



The Sauk-Suiattle Higher Education Program

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Congratulations on your decision to pursue a Higher Education! We're so proud of you, and we're here to support you as you work toward achieving your educational goals!

Mission Statement

Our mission is to assist Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Members in achieving their educational and professional goals. We strive to be a reliable source of support throughout their college and/or vocational program through guidance, assistance, and encouragement.

About Us

The Sauk-Suiattle Higher Education Program operates as part of the Education Department of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe. Our program serves all Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Members interested in pursuing a Higher Education. We offer a wide-range of support; from assistance filling out college or financial aid applications, educational resources, registration assistance, and funding to help cover the costs of placement testing and admission fees, tuition, books, and supplies.

Application Process

1. Complete the SSIT Tribal Scholarship Fund Application Form, the Statement of Goals, the Authorization to Release Information, and the Agreement to the Higher Education Policy.
2. Have your educational institution complete the Financial Need Assessment Form. (This can be done by an advisor or their financial aid office.)
3. Complete and submit an Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA), which can be accessed at www.fafsa.ed.gov. (Tip: have the previous year's tax information readily available.)
4. Submit FAFSA submission confirmation to the Education Department along with the Eligibility estimate provided by FAFSA after completion.
5. Return all Forms to the SSIT Education Department, either in person, by mail, or via e-mail. If you need assistance with any portion of the application, we are happy to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us! Funding cannot be provided until all above steps have been completed.

Scholarship Awards

1. SSIT will cover tuition and books up to \$1,500 per person per quarter or \$3,000 per person per semester. If a program's cost exceeds these limits, a petition requesting additional funding must be submitted to Council at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.
2. With the exception of stipends, all payments will be made directly to the institution providing the educational instruction.

Student Status

Part-Time Status – One (1) to Eleven (11) Credits

Full-Time Status – Twelve (12) Credits or More*

*Unless Full-Time status is otherwise noted by the College/University/educational program.

Student Support Stipends

As an additional level of support, SSIT will provide stipends to college-level or technical program students at levels determined by credit load. This stipend is intended to help cover the costs of books, supplies, and transportation.

1. Eligible Part-Time Students will receive a support stipend in the amount of \$150.00, 3 times per term.
2. Eligible Full-Time Students will receive a support stipend in the amount of \$300.00, 3 times per term.

Stipends will be paid in three (3) installments. The first installment will be paid upon registration, the second paid mid-term after student provides a report of passing grades, and the final installment will be paid upon completion of the term with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.

Student Responsibilities (After an Award has been Granted.)

1. Provide a student schedule for each quarter/semester/session, etc.
2. Submit grades and/or evaluations at the end of each quarter/semester/session/term within 14 business days of the end of that term.
3. Maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher each quarter/semester/session, etc. If a program does not award letter grades, the equivalent based on that system's grading type must be met.
4. Notify the Education Director immediately of any withdrawals, drops, incompletes, or other changes in your class schedule.

Probationary Status

If a student does not obtain a 2.0 GPA or better, the following section will apply:

1st Level of Probation (after the first term student has not met the minimum GPA requirement.)

- Student will be placed on probationary status.
- SSIT will continue to cover the costs of the student's tuition and books, as long as all other student responsibilities are fulfilled.

2nd Level of Probation (second *consecutive* term student has not met the requirement.)

- Student is not eligible for a scholarship award from SSIT.
- Student must complete the steps listed under the following section to become eligible for funding again.

Removal from Probationary Status

1. A student will be automatically removed from probationary status and fully eligible for funding upon successful completion of a quarter/semester/session, etc. with a 2.0 or higher (grade report must be provided to the Education Director.) Students will not be required to submit a new application for funding.

Exception: After a period of 12 months has passed from the last time a scholarship award was granted; the student can submit a written request to be removed from probationary status without having to meet the requirement listed above. These must be submitted in writing by mail or e-mail to the Education Director, who will forward the request to the Education Committee for review.

Examples of Eligible Programs of Study

GED/H.S. Completion*

Associate Programs

Bachelor's Programs

Master's Programs

Doctoral Programs

Vocational/Technical Programs (e.g. massage therapy, truck driving, cosmetology school.)

Certificate Programs*

Continuing Education*

Personal Enrichment*

*These programs are not eligible for a student stipend.

Note: All forms of educational programs will be considered; the programs listed above are examples. For your protection, all programs will be reviewed for validity prior to funding being granted.

