

Cherokee Nation
College Resources
Scholarship Policies

I. Regular Scholarship (LA03-12B)

Eligibility- Scholarship applicants must be citizens of the Cherokee Nation. Any federally recognized tribe can apply but must be eligible for the Federal PELL grant. Students who attend military academies (United States Military Academy- West Point, United States Naval Academy, United States Coast Guard Academy, and the United States Merchant Marine Academy) may also receive full scholarship funding. Cherokee Nation scholarships may be utilized at any accredited public or private higher education institution. Proprietary (for-profit) institutions, non-accredited institutions, and preparatory academies will not be funded. The Directory of Higher Education and other sources will be used to make this determination. Cherokee Nation scholarships may be used to obtain approved undergraduate and graduate degrees. Associate of Applied Science degrees, excluding the field of Nursing, will not be funded. Certificate and licensing programs will not be funded. Recipients of the Cherokee Nation Scholarship must make satisfactory academic progress toward an undergraduate or graduate degree. In order to ensure academic progress the student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average. Complete (pass) a minimum number of credit hours per semester, future scholarship awards will be based on the hours earned during the previous semester (full-time, or half-time). See chart below:

Grade Point Average Requirement

Each student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average to remain eligible for the scholarship program.

Scholarship	Minimum Cumulative GPA
Undergraduate Scholarship	2.0
Graduate Scholarship	In good standing with college/university

Satisfactory Completion of Semester Hours Requirement

Students must also complete and pass a minimum number of credit hours per semester in order to remain eligible for the scholarship program. The proceeding semester's funding will be based on the amount of hours earned for the previous semester. If a student applies for full-time and drops courses or fails to earn sufficient hours he/she will be funded at part-time for the next semester. Cherokee Nation will fund only at the full-time and part-time status. A schedule with less than full time but meeting the minimum hours to be earned will be considered part-time. If a student falls below half-time status he/she will be placed on suspension.

Scholarship	Minimum Number of Semester Hours
--------------------	---

Undergraduate Scholarship	6
---------------------------	---

Graduate Scholarship	3
----------------------	---

Resident Eligibility

All scholarship recipients (except Pell-eligible undergraduate students) must have a permanent address inside the Cherokee Nation proper or contiguous counties. Pell-eligible undergraduate students are eligible without regard to residence.

Application Requirements

All scholarship applications are required to be complete and submitted by the established deadline. Missing or falsified information will result in denial of scholarship. A list of required documentation will be included with each application.

Limit on Number of Semesters or Credit Hours

Undergraduate	8 semesters or 140 hours, manager approval beyond
---------------	---

Graduate	8 semesters with the option of 2- additional semester funded by approval, (limited to 2 semesters of funding while working on dissertation)
----------	--

Self Help Requirements

Undergraduate and Graduate

1. Recipients of the Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship are required to volunteer one hour of service to the Nation (Cherokee Nation) or a non-profit entity for every \$100 they receive in scholarship funding. Official written verification will be required. (Example: \$2,000 per semester = 20 community service hours.)
2. Residents of the Nation, projects and entities within the Cherokee Nation boundaries are preferred. Self Help Service must be hands-on community involvement focused on humanitarian functions. (Acceptable examples: Food pantry, clothing closet, soup line, and disaster cleanup.)
3. Self Help service cannot be completed with immediate family, or a family owned/operated organization.
4. Students who do not complete the required number of community service hours will be suspended from the program.
5. Self Help Service hours must be performed during the semester awarded.
6. This self-help verification form must be submitted by the student before receiving an award for another semester.

Funding Process

We follow the same guidelines as the federal government in that all funds are sent to the institution and may not be sent directly to the student.

Denial, Probation and Suspension

Falsification of Information

Any information or back-up documentation provided to the Cherokee Nation that is found to be falsified in nature will be considered grounds for scholarship denial/suspension. Scholarship recipients that have falsified information will also be required to pay back the total of all scholarship monies received.

Denial

An applicant may be denied based on not meeting the minimum requirements, submitting late or incomplete applications, falsifying information, not returning a signed award letter, or availability of funding.

