. new undergraduate students, 4. new graduate students, 5. returning undergraduate students, and 6. returning graduate students. Within these categories, class rank, financial need, and residency are considered. Upper classman are funded before lower classman. Students with unmet financial need are funded before students with no financial need. Students that are on reservation are funded before students that are off reservation. Not all funding priorities are applicable to all programs.

FUNDING TIME LIMITS

Associate Degree - Maximum quarter credits of 134 or receipt of degree
Associate Degree - Maximum semester credits of 89 or receipt of degree
Bachelor Degree - Maximum quarter credits of 225 (includes funded Associate Degree credits)
Bachelor Degree - Maximum semester credits of 154 (includes funded Associate Degree credits)
Master Degree - Maximum quarter credits of 60 or receipt of degree
Master Degree - Maximum semester credits of 40 or receipt of degree
Doctorate Degree - Maximum quarter credits of 150 (includes funded Master credits) or receipt of degree
Doctorate Degree - Maximum semester credits of 100 (includes funded Master credits) or receipt of degree

Measurement is based on cumulative credits attempted and funded by the FSST Education Office.

DROPPING CLASSES

Students funded as full time students are expected to maintain their full time status for the entire term. Full time students that drop classes and become part time students will be placed on funding probation for the next term. If the student repeats this behavior in the succeeding semester, they will be placed on funding suspension.

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WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

If a student (full or part time) who has been awarded a grant/scholarship withdraws from school early and/or drops out officially or unofficially from school, then he/she will be placed on funding suspension. The student who is on funding suspension shall not be considered for future funding until the recipient completes an academic term by their own means and meets the minimum requirements. The number of credits must meet the number of credits funded during the semester/term preceding suspension.

NON ATTENDANCE/NO SHOWS

If a student who has been awarded a tribal grant/scholarship

1. fails to start/attend school (is considered a NO SHOW), or
2. changes from enrolled to non enrolled status during the drop/add period (usually the first 4-6 days of the term but varies by school), or
3. is dropped administratively,

the student is expected to return the FSST scholarship funds, that were sent directly to the student, back to the FSST Treasurer. Collection will be turned over to the Tribe's treasurer.

FUNDING PROBATION/SUSPENSION

The following applies to both the BIA Higher Education and Tribal Higher Education programs as well as the BIA Adult Vocational Training program.

• **Funding Probation**

A grant/scholarship recipient who does not meet the minimum GPA requirements shall be placed on funding probation for the following academic term/semester. Undergraduate students must receive at least a 2.0 term GPA on a 4.0 scale. Graduate students must receive at least a 3.0 term GPA on a 4.0 scale. Any full time grant/scholarship recipient who drops classes to a part-time status will be placed on funding probation. The student must be notified in writing of their placement on funding probation and what they must do to be removed. They will be eligible for scholarship funding during this time.

• **Funding Suspension**

A grant/scholarship recipient who has been placed on funding probation has one academic term/semester to improve grades or credits to the minimum GPA requirement. If he/she does not meet the minimum GPA requirements during that time, he/she shall be placed on funding suspension. Any grant/scholarship recipient who withdraws before the term/semester is over for any reason shall be placed on funding suspension.

The student who is on funding suspension shall not be considered for future funding until the recipient completes an academic term by their own means and meets the minimum GPA requirement. The number of credits must meet the number of credits funded during the semester/term preceding suspension (i.e. if a student was funded for 6 credits, then

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he/she must complete 6 credits on his/her own; those funded for 12 credits, must complete 12 credits on their own, etc.).

Students who have been placed on funding suspension are not guaranteed a funding slot upon meeting the requirements; continued funding is based on monies available.

APPEAL PROCESS

An applicant, who feels that they have been wrongly denied, as per the guidelines, may appeal the decision within 20 working days of the denial letter. The appeal shall be in writing setting forth the reason(s) why the applicant believes the decision should be changed. The Education Director will schedule a date for the HEC to meet and make a second decision on the original student request. That decision shall be final. If the student is still denied funding, the student will receive a letter containing the reason for denial.

