



The Camas Path is a Tribally-Chartered entity of the Kalispel Tribe focusing on the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the individual. The Kalispel Tribe is committed to foster an environment that encourages lifelong learning, and strives for social and economic development that reflects the needs of both the urban and rural Indian community. In order to enhance supportive services directed at all community/tribal members, the Kalispel Tribe is dedicated to a fully coordinated community effort.

Higher Education Program Policies

The Camas Path Higher Education Program goal is to provide resources to enrolled Kalispel Tribal Members who wish to enrich their lives by acquiring and/or furthering their education by attending institution of higher learning or vocational training. The education scholarship program is an opportunity offered by the Kalispel Business Committee for Kalispel Tribal Members.

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DEFINITIONS

Accredited Institution; An institution that is accredited by a national or regional agency, or is a candidate for accreditation, or is a tribally controlled community college.

Applicant; An enrolled Kalispel Tribal Member applying for Higher Education or Vocational Training.

Continuing Student; An individual who has received financial assistance from this program in a constant manner, with no lapse in attendance be it full or part time.

FAFSA; Free Application for Federal Student Aid. www.fafsa.ed.gov/

Fulltime Students; A student who is carrying a full-time academic workload of 12 credits per quarter or semester or in class at least 12 hours per week.

Needs Analysis; A form that is completed by the college/institution that identifies needs based on area, tuition, and other costs related to attending college full time.

Part time students; A student enrolled in less than 12 credits per quarter or semester. Part time students will receive a pro-rated amount based on number of credits student is enrolled in.

Recipient; An applicant selected to receive any scholarship funding under this program.

Returning Student; An individual who has been a recipient in the past, who decides to return to Higher Education after being absent for one semester or quarter.

SAR; Student Aid Report generated when FAFSA is completed.

Scholarship; A grant awarded under this Program to pay Higher Education expenses or fees, examinations or tests that are prerequisites for admission to an Accredited Institution, or any cost related to attendance at an Accredited Institution.

Transfer Student; A current Recipient who transfers between Accredited Institutions during the Academic Year.

Undergraduate Student; An individual enrolled in an Accredited Institution pursuing an Associates or Bachelors degree.

Graduate Student; An individual enrolled in an Accredited Institution pursuing a Masters or Doctorate Degree.

Vocational/Occupational/Technical Student; An individual enrolled in an Accredited Institution pursuing a Certification of Completion of prescribed coursework.

ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligible students will be funded as long as Higher Education Program Monies are available.
2. Be an enrolled member of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. Provide documented proof.
3. Demonstrate a financial need through the needs analysis completed by the institute the student is accepted at.
4. New applicants must provide a Completed Application and the necessary documents on time to the Higher Education Office as listed:
 - a. Application
 - b. Kalispel Tribal Enrollment card
 - c. Copy of official High School diploma or GED certificate
 - d. Letter of Acceptance from Accredited Institution
 - e. Completed Needs Analysis from Institution
 - f. Completed FAFSA and SAR
5. Returning or Transfer student must provide the following:
 - a. Application
 - b. Official transcripts
 - c. Letter of acceptance form Accredited Institution
 - d. Completed Needs Analysis from Institution
 - e. Completed FAFSA and SAR
6. Continuing Students must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale. Failure to do so will result in Probationary discipline. Students must provide the following documents at the end of each term of their program:
 - a. Current transcripts/grades
 - b. Class schedule for next term
 - c. Updated contact information
 - d. Signed Agreement, and Release of Information form for file
7. Complete any required aptitude tests, career information examinations, placement test, etc. as required for Degree or Program of Institution..
8. Must accept all grants and scholarships offered to them.
 - a. Loans shall not be accepted by the student without consultation and approval from the Higher Education Coordinator and the Director of Education. Failure to do so will result in suspension.
 - b. Work study or part time employment is an option as long as it does not hinder the student's ability to remain eligible of funding.
9. Application for foreign study outside the continental United States shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Board of Directors.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RECIPIENT

After meeting all Eligibility Requirements the Applicant becomes a Recipient of Tribal Higher Education Funding and is required to fulfill the following responsibilities:

1. Honest and clear communication with Higher Education Staff in all aspects of attending school. Failure to share information related to education and Equity Assistance may cause student to assume all costs incurred due to the errors that may result in the additional costs, as well as being suspended. This includes grants, scholarship, etc.
2. Must meet with the Higher Education Staff to outline program requirements, and understand program services. Submit Program requirements for student file and enroll in those classes listed for credit towards degree.
3. Must submit applications annually for FAFSA. Assistance from the Higher Education Program is available. Copies of application and SAR must be provided for Camas files.
4. Must accept all tuition waivers, grants and scholarships offered to them. Shall not accept educational loans.
5. Must provide current transcripts at the end of every quarter/semester/term indicating a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale. Graduate students must maintain their specific program required GPA.
6. Full time students must complete Educational Program within specified amount of time.
 - Associates Degree: maximum of three years or nine quarters/six semesters, which may be non-consecutive.
 - Bachelors Degree: maximum of six years or 18 quarters/12 semesters, which may be non-consecutive.
 - Vocational certificate: within that program's determined time.
7. Demonstrate financial need based on Needs Analysis completed by Financial Aid office at the Accredited Institution. All students will receive only those identified needs as long as that will not exceed the annual family median income estimates from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Current HUD information will be on file in Higher Education Program Office.
8. Use all Financial Assistance received for the sole purpose of living expenses incurred while attending school.
9. Each graduate is encouraged to return to the Kalispel Tribe government or enterprises to provide professional services.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Camas Path Educational Program Shall, through its staff:

1. Maintain Confidentiality on all matters of Student Information. No information will be shared unless a signed release is on file.
2. Receive, review, and file all applications for awarding students who meet the basic eligibility criteria and requirements, depending upon the availability of funds.
3. Assess financial aid eligibility to qualified students pursuing post-secondary education, or vocational training.
4. Provide timely and correct information on scholarship policies and procedures to prospective applicants and respective administrators.
5. Establish and maintain effective working relations with all secondary and postsecondary institutions, and agencies working with students.
6. Assist all students in achieving their financial aid and career plans.
7. Conduct on-site visits with students throughout the academic year. These visits will be documented and placed in the student's file. Such visits will be mandatory, for those students placed on probation.
8. Provide these services to students:
 - Skills Assessments will focus direction for educational and career choices, and can help identify areas of strength/weakness so that educational pursuits are appropriate to the uniqueness of each individual. Skills assessments also identify personal goals, specific achievement plans and problem solving strategies.
 - Life Coaching sessions affirm achievement, identify barriers, and assist students in creative solutions to challenges. The Life-Coach also acts as liaison for other services provided by the multi-disciplinary team.
 - Financial Aid and Scholarship Workshops provides individual and group instruction in the process of applying for Federal Student Aid, grants and scholarships.
 - College Catalog and Resource Library devoted to program information. These resources include applications, catalogs, and contact information for Native American students from various trade schools, colleges, and universities.
 - Provision of Personal Computers to participants who need a personal computer system for school work receive a computer and basic software to use while in school. Written request with justification is required. Camas Path also facilitates minor repairs to this equipment as needed. Failure to complete program, all equipment will be returned to the Camas Path Higher Education Program.
 - Budget Consultation Services provides budget consultations for participants. Financial problem solving, resource management and long range planning strategies provide students with information and tools to maximize Equity Assurance funds.

INCENTIVE AWARDS

Annual Banquet

The Camas Path Higher Education Program will host an annual banquet to honor all Kalispel students who have graduated the past year with Degrees/Certificates from the Institutions attended.

1. Staff will assess the progress of every student Spring Quarter every year to identify possible Graduates.
2. Proof of graduation is required to receive recognition and/or gifts. Graduates must provide a copy of their diploma or certificate.
3. The banquet is arranged by the Camas Path of Education Staff. Graduates and students will be notified by invitation.

Student Achievement

1. Based on available funds, students may receive monetary awards for achieving a high grade point average for the term completed.
2. Monetary/Gift rewards may be given, based on available funds, for receiving an Associate's Degree, Bachelors Degree, and certification.

EARLY WITHDRAWAL POLICY

In the event that a student withdraws from a class or classes for any reason prior to the completion of the semester or quarter, that student must make a pro-rated refund to the Camas Path of funds advanced for educational purposes for that semester or quarter. If it becomes necessary for The Camas Path and the Kalispel Tribe to recapture lost funds, withholding from student per capita payments may be instituted.

PROBATION STATUS

Students who do not meet the academic requirements of maintaining a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale will be placed on probation for the next eligible term (quarter or semester). While the Camas Path is dedicated to helping every student advance, sometimes situations or personal issues arise that will jeopardize a student's ability to succeed in the educational environment. Lack of academic progress will prompt serious consequences. The following levels of consequences reveal how crucial academic success is to the Camas Path.