Probation

Academic

First time applicants not meeting the minimum GPA requirements will be awarded on scholarship probation for one semester. Students remain eligible for the scholarship during their probationary period. Continuing students that fail to meet the GPA requirements for the prior semester will be placed on scholarship probation for one semester. Students remain eligible for the scholarship during their probationary period.

Suspension

Academic

At the end of the probationary period, if students fail to earn a minimum cumulative GPA in accordance with the chart in the Academic Eligibility Section, they will be placed on scholarship suspension. While on suspension, students are not eligible for any Cherokee Nation Scholarship program. Once a student's cumulative GPA meets the minimum requirements the student may reapply.

Please note: Scholarship probation and suspension are separate from academic probation and suspension as provided by an educational institution.

II. Promise Scholarship

Eligibility- Must be a citizen of the Cherokee Nation Must be a resident of the fourteen-county jurisdictional area (see map) Must meet all requirements for the Cherokee Nation Undergraduate Scholarship, Must meet all eligibility requirements for the Cherokee Nation Human Services College Housing Assistance Program, including NAHASDA income guidelines, Must be accepted into an approved university offering the Promise program and live on-campus in the designated residence hall. Must have a 2.7 GPA, Must participate in the Self-Help Program, Must participate in the Cherokee Cultural Curriculum. Priority will be given to incoming freshmen.

Program Description

CPSP students accepted into the program will receive assistance from the Cherokee Nation and Pell Grant funds for tuition, fees, and residential room and board at the approved University. CPSP consists of a living learning community, service learning projects and academic support.

Participant Criteria

The CPSP student must maintain full-time enrollment (minimum of 12 credit hours per semester), be a Cherokee Nation citizen, meet NAHASDA income eligibility requirements and live in University housing, enroll in pre-determined cohort classes, maintain a 2.7 GPA, complete 20 community service hours by participating in a service learning project each semester. Participants must remain in good academic and behavior standing with the University.

Participant Selection Process

CPSP are selected through an online application process through the Cherokee Nation College Resource Center. Applicants must meet university admission requirement and Cherokee Nation established criteria, including Pell Grant and NAHASDA eligibility.

Program

Academic- The CPSP cohort members are enrolled in required group courses and cultural activities on campus or in the community. These courses are determined by the university and approved by the College Resource manager.

Living Learning Community- The university will provide residential living facilities for the CPSP students.

The university will coordinate with CPSP living learning community development through residential program offerings through the Department of Housing and Residential Life. This program will be reviewed by Cherokee Nation staff.

Academic Support: The University will assist with academic advising and CPSP participants will have access to academic support programs to assist in academic studies.

Service Learning: CPSP students will be required to complete 20 clock hours of Community service hours. To fulfill this, students will be required to create a group service learning project with a cultural, university or community aspect. Each community service group must have no less than 5 members and must include one interview with a Cherokee National Treasure. These projects will be reviewed by either Cherokee Nation staff, University staff or presented to a public school.

Program Assessment and Research

1. Compare retention rates with other Cherokee Nation scholarship students at the university; Cherokee Nation scholarship students at other institutions, Compare first 4 semester GPA standing with non-CPSP student at the university.

Program Continuation

1. Students are dropped from the program if no longer meet the NAHASDA income guidelines, but may continue college classes as a regular student through the Cherokee Nation scholarship rate- Currently \$2,000.00
2. Students are dropped from program if not in good standing with the University fall below the GPA requirements for 2 consecutive semesters

Program Renewal

All Cherokee Nation programming continuation is always contingent upon availability of funding. Funding is committed on a semester basis. All students must reapply each year for the Promise Scholarship and provide required renewal documents upon request.

III. Directed Studies

Eligibility

- Must be a citizen of the Cherokee Nation.
- Must be a resident of the fourteen-county jurisdictional area or contiguous counties (See Map).
- Must be accepted in a Professional, Masters level Program/School.
- Must be working towards a degree on the accepted degree list (attached)
- Medical Field Degrees obtained must be from a University within the United States and approved by the American Medical Association (AMA).