Written appeals shall be sent to the following address:

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Attention: Higher Education Committee
PO Box 283
Flandreau, SD 57028

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BIA ADULT VOCATIONAL TRAINING (AVT) PROGRAM

The program will assist a student in acquiring job skills necessary for full time satisfactory employment. Institutional, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training courses shall not exceed twenty-four (24) months in length of full time training. Individual program recipients may not receive more than twenty-four (24) months of full-time training. The total BIA/AVT award will not exceed the student's unmet financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer.

Vocational education is an organized education program which is directly related to the preparation of individuals for paid employment or a career that does not require a baccalaureate or advanced degree. The BIA/AVT program is not meant to serve as a preliminary to immediate further education. Most courses of study at community and technical colleges may be funded through the BIA/AVT program. Most courses of study at 4-year colleges and universities may not be funded through the BIA/AVT program.

Eligibility

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR, 27.5) an Adult Vocational Training applicant must meet the following criteria. An applicant must be:

1. An enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe; or be a resident within 50 miles of the Tribal Headquarters, who is a member of a federally recognized tribe.
2. Between the ages of 18 and 35.
3. In need of training to obtain reasonable and satisfactory employment.
4. Prove a need for financial assistance.
5. Willing to accept full-time employment as soon as possible after completion of training.
6. If applying for repeat AVT services, applicant must be "unemployed, under employed, or unable to work in primary occupation due to physical or other disabilities."
7. Desiring to pursue training at an institution accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting association.
8. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Student Handbook.

Application Process

Time Frames: See **CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES (Page 4), FUNDING DEADLINES (Page 4) AND FUNDING TIME LIMITS (Page 5)**

Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.
2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.

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3. All applicants must submit a copy of their Letter of Acceptance or a Letter of Readmission to an accredited institution.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report.
5. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
6. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the institution of their choice.
7. All applicants must have their needs evaluated by the Financial Aid Officer from the college or technical school of their choice reflecting the consideration of all available funding resources. A FSST Student Assistance Scholarship Needs Analysis form must be received from the Financial Aid Officer verifying the student has an unmet financial need.
8. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications.
9. All full-time students, as defined by the institution, (i.e. 12 credits per semester) must successfully complete the required number of credits with a 2.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
10. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.
11. Must maintain a residence within Moody County. Students must verify Moody County residency in one of the following ways:
 - Submit 2 documents that show they are living and/or maintaining a residence within Moody County. Refer to the Per Capita Confirmation of Residency form for a list of acceptable documents, or
 - Submit the FSST Per Capita Release Form (see page 26). This form allows the Per Capita Committee to verify that the student has met the residency requirements of Title 19 Chapter 3 of the FSST Gaming Ordinance.

Funding Amounts

- **BIA/AVT Grants.** Full time status, which is determined by the institution's definition of full time, as well as financial need, is used to decide the amount awarded. Students will receive payments per semester/term at the same rate as students funded as 1st half full time freshman receiving BIA Higher Education Grants (see page 11). Grants may not exceed the total cost of tuition and fees, or be funded for more than 3 semesters/terms per year.
- **Tribal AVT Scholarships.** Students must be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe to receive this scholarship. Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are to be used to assist with school expenses, such as: tuition, books, fees, housing, tools, supplies, equipment, uniforms, and transportation costs. Full time status, which is determined by the institution's definition of full time, as well as financial need, is used to decide the amount awarded. Funding priorities will apply. Students will receive payments per semester/term at the same rate as students funded as 1st half full time freshman receiving Tribal Higher Education Scholarship (see page 13). Scholarships will not be funded for more than 3 semesters/terms per year. Students

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that reside in Moody County will be considered before students that reside outside of Moody County. Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are issued directly to the student.

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BIA HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

BIA Higher Education Grants are provided to supplement financial assistance to eligible students entering or attending college who are seeking an associate degree leading to a baccalaureate degree or a baccalaureate degree. The BIA Higher Education Grant Program is not an entitlement program. The total higher education award will not exceed the student's unmet financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer.

