

Frequently Asked Questions

The Cobell Scholarship Selection Process

Q: What percentage of applicants are funded?

A: Approximately 28% of submitted applications received an award in 2022-2023.

Q: What is a Cobell Scholarship Finalist?

A: A Finalist is an applicant who has submitted a complete application and has received a Reviewer score sufficient enough to move to the Finalist stage of the Cobell Scholarship selection process. **This does not mean the applicant has received an Award.** Further eligibility requirements need verification prior to an official scholarship offer being made.

Q: How are applicants selected to receive a Cobell Scholarship Finalist offer?

A: After the deadline, Cobell Scholarship Reviewers will evaluate and score each complete application for overall academic strength including academic rigor, references responses (if required), and all other information that is available in the application. Reviewers will also assess language, grammar, and writing skills from the applicant's responses. Additional factors include selecting high achieving students who represent all tribal nations, at all levels of education, from a variety of institutions, academic pursuits, community engagement, and leadership.

Q: Who selects the Cobell Scholarship Finalists?

A: The Scholarship Reviewers include higher education professionals who are trained to read scholarship applications. These Native American reviewers are located around the nation, in high schools and colleges, and nonprofit organizations. They work with students in higher education and college preparation. All hold a degree, or higher, at the level which they are reviewing. Reviewer identification or contact information is not available.

Q: How does IEI decide how much the scholarship offer will be?

A: IEI makes offers based on the number of completed applications and the available funds provided by the Cobell Board of Trustees, each year. Scholarship amounts vary based on degree level. The Scholarship amounts for the Academic Year 2023-2024 were up to \$5,000-\$10,000 for returning Undergraduate applicants, up to \$12,500 for Graduate and Professional students, and up to \$7,500 for the calendar year for Vocational students. **After a review of the Financial Needs Analysis and Verification form (FNAV) provided by the institution, some Finalists may receive less than the original scholarship offer to stay within the annual cost-of-attendance and unmet need.**

Note: Scholarship awards are divided and disbursed according to the number of terms at each institution.

Q: How will I be notified if I am selected as a Cobell Scholarship Finalist?

A: IEI does not send official Finalist letters via postal service. We post all decisions in the OASIS portal. We will also email the Finalists using the email provided for their application.

Please sign up using an email that you will check regularly; we send all communications to your email address in the OASIS system.

Q: Why was I not selected as a Cobell Scholarship Finalist?

A: In no particular order, applicants may not be selected for one or more of the following reasons:

- Did not meet eligibility criteria as determined by the Eligibility Form
- Submitting a late or incomplete Opportunity application
- Attending a for-profit institution
- Did not receive a review score high enough to be selected
- Failure to complete and submit an application for the correct degree level
- Failure to apply for a scholarship opportunity (only completed the Applicant Profile and the Eligibility form)

IEI does not send official denial letters; the applicant must keep track of their Cobell Scholarship updates in their OASIS portal. For further details regarding denials, you may contact IEI.

Q: If I am not selected for a scholarship opportunity, can I apply again?

A: Yes, you may reapply in the future so long as you meet the eligibility requirements.

Q: Is there a process for an appeal if I do not receive a Cobell scholarship opportunity offer?

A: There is no formal process for appeal. The Director of Operations will address all concerns, provide a list of all information, and if necessary, elevate the appeal request