**professional degree meaning licensed degree, post graduate*

Guidelines:

- Must be a full time student.
- Must have an approved major degree plan on file.
- Must submit official transcripts at the end of each semester.
- Must stay "in good standing" with the University (*please reference probation/suspension policy*)
- Must sign a contract to work for Cherokee Nation for same number of years funded after graduation.
- Scholarships will assist with , tuition, books, fees, room and board (OU housing rate) and required equipment (no laptops, ipads or computers)
- Failure to fulfill contract obligation will result in a breach and student will be responsible for payback of Cherokee Nation funds
- Must attend meet with Program Sponsor once per year

Payback Obligation

The Cherokee Nation Directed Studies Program contains a service repayment requirement upon graduation and if eligibility is not maintained for the Cherokee Nation Directed Studies Program or fulfill the service repayment requirement, students will be required to reimburse the Cherokee Nation for scholarship monies received.

The Cherokee Nation has a maximum standard rate it will pay per semester, such rate to be determined by analysis of the tuition rates of the University of Oklahoma. Cherokee Nation will not pay for a class if previously enrolled for the same or similar class and withdrawn from it, or received an incomplete or failing grade.

The student is obligated to work for the Cherokee Nation at standard salary and benefits for the number of years they were funded on the program.

Probation

Probation policy will coincide with University probation policy

Suspension

If the applicant drops or voluntarily withdraws from the program he/she will be suspended from the scholarship program. This will result in a breach of contract and result in payback.

Deferment

Medical students that decide to Specialize in their field of study will receive approval from the sponsoring department and/or request for payback deferment.

Breach of Contract

Cherokee Nation Education Scholarship participants who are dismissed from school for academic or disciplinary reasons, or who voluntarily terminate academic training or changes his/her degree of study before graduation from the educational program for which the scholarship was awarded, will be liable to the Cherokee Nation for repayment of all Scholarship Program funds paid to them and to the school on their behalf.

Payment must be made within five years from the date of breach or such longer period as specified by the Cherokee Nation Education Administration. No interest will be charged on any part of this indebtedness to the Cherokee Nation within the three-year period.

Participants breach their scholarship contracts by failing to begin or complete their service obligation for any reason other than failure to complete academic training, or by failing to comply with the terms and conditions of deferment.

Payback Procedures

1. The Education Scholarship Staff will submit name, social security number, address, phone number and total amount paid by Cherokee Nation for the student who is in violation of requirements for program resulting in a Breach of Contract to the Commerce Department.
2. Commerce department will setup payment information and notify student of payment schedule. Late notices will go out when the account is 30, 60 and 90 days past due, if payment is not made within the specified period of time the Attorney General office will be notified.
3. Once received by the Attorney General's office legal action will be taken and a judgment could be placed on the applicants file and possible wage garnishment for repayment.
4. Failure to adhere to the judgment will result in small claims court case.

High School Opportunities

Concurrent Enrollment

Students must be attending a public high school and be classified as either a Junior or Senior. Students must be eligible for concurrent enrollment through their high school, with verification from a high school official. Must be a Cherokee Nation citizen, and must submit college class schedule.

Students will receive funding towards tuition, books and fees for up to nine (9) credit hours concurrently enrolled each semester. Students that wish to take more than nine hours will be responsible for payment. High School Seniors will not receive tuition payment.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian Scholarship

The Cherokee Nation recognizes and awards scholarship funds to Cherokee citizens who are named Valedictorian or Salutatorian located within the Cherokee Nation scholarship service area and adjoining counties. The area is more clearly defined as:

1. All high schools currently receiving Cherokee Tax Commission funding and those located in LeFlore, Haskell, Pittsburg, McIntosh, Muskogee, Wagoner, Tulsa and Osage counties in Oklahoma.
2. All high schools located in Benton, Crawford, and Washington counties in Arkansas.
3. All high schools located in Chautauqua, Cherokee, Labette and Montgomery counties in Kansas.
4. McDonald County High School in Missouri.

The one-time scholarship award of \$1,000.00 to a Valedictorian and \$750.00 to a Salutatorian is in addition to any funds the recipients may receive through the Cherokee Nation College Resources. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.5 in order to qualify. In cases where schools do not name Valedictorians or Salutatorians, a Class Rank of 1 and 2 will qualify for the scholarship award.


Mandy Scott, Manager

5/20/14
Date


Bill Andoe, Executive Deputy Director

5/20/14
Date