PAIUTE INDIAN TRIBE OF UTAH'S HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

"Soaring for Education"

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Purpose

The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (PITU or Tribe) believes that higher education is the key to success and will strengthen and preserve the Paiute People. We believe that certifications, diplomas, and advanced degrees will increase self-sufficiency, broaden career opportunities, strengthen our sovereignty, improve the socioeconomic well-being of our communities, and pave the way for our future generations. We encourage our Tribal Members to further their education through the Tribal Scholarship Program in accordance with these program standards.

Definitions

"First Time Applicant": An individual who is applying for the first time.
"Continuing Applicant": An individual who was a prior scholarship recipient, is currently enrolled in an educational institution.
"Returning Applicant": An individual who was a prior scholarship recipient, previously attended an educational institution, took a break, and is now returning to complete their degree.
"Educational Institution": This includes Colleges, Universities, Technical/Trade Schools that are accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency
"Academic Year": August to July.
"Semester": An academic time period in which classes are in session, including Terms.

New Application Deadlines

- Fall Semester: June 30th
- Spring Semester: November 30th
- Summer Semester: two weeks prior to the start of the semester.

Continuing Scholarship Application Deadlines

- Spring Semester: December 31st
- Summer Semester: two weeks prior to the start of the semester.

Application

- A New or Continuing application is required every Fall Semester.
- Applications submitted at the beginning of the academic year will be considered an application for the entire academic year.
- Students who are awarded a PITU Scholarship for the academic year will need to submit their prior semesters transcripts and upcoming semester class schedule and credit hours before receiving funds for the next semester.

Applicant Eligibility

A. Must be an enrolled member of the PITU or a descendant of an enrolled PITU Tribal Member with at least 1/4 native blood. Proof of enrollment or descendancy is required and can be obtained from the Enrollment Office.
B. Admitted and enrolled in an eligible *postsecondary educational institution*.
C. Continuing applicants must be in good standing with the educational institution and with the PITU Education Department.

D. Continuing applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.3 based on a 4.0 system or equivalent at the end of the last semester. If the applicant's last semester GPA was below a 2.3, the applicants cumulative GPA of 2.3 based on a 4.0 system will be considered.

Application Procedure

The PITU Scholarship Application is located on the Tribe's website at https://pitu.gov/education/. Students must submit the online application by the established deadlines to be considered for the Tribal Scholarship. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application Checklist

Please use this checklist to ensure all required items are included in your PITU Scholarship Application.

I. First Time Applicants: must submit the following items as part of the application:

- ✓ High school transcript or official GED results.
- ✓ Acceptance letter from the educational institution.
- ✓ Proof of PITU enrollment or descendancy.
- ✓ Class schedule and credit hours for upcoming term/semester at the educational institution.
- ✓ Invoice from the educational institution.
- ✓ ACH Authorization Form for direct deposit.
- ✓ Self-confirmation that a FASFA was completed for the current school year.
- ✓ Attach a current, professional, headshot (picture).
- ✓ Student Bio (including Name, Parents, Band, Where they Live, High School, Sports, College, Major, Life Goals, etc.)

II. Continuing Applicants: must submit the following items as part of the application:

- ✓ Class schedule and credit hours for upcoming term/semester at the educational institution.
- ✓ Unofficial Transcripts from the previous term/semester.
- ✓ Invoice from the educational institution.
- ✓ Verification of ACH Authorization Form.
- ✓ Self-confirmation that a FASFA was completed for the current school year.
- ✓ Updated professional, headshot (picture).
- ✓ Updated Bio (including Name, Parents, Band, Where they Live, Sports, College, Major, Life Goals, etc.)

B. Returning Applicants will complete the First Time Application (section above)

III. First Time Applicants who have attended college and have not applied for the Tribal Scholarship will treated as first time applicants.

- Prior cumulative GPA will not be considered as a qualifier in the first-time scholarship application.

Priority Guidelines

Priority will be given to enrolled PITU Tribal Members. In addition, PITU Scholarship Applications will be reviewed and approved in the following order:

A. Continuing Undergraduates
B. First Time Applicants
C. Graduate Students
D. Doctoral Students

Late and Incomplete Scholarship Applications

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Required Documents

All required documents must include:

- Class schedule including the applicants name and total credit hours for the upcoming semester.
- Invoice which includes the applicant's name.
- Unofficial transcripts including the applicant's name.

Scholarship Funding Period

Undergraduate Students

The PITU Scholarship will fund a maximum of 125 credit hours for post-secondary education towards a bachelor's degree from an accredited educational institution.

Students who have exhausted the 125 PITU Scholarship funded credit hours towards their bachelor's degree are not eligible for the PITU Scholarship.

Graduate Students

The PITU Scholarship will fund a maximum of 60 PITU Scholarship funded credit hours for post-secondary education towards a master's degree from an accredited educational institution.

Students who have exhausted the 60 PITU Scholarship funded credit hours towards their master's degree are not eligible for the PITU Scholarship.

Doctoral Students

Doctoral Students Scholarship consideration will be contingent on funding. Please contact the PITU Education Department for additional information.

Scholarship Amounts

A. The PITU Education Department will review and approve student scholarships once every semester in accordance to the scholarship deadlines (above).
B. PITU Scholarships for bachelor's degrees will be $200 dollars per credit hour up to 125 total credit hours.
C. PITU Scholarships for master's degrees will be $300 dollars per credit hour up to 60 total credit hours.
D. PITU Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the student.
E. The student is responsible for submitting tuition payments to their educational institution.
F. Excess funds can be used for textbooks, school fees, computers, and other necessary educational expenses.
G. Educational expenses beyond what is paid to the student will be the student's responsibility.

Recipient Guidelines

A. Read and understand all the policies and procedures.
B. Maintain at least a 2.3 GPA based on a 4.0 system or equivalent at the end of the last semester. If the applicant's last semester GPA was below a 2.3, the applicants cumulative GPA of 2.3 based on a 4.0 system will be considered.
C. ***All*** students must apply for each term/semester of funding.
D. Apply for Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
E. Students must submit unofficial transcripts at the end of each /semester.
F. All students should work with their assigned advisor at the college/university he or she is attending.
G. Students should contact the PITU Education Department if they need additional help or support during the academic year.

Academic Review

Students who are not meeting GPA expectations outlined in the policy and who are on the verge of losing their good standing at their Educational Institution may be placed on Academic Review. If the Student's performance fails to improve, they face losing their scholarship.

Scholarship Suspension

After a review by the PITU Education Department the student will be suspended immediately (ineligible for funding) for a *minimum* of one (1) year if any of the following occur:

- Student fails to meet the minimum 2.3 GPA based on a 4.0 system or equivalent at the end of the last semester. If the applicant's last semester GPA was below a 2.3, the applicants cumulative GPA of 2.3 based on a 4.0 system will be considered.

Approving Guidelines

1. Complete application submitted by the application deadline.
2. Meet the defined eligibility criteria.

Denial Guidelines

1. Incomplete applications
2. Late Applications
3. Eligibility criteria not met
4. Currently on Scholarship Suspension
5. Exhausted funded credit hours
6. Falsifying required documents

Appealing a Decision

To appeal a scholarship decision, the applicant must submit a letter describing their appeal to the Education Department. The Education Committee is not part of the appeals process and does not hear grievances.

Hope Silvas (Mar 19, 2025 14:11 MDT)

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