



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: COBELL SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION

### **How does Indigenous Education select applicants to receive a Cobell Scholarship offer?**

Once the application is submitted, IE will evaluate each application individually. The scholarship review team will consider unmet need, academic strength, academic rigor, references responses, and all responses for personal information that is available on the application. Reviewers may also assess language, grammar, and other writing skills.

**Who determines the eligibility and amounts for the scholarship?** As a result of a settlement with the United States government, the Cobell Board of Trustees was established to oversee the funds. Each year the Trustees work with Indigenous Education, Inc. to evaluate the prior year's processes to determine how to make positive changes, if necessary. This includes an assessment of the impact the scholarship award made on each student's financial aid package. Award amounts are conveyed to individuals in an "offer" letter.

### **How does IE decide how much the scholarship offer will be?**

IE will make offers based on the number of completed applications and amount of money available each year. Scholarships vary based on level of educational pursuit. The Scholarship amounts for the Academic Year 2016-2017 were up to: Certificate and Vocational students - \$5000, Bachelor Students - \$5000, all Graduate & Professional Students - \$10,000. After a review of institutional provided information, some students may receive a lesser scholarship award to stay within the annual cost-of-attendance and unmet need.

### **Who selects the Cobell Scholars?**

The IE team of reviewers include staff and other education professionals who are trained to read scholarship applications.

### **Does IE require an official academic transcript when applying?**

No, but we do require an unofficial transcript, a copy of the entire grade report, and course registration for the next term from all finalists.

### **Are there any additional factors used in the selection process?**

IE is responsible for selecting high achieving students who represent tribal nations, at all levels of education, from a variety of institutions, academic pursuits, community engagement, leadership, and strength of writing skills.

### **Does Cobell fund students who are attending school part-time?**

Applicants must intend to enroll full-time, must be degree-seeking and making progress toward graduation. Finalists will submit a course registration when they are provided an offer.



**How is "need" determined?** All finalists' institutions will provide Indigenous Education, Inc. with a Financial Need Verification (FNV). Unmet Need does not necessarily mean "Pell Eligible". IEI does not replace the "Expected Family Contribution (EFC)".

**Should I notify IE if my financial aid changes?**

Yes, students must have their Financial Aid Officer (FAO) notify IE if there are any changes to the application or financial aid status. In many cases, schools do this automatically but you should verify that with the Office of Financial Aid.

**For what type of institution will the scholarship be made available?** Without exception, Indigenous Education, Inc. will only be available to students who attend public or private *non-profit* institutions. Institutions must be industry and nationally/regionally accredited.

**Is my scholarship portable?**

Once you have applied and submitted the application and a Financial Needs Analysis from the school you will be attending, it may be difficult to make any changes if you are offered a Cobell Scholarship. Each case will be considered on an individual basis.

**Can I attend an institution outside the United States?** Indigenous Education, Inc. recognizes that global opportunities are not always within reach for students, for a variety of reasons. The organization will consider funding students who choose to attend institutions outside the United States on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, any student enrolled in Study Abroad options through their US institution may apply the Cobell Scholarship Funds to their cost-of-attendance with no special permissions. In either situation, you may contact the IE to discuss the options; note, that in either case, the funding amount will not exceed the amount made available to all other students.

**Will the scholarship fund summer school? *\*This will always be a separate application process.\**** If funds are made available for summer school, Indigenous Education, Inc. intends to prioritize, in this order a) students funded during the regular academic year who meet certain eligibility criteria; and, b) students, who because of family or career obligations, can only attend full-time courses in the summer (for example, teachers or members of certain academic cohorts); and, c) students enrolled in unpaid internship academic credit hours that are required for graduation; and, d) any group of students which the Board of Directors deems appropriate.

**How and when will I be notified if I am offered a Cobell Scholarship?**

IE will post decisions in the applicants **Cobell-OASIS** profile and communicates electronically through emails using the email with which an applicant created their **Cobell-OASIS** profile. This process will generally take place in early May, each year.