Eligibility

A student must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe BIA Higher Education Grant Assistance:

1. Be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.
2. Actively pursuing an associate degree leading to a baccalaureate degree or a baccalaureate degree at an institution accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting association accepted by the Federal Government.
3. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Student Handbook.

Application Process

Time Frames: See CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES (Page 4), FUNDING DEADLINES (Page 4) AND FUNDING TIME LIMITS (Page 5)

Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.
2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.
3. All applicants must submit a copy of their Letter of Acceptance or a Letter of Readmission to an accredited institution.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report.
5. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
6. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the institution of their choice.
7. All applicants must have their needs evaluated by the Financial Aid Officer from the college or technical school of their choice reflecting the consideration of all available funding resources. A FSST Student Assistance Scholarship Needs Analysis form must be received from the Financial Aid Officer verifying the student as an unmet financial need.
8. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications.
9. All full-time students, as defined by the institution, (i.e. 12 credits per semester) must successfully complete the required number of credits with a 2.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

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10. All part-time students must successfully complete the number of course/credits attempted with a 2.0 GPA per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
11. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.

Funding Time Limits (see page 5)

Funding Amounts

- **BIA Higher Education Grants (Undergraduate)**

*Status	1st Half	Funding Probation <i>If previous semester GPA is less than 2.0</i>	2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was between 2.0 and 3.0</i>	** 2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA Was 3.0 or higher</i>
Full Time Freshman	Up to \$1,000.00	Up to \$800.00	Up to \$1,000.00	Up to \$1,100.00
Part Time Freshman	Up to \$500.00	Up to \$400.00	Up to \$500.00	Up to \$550.00
Full Time Sophomore	Up to \$1,100.00	Up to \$880.00	Up to \$1,100.00	Up to \$1,200.00
Part Time Sophomore	Up to \$550.00	Up to \$440.00	Up to \$550.00	Up to \$600.00
Full Time Junior	Up to \$1,200.00	Up to \$960.00	Up to \$1,200.00	Up to \$1,300.00
Part Time Junior	Up to \$600.00	Up to \$480.00	Up to \$600.00	Up to \$650.00
Full Time Senior	Up to \$1,300.00	Up to \$1,040.00	Up to \$1,300.00	Up to \$1,400.00
Part Time Senior	Up to \$650.00	Up to \$520.00	Up to \$650.00	Up to \$700.00

*Status is determined by the institution's definition of full or part time.

**A student must complete one-half of the required credits per *college year*, as determined by the standards implemented by the institution, regardless of a student's full-time/part-time status, in order to be eligible for a higher level of funding.

Example: If the institution requires 32 credits to achieve sophomore status, then a freshman student must complete 16 credits to be eligible for a higher level of 2nd semester funding. If the student earns less than 16 credits, he/she will remain eligible for the base level of funding for that year until 16 credits are completed.

- **Tribal Higher Education Scholarships (Undergraduate, see pages 13 - 15)**

Students must be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe to receive this scholarship. Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are to be used to assist with school expenses, such as: tuition, books, fees, housing, tools, supplies, equipment, uniforms, and transportation costs. Full time status, which is determined by the institution's definition of full time, as well as financial need, is used to decide the amount awarded. Funding priorities will apply. Students that reside in Moody County will be considered before students that reside outside of Moody County. Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are issued directly to the student.

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TRIBAL HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) encourages its membership to continue their education beyond High School. Scholarships were specifically established to encourage, assist and support FSST members in their pursuit of Adult Vocational Training and Higher Education opportunities. The Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are provided to supplement financial assistance to eligible students entering or attending college who are seeking an associate degree leading to a baccalaureate degree, a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate degree. Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are sent directly to the student unless otherwise noted. Students may receive either the Tribal Higher Education Scholarship or the Wowapi Scholarship. The Tribal Higher Education Program Scholarships are not an entitlement program.

