

WHAT IS THE MICHIGAN INDIAN TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM?

The amending Statute, Michigan Public Act 505, of 1978, reads as follows:

An Act to provide free tuition for North American Indians in public state community colleges or public junior colleges, public colleges or public universities.

§1 A public state community or public junior college or public university shall waive tuition for any North American Indian who qualifies for admission as a

full-time, part-time or summer school student and is a legal resident of the state for not less than 12 consecutive months.

§2 For the purposes of this Act, "North American Indian" means a person who is not less than 1/4 quantum blood Indian as certified by the person's tribal organization and verified by the ITC.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **STUDENT**, Complete the "STUDENT PORTION" of Tuition Waiver (TW) application located on front of this form.
PROOF OF RESIDENCY: Include a copy of your Driver's License, Social Security card, and Tribal card (If available). Other proof may be requested, as needed.
2. "TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION." Request a Tribal certification and signature from an authorized tribal certifier, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) certifying 1/4 or more degree Indian blood quantum. The Tribes and BIA are listed below. An **original** tribal certification letter may be sent indicating 1/4 or more Indian blood quantum instead of having the tribe complete the "TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION".
3. Request that the tribal organization send the application back to the applicant after completing the "TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION", or ask that they Mail the completed application and **original** letter back to the ITC office. Do not assume that your tribal organization has forwarded this information to the ITC.
4. **NOTICE OF DECISION.** The ITC will review and check your application for the required information; and, if complete, the ITC will prepare a verification letter. A copy of the application and the verification letter will be sent to the college financial aid office and to the student. Any original tribal certification letter, or card, which is separate from the application form, will be returned to the student, if requested.
5. **TRANSFER STUDENTS.** Transfer students must fill out the "STUDENT PORTION" section of a new application indicating the school which they will be attending or they may contact the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW) program to notify them of any changes. It will not be necessary to have the "TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION" completed again since the ITC has it on file.

DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY FOR TRIBAL CERTIFICATION

1. Your Tribal organization or the BIA can certify your blood quantum by checking tribal or federal records from information you provide.
2. If you are not a registered member of a tribe and you want to trace your ancestry to certify your blood quantum, you will need to obtain background information such as names of your parents and grandparents, where they resided and the name of your tribe (if known).
3. The BIA in Sault Ste. Marie, MI may be able to help confirm or identify your tribal affiliation. The BIA will do an initial free search to trace your Indian ancestry. Requests for assistance should be accompanied by a brief family tree. Three generations is enough to start the search.

Document your relationship to the names on the family tree chart by providing a birth certificate for yourself and a birth, death or marriage certificate for your natural Indian parents and grandparents. These certificates are acceptable documents to begin to verify ancestry. They may be obtained from your family, the County Clerk's office of the state Vital Records office where the birth, death or marriage took place. In Michigan, it would be the County Clerk's office where the event took place or the Michigan State

Registrar's Office. You may contact them at (517) 335-8656. The racial designation is often incorrectly entered on many Native birth and death records. Do not be concerned. The primary data that is cross checked by the Tribal organization are the family names, etc.

4. The BIA can assist you in obtaining information from adoptive birth records. Submit your family tree and the documentation to: Bureau of Indian Affairs, ATTN: Tribal Operations, 2901 S. I-75 Business Spur, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

State that you are applying for the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver program. You will be advised if further information is needed. If you have any questions or comments on tracing your ancestry, you may direct them to Tribal Operations at the above address or phone (906) 632-6809.

5. The Inter Tribal Council of Michigan staff can also provide initial guidance and printed information to get you started on tracing your Indian ancestry. Tribal certification contacts and family tree charts are also available at the ITC office or by calling 1-800-562-4957.

FEDERAL AND HISTORIC TRIBES IN MICHIGAN

Chippewa Tribes:

- Bay Mills Indian Community
12120 W. Lakeshore Drive
Brimley, MI 49715
(906) 248-3241
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
107 Beartown Road
Baraga, MI 49908
(906) 353-6623
- Lac Vieux Desert Band Tribal Council
P.O. Box 249, Choate Road
Watersmeet, MI 49969
(906) 358-4577
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
7070 E. Broadway
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(989) 775-4000

- Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of

Chippewa Indians
523 Ashmun Street
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
(906) 635-6050

Ottawa and Chippewa Bands:

- Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
P.O. Box 206
Brutus, MI 49716
(231) 529-6113
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, Inc.
2605 NW Bayshore Drive
Peshawbeston, MI 49682
(616) 271-3538
(888) 271-3538

Ottawa Bands:

- Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
7500 Odawa Circle
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
(231) 348-3410
- Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
375 River Street
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-8288
- Northern Michigan Ottawa Assoc.
2428 Timber Lane
Alpena, MI 49707
(616) 354-3442
- Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians
P.O. Box 2937, 1251 Plainfield NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49501
(616) 458-8759

Potawatomi Bands:

- Gun Lake Tribe
1743 142nd Avenue, P.O. Box 218
Dorr, MI 49323
(616) 681-8830
- Hannahville Potawatomi Indian Community
N-14911 Hannahville, B-1 Rd.
Wilson, MI 49896-9717
(906) 466-2932
- Huron Potawatomi, Inc.
2221 1-1/2 Mile Rd.
Fulton, MI 49052
(269) 729-5151
- Potawatomi Indian Nation, Inc. (Pokagon Band)
104 N. Riverside Drive
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(616) 782-8998
- Indicates a federally recognized tribe.