1. A letter will be mailed to the student identifying the infraction and emphasizing the requirements of the program and how the student can continue.
2. Funding will continue as scheduled during the probationary term. However, in order for funding to continue, the student must strictly comply with academic requirements set by the Higher Education Program.
3. Students placed on probation will be required to meet with the Higher Education Department to develop an action plan that provides direction for the student to work his/her way out of academic probation.
4. Action plans may include support from resources available through the educational institution they are attending, or the Camas Path; such as counseling, personal intervention, and/or tutoring. Failure to meet the academic requirements without efforts to comply with action plan while on academic probation will result in the student being placed on suspension.
5. All students who are on academic probation must submit a mid-quarter/semester grade report to the Higher Education Program.
6. When the student has satisfied the requirements imposed by the action plan he/she will receive a letter of notification that informs them they are no longer on academic probation and eligible to receive Equity Assistance.

SUSPENSION STATUS

1. A letter will be mailed to the student informing them of their suspension status and what they must do to become reinstated.
2. A student on suspension will no longer be eligible to receive financial assistance from the Camas Path Educational Scholarship Process until satisfactory academic progress has been achieved, at the Students own expense.
3. When the student successfully receives specified credit hours in a semester or quarter with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or more, the student will be placed back on probation status.
4. When the student has satisfied the requirements of probationary status, he/she will receive a letter of notification that indicates the student is reinstated in the Higher Education Program under probationary guidelines.

**NOTE: Any student put on probation or suspension due to an occurred medical condition must notify and submit a written release from physician before reinstatement in the Higher Education Program.*

APPEAL PROCESS

If an individual is denied Camas Path Higher Education services, or services are reduced, the individual must be informed in writing of all the reasons for the denial or reduction of services. Individual's have the right to appeal any denial or reduction of services decision within 30 days of the receipt of the written notice.

If the individual has new information to present, they may present that information to the Higher Education Coordinator, or appeal the decision to the Director of Education, or to the Camas Path Executive Director. If no new information is to be presented, the individual may appeal the decision directly to the Camas Path Board. All decisions made by the Camas Path Board are considered final.

The Camas Path Board shall notify the Higher Education Program within 24 hours of receipt of an appeal and the Program shall respond to any individual appeal within seven (7) working days of receipt. A claim shall be deemed valid if the Camas Path Board fails to respond to an appeal of a claim within thirty (30) days.

The Kalispel Tribe's Higher Education Program shall adhere to all administrative procedures pursuant to the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 (25 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CAMAS PATH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Provide leadership in establishing the higher education policy, goals, and priorities of the Camas Path.
2. Periodically review and recommend amendments and/or revisions of the Camas Path's plan of operation and submit them to the Kalispel Tribal Council for final approval.
3. Review and/or reconsider denied or suspended applications and resolve grievances and appeals filed by students. The decision of the Camas Path Board of Directors shall be final.
4. Assist the program staff in conducting workshops, orientations, conferences, and other functions on behalf of students and parents to keep them informed of the latest higher educational developments of the Camas Path.
5. Attend workshops, orientations, conferences, etc., to keep abreast of most current educational policies and developments.
6. Confidentiality shall be maintained at all times in order to maintain the integrity of the Camas Path. All verbal comments and written documents are considered confidential.

HIGHER EDUCATION EQUITY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

I understand that if I withdraw from school, for any reason, before the end of the term (quarter or semester), I may be required to refund to the Camas Path Educational Scholarship Program all monetary awards advanced to me before I qualify for further awards.

I will make necessary reports regarding my progress and furnish any other information requested of me by the Education Coordinator. Should I desire to change schools during the course of my study, I will notify the Education Coordinator at least sixty (60) days in advance of such transfer. I will also notify the Education/Training Program Manager and Education Coordinator of any intention to withdraw from any course class or school. I understand that all fees as a result of my decision to withdraw will be my responsibility.

I further agree that should it become necessary for the Camas Path to collect any refunds from me, I authorize the Camas Path and Kalispel Tribe to withhold any per capita payments I may have in the future or take any means necessary for collection, until full credit has been received.

Student Signature _____
Date _____

SIGNED AND SWORN TO (OR AFFIRMED) BEFORE ME
ON _____ BY _____

Signature of Staff member and title