Graduation Bonus

The following graduation bonuses will be issued upon receipt of final transcripts showing fulfillment of credit requirements and/or certificate of completion:

Vocational/Technical Program	\$1000
Associate's Degree	\$1000
Bachelor's Degree	\$1500
Master's Degree	\$2000
PHD/Doctoral	\$2500

Graduation Bonus applications are available either in-person at the Education Department or via regular mail or e-mail by request. Applications must be submitted within 90 days of the course completion to be eligible.

Appeals

1. Any decisions made regarding Education funding may be appealed using the following process.
2. A written appeal must be made to the Education Director within fourteen (14) business days of denial.
3. The Education Director will acknowledge having received the appeal petition within seven (7) business days of receiving it.
4. The Education Director will schedule an appeal hearing with the Education Committee. If the Education Committee upholds the decision, the decision will be presented to Tribal Council at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting for a final decision.
5. Sauk-Suiattle Tribal Council's decision will be presented to the applicant in writing within ten (10) business days after this meeting. These decisions are final.

The Sauk-Suiattle Education Committee

The Education Committee shall review eligibility and award scholarship funds as annually budgeted by the Tribal Council. The Committee shall have an administrative right to draft or adopt the necessary forms to administer the program.

The Education Committee shall be no more than (8) members. The committee shall contain no more than two (4) Council members. The committee shall designate a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer.

Chairperson Role: To proceed over the meetings and keep order.

Vice-Chairperson Role: To proceed over the meetings in the Chairperson's absence.

Secretary/Treasurer Role: To record written minutes for the meetings and to present budget reports when necessary.

Severability

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person, entity or circumstance is held to be invalid, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected.

Non-waiver of Sovereign Immunity

The sovereign immunity of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe shall in no manner be waived by this Title. The Tribal Council, Court personnel, employees, and Tribal Representatives are cloaked with the sovereign immunity of the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and thus shall not be subject to liability due to any incidents or facts arising under this Title. (Proposed and added 10/16/01.)

Applicant Agreement to the Higher Education Policy

I understand and agree to the Sauk-Suiattle Higher Education Policy outlined in this packet.

Furthermore, I understand and agree to the requirements and obligations of a student seeking a scholarship award under this program.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Higher Education Program Application

The application will not be processed unless all sections are completed, and all documents required have been received. You must complete, initial, sign, date and attach the necessary documents.

Applicant Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Sauk-Suiattle Enrollment number: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Current mailing address: _____

Current or Intended Program of Study: _____

Educational Institution: _____

Estimated Length of Program: _____

_____ (initial) If already enrolled in a program, I have attached proof of my enrollment (course schedule.)

Signature of Student (or Parent/Guardian if under 18):

Date: _____

Statement of Goals

In the space below, please describe your educational goals. If applicable, explain any related career objectives. How will the knowledge or skills you will gain benefit the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe; either indirectly or directly? Please include any information you feel the Sauk-Suiattle Education Department should know in order to proceed.

Certification: I certify that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the information I provided is subject to review and consent to the release of this and any other information to Sauk-Suiattle leadership, my educational institution, as well as the members of the Sauk-Suiattle Education Committee, as necessary.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Authorization to Release Information

I, _____, hereby authorize the Sauk-Suiattle Higher Education Program to review and/or receive the following kinds of information regarding my education:

- ____1. A copy of the response from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.)
- ____2. A copy of my GED, High School Diploma or College Transcript(s).
- ____3. A copy of my Course Schedules and Grade Reports, as necessary.
- ____4. Acceptance Documentation
- ____5. Enrollment information to verify eligibility for funding.

I understand that the information received will be used to assist me with entering the Higher Education Program.

I understand that this information will enable Higher Education staff with processing my application, verifying eligibility and determining the appropriate level of funding support provided. I understand that staff may ask for additional documents at any time, as deemed necessary.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Privacy Act Information

Personal documents in your file will not be used or reviewed by anyone who does not have a reason to do so. When you sign the above release, be sure you understand who will be using your files, and what they wish to do with them. If you don't want the persons identified to view your files, do not sign. However, in most cases, information about you must be shared with program staff in order to determine whether or not you are eligible to receive program benefits.

The Privacy Act of 1974 means that you determine:

- Who can look at your file.
- What they may do with that information.