The following are the Tribal Higher Education Scholarships:

Undergraduate

• **Eligibility**

A student must meet and submit all of the following to receive the highest funding priority for the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Higher Education Scholarship. Students with an unmet financial need are given funding priority over students with no financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer. Students that reside within Moody County are given priority in funding over other students.

1. Be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.
2. Must maintain a residence within Moody County. Students must verify Moody County residency in one of the following ways:
3. Submit 2 documents that show they are living and/or maintaining a residence within Moody County. Refer to the Per Capita Confirmation of Residency form for a list of acceptable documents, or
4. Submit the FSST Per Capita Release Form (see page 26). This form allows the Per Capita Committee to verify that the student has met the residency requirements of Title 19 Chapter 3 of the FSST Gaming Ordinance.
5. Actively pursuing an associate degree leading to a baccalaureate degree or a baccalaureate degree at an institution accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting association accepted by the Federal Government.
6. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Student Handbook.

Application Process

Time Frames: See [CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES \(Page 4\)](#), [FUNDING DEADLINES \(Page 4\)](#) AND [FUNDING LIMITS \(Page 5\)](#)

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Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.
2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.
3. All applicants must submit a copy of their Letter of Acceptance or a Letter of Readmission to an accredited institution.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report.
5. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
6. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the institution of their choice.
7. All applicants must have their needs evaluated by the Financial Aid Officer from the college or technical school of their choice reflecting the consideration of all available funding resources. A FSST Student Assistance Scholarship Needs Analysis form must be received from the Financial Aid Officer verifying the student has an unmet financial need.
8. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications.
9. All full-time students, as defined by the institution, (i.e. 12 credits per semester) must successfully complete the required number of credits with a 2.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
10. All part-time students must successfully complete the number of course/credits attempted with a 2.0 GPA per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
11. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.

The recipient of a FSST Tribal scholarship shall notify the FSST Education Department of his/her graduation date and the certification or degree to be conferred.

Funding Time Limits (see page 5)

Funding Amounts

• **Tribal Higher Education Scholarships (Undergraduate)**

*Status	1st Half	Funding Probation <i>If previous semester GPA is less than 2.0</i>	2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was between 2.0 and 3.0</i>	** 2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was 3.0 or higher</i>
Full Time Freshman	Up to \$1,050.00	Up to \$840.00	Up to \$1,050.00	Up to \$1,150.00
Part Time Freshman	Up to \$525.00	Up to \$420.00	Up to \$525.00	Up to \$575.00
Full Time Sophomore	Up to \$1,150.00	Up to \$920.00	Up to \$1,150.00	Up to \$1,250.00
Part Time Sophomore	Up to \$575.00	Up to \$460.00	Up to \$575.00	Up to \$625.00

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Full Time Junior	Up to \$1,250.00	Up to \$1,000.00	Up to \$1,250.00	Up to \$1,350.00
Part Time Junior	Up to \$625.00	Up to \$500.00	Up to \$625.00	Up to \$675.00
Full Time Senior	Up to \$1,350.00	Up to \$1,080.00	Up to \$1,350.00	Up to \$1,450.00
Part Time Senior	Up to \$675.00	Up to \$540.00	Up to \$675.00	Up to \$725.00

*Status is determined by the institution’s definition of full or part time.

**A student must complete one-half of the required credits per *college year*, as determined by the standards implemented by the institution, regardless of a student’s full-time/part-time status, in order to be eligible for a higher level of funding.

Example: If the institution requires 32 credits to achieve sophomore status, then a freshman student must complete 16 credits to be eligible for a higher level of 2nd semester funding. If the student earns less than 16 credits, he/she will remain eligible for the base level of funding for that year until 16 credits are completed.

Graduate

• **Eligibility**

A student must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Higher Education Grant Assistance. Students with an unmet financial need are given funding priority over students with no financial need as determined by the institution’s financial aid officer. Students that reside within Moody County are given priority in funding over other students.

1. Be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.
2. Must maintain a residence within Moody County. Students must verify Moody County residency in one of the following ways:
 - Submit 2 documents that show they are living and/or maintaining a residence within Moody County. Refer to the Per Capita Confirmation of Residency form for a list of acceptable documents, or
 - Submit the FSST Per Capita Release Form (see page 26). This form allows the Per Capita Committee to verify that the student has met the residency requirements of Title 19 Chapter 3 of the FSST Gaming Ordinance.
3. Actively pursuing a graduate degree at an institution accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting association accepted by the Federal Government.
4. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Student Handbook.

Application Process

Time Frames: See CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES (Page 4), FUNDING DEADLINES (Page 4) AND FUNDING TIME LIMITS (Page 5)

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Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.
2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.
3. All applicants must submit a copy of their Letter of Acceptance or a Letter of Readmission to an accredited institution.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report.
5. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
6. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the institution of their choice.
7. All applicants must have their needs evaluated by the Financial Aid Officer from the college or technical school of their choice reflecting the consideration of all available funding resources. A FSST Student Assistance Scholarship Needs Analysis form must be received from the Financial Aid Officer verifying the student has an unmet financial need.
8. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications.
9. All full-time students, as defined by the institution, (example 9 credits per semester) must successfully complete the required number of credits with a 3.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
10. All part-time students must successfully complete the number of course/credits attempted with a 3.0 GPA per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
11. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.

The recipient of a FSST Tribal scholarship shall notify the FSST Education Department of his/her graduation date and the certification or degree to be conferred.

Funding Time Limits (see page 5)

As with all other higher education programs, time limits to receive awards are determined by the HEC. Time limits are based on the average program completion time within the chosen institution. If a student has not completed their program within this time period, they will not be eligible for further funding. The student may submit a written appeal.

Funding Amounts

Graduate Scholarships will be divided as follows: 52% of the award amount will be sent to the institution to cover the cost of tuition, fees and books, while the remaining 48% will be sent directly to the student to be used for tuition, fees, books, and living expenses.

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*Status	1st Half	Funding Probation <i>If previous semester GPA is less than 3.0</i>	2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was between 3.0 and 3.5</i>	** 2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA Was 3.5 or higher</i>
Full Time Student	Up to \$2,130.00	Up to \$1,700.00	Up to \$2,130.00	Up to \$2,330.00
Part Time Student	Up to \$1,065.00	Up to \$850.00	Up to \$1,065.00	Up to \$1,165.00

*Status is determined by the institution's definition of full or part time.

** A student must complete one-half of the required credits per *Plan of Study*, as determined by the standards implemented by the institution, regardless of a student's full-time/part-time status, to be eligible for a higher level of funding.

Example: If the Plan of Study requires 60 credits to achieve a degree, then a student must complete 30 credits before he/she is eligible to receive a higher level of 2nd half funding. If the student has not yet earned 30 credits, he/she will remain eligible for the base level of funding until 30 credits are completed.

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WOWAPI SCHOLARSHIP

The Wowapi Scholarship provides financial assistance to FSST members that are full-time employees seeking to improve their job related skills, take a college class for enrichment, test their interest in a college program of study, or introduce themselves to academic rigors. The Wowapi Scholarship is not an entitlement program.

Eligibility

A student must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Higher Education Scholarship:

1. Be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.
2. Must maintain a residence within Moody County. Students must verify Moody County residency in one of the following ways:
 - Submit 2 documents that show they are living and/or maintaining a residence within Moody County. Refer to the Per Capita Confirmation of Residency form for a list of acceptable documents, or
 - Submit the FSST Per Capita Release Form (see page 26). This form allows the Per Capita Committee to verify that the student has met the residency requirements of Title 19 Chapter 3 of the FSST Gaming Ordinance. Residency Exemptions do not apply to this scholarship.
3. Submit proof of full time employment.
4. Be registered for 1 (up to) 3 credit college class per term from a regionally accredited institution.
5. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Student Handbook.

Application Process

Time Frames: See CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES (Page 4), FUNDING DEADLINES (Page 4) AND FUNDING TIME LIMITS (Page 5)

Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.
2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.
3. All previously funded applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report demonstrating they are in good standing with the FSST Education department.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
5. Submit a current bill for tuition and fees.
6. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications.
7. All undergraduate students must successfully complete their classes with a 2.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a

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cumulative GPA of 2.0. All graduate students must successfully complete their classes with a 3.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Funding Time Limits

Students are limited to a total of 12 funded credits under this classification. Credits funded under this scholarship count towards Associate/Bachelor/Master/Doctorate degrees as outlined under the funding time limits listed on page 5.

Funding Amounts

Students are funded at the same rate as the South Dakota State Undergraduate Tuition Rate plus a book/supply allowance. Scholarships are paid directly to the school. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.

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BIA/AVT/TRIBAL HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST:

Higher Education applications can be obtained by contacting the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribal Indian Education Office at PO Box 283, Flandreau, SD 57028 or by calling 1-605-997-2859 and requesting an application.

A completed application packet must contain the following:

A complete FSST Higher Education Grant application;

A signed Needs Analysis form. This must be filled out by the institution's Financial Aid officer once you've completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

Signed Privacy Act and Paper Reduction Act Statement form;

Signed Scholarship Agreement form;

Signed Release of Information Forms;

Per Capita Release or residency documents (if applicable);

Program of Study (Graduate Students only);

Current certification of Indian blood degree for the tribe or the bureau certifying that the applicant is a member or eligible for membership in an Indian Tribe (FSST);

A letter of acceptance or admission from the institution you plan to attend;

Transcripts of all previous higher education terms;

A copy of the student's current class registration.

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BIA/AVT/TRIBAL HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Applying to attend school Full Time Part Time
 Semester: Fall 20 Spring 20 Summer 20
 Quarter: Fall 20 Winter 20 Spring 20 Summer 20

I am applying for Higher Education Adult Vocational Training Wowapi Scholarship

Name _____
 Last First Middle Maiden

Mailing Address City State Zip Telephone Number

Permanent Address City State Zip Email Address

Social Security Number _____ Tribal Enrollment Number _____

Date of Birth _____ Sex Male Female Veteran Yes No

Marital Status Married Divorced Separated Single

Number of Dependents _____ Age of Dependents _____

High School/GED _____
 Name Address Graduation/Certificate Date

College/ School Class Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Graduate

College/School to Attend _____
 Name Address

Expected Degree _____ AA BA BS MA Other

Major _____ Year to Graduate _____

Have you ever received a previous Higher Education or Adult Vocational Training Grant? Yes No

If yes, list Institution(s) attended and year(s) _____

Have you completed and submitted your Financial Aid Application (FAFSA)? Yes No

Answer all items completely. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

I hereby certify that the above information on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and consent to the release of this information to necessary agencies to complete my financial aid package. I request that any BIA grant awarded to me be mailed to me in care of the financial aid office of the institution. I will provide a copy of my grades or transcripts to the FSST Higher Education Office at the end of each academic term.

Signature of Student

Date

**Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Education Department
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BIA/AVT/TRIBAL HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP NEEDS ANALYSIS

I. To Be Completed by the Student:

Name _____ Social Security Number _____
Please Print

Home Address _____
Street or PO Box City State Zip

Telephone _____ Year in College _____

Signature of Student Date

II. To Be Completed by the Financial Aid Office:

The above named student has made application with the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's Indian Education Program for financial assistance to attend your institution. As a condition for receiving tribal assistance, the applicant must annually complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and submit the results to your office. Please answer the following questions and return the form directly to our office:

Has the Applicant completed the FAFSA and made the results known to your office?

Yes No

Expense		Personal Resources		Other Resources	
Tuition		Personal		PELL	
Fees		Parent		SEOG	
Books/Supplies		Veteran's Benefit		NDSL	
Room		Social Security		CWS	
Board		Voc. Rehab.		Scholarships	
Other (please specify on reverse side)		Other		Other	

Student's Unmet need - _____
(Expenses minus Resources)

Higher Education grant will cover expenses for the period:

_____ to _____ Beginning on _____
Month/Year Month/Year

Financial Aid Officer Date Telephone

Name of Institution Address Zip

Our School is on: Semester _____ Quarter _____ Other _____

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PRIVACY ACT AND PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

This information is provided pursuant to Public Law 93-59 (Privacy Act 1974), December 31, 1974. Although furnishing personal information to this office is voluntary, failure to supply complete and accurate information may preclude the applicant from eligibility for assistance under this program.

This information is being collected to determine eligibility of individuals applying for services. This information will be used to produce statistical records required of the Office of Indian Education Programs. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit.

I have read the above statement. I hereby provide the required information and authorize the use of such information to the extent of uses specified in this statement.

Signature of Student

Date

**Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Education Department
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BIA/AVT/TRIBAL HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT

I certify that I have received and have thoroughly read the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's Adult Vocational Training and Higher Education Guidelines and fully understand the rules and regulations as outlined in the document. I further understand I must adhere to the rules and regulations of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's Higher Education Program as outlined in the guidelines.

I hereby apply to attend the school indicated on this application and agree to follow all rules, regulation and attendance requirements of the school and to the best of my ability will satisfactorily complete the courses, which I have selected. I further agree that the funds issued for educational purposes will be used for such purpose or repayment will be required.

If repayment is required, the undersigned, _____, hereby assigns to Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe, a Federally Recognized Indian tribe, from my monthly per capita payment pursuant to Title 19, FSST ordinance which I, _____ may be entitled to receive. The amount of \$200 per month until sums due have been paid in full unless prior arrangements have been made.

I understand that if I withdraw before the quarter/semester is over for any reason, I will be placed on funding suspension. The student who is on funding suspension shall not be considered for future funding until the recipient completes an academic term by their own means and meets the minimum requirements. The number of credits must meet the number of credits funded previous to suspension.

I agree that I will provide grade reports regarding my progress, give updated address information and furnish other information as requested by the Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Education Office in a timely manner. I understand that as a undergraduate student, I am required to be enrolled in an accredited institution and maintain a term and cumulative Grade Point Average of at least a 2.0 or above. I understand that as a graduate student, I am required to be enrolled in an accredited institution and maintain a term and cumulative Grade Point Average of at least a 3.0 or above.

I understand that submitting application for educational funding does not guarantee that I will be funded, and that monies are awarded based on funds available in comparison to the number of students applying for educational funds.

Signature of Student

Date

**Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Education Department
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT HANDBOOK**

BIA/AVT/TRIBAL HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION RELEASE FORM

PURPOSE: The Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Education Office uses this authorization and the information obtained with it to administer and determine eligibility for education programs.

AUTHORITY:

I do hereby authorize the release of any and all information regarding my case file as it relates to the eligibility / application for assistance from the Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Education Office. This authorization includes and is limited to the following:

- *Grade Reports and Transcripts; Progress Reports/ Updates
- *Attendance Verification
- *Financial Aid Transcripts, Budget Summaries, Program Awards
- *Personal Reports regarding program participation and/or requirements

This information is permitted to be released to: The Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Education Office, which includes the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's (FSST) Education Director, Higher Education Committee and/or Executive Committee.

In addition, my signature allows the Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Education Office to release my case file information to the following agency/ institution/ person (including **parents, spouses** or other family members, as well any other tribal programs such as the Percapita committee.):

I agree that photocopies of this authorization may be used for the purpose stated above.

Student Name (please print)

Social Security Number

Signature of Student

Date

**Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Education Department
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FSST PER CAPITA RELEASE FORM

PURPOSE: The Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Education Office uses this authorization and the information obtained with it to administer and determine eligibility for education programs.

AUTHORITY:

I do hereby authorize the release of any and all information regarding my case file as it relates to the eligibility / application for assistance from the Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Education Office. This authorization includes and is limited to the following:

*My Residency Status (On/Off Reservation)

This information is permitted to be released to: The Flandreau Santee Sioux Indian Education Office, which includes the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe's (FSST) Education Director, Higher Education Committee and/or Executive Committee.

Student Name (please print)

Social Security Number

Signature of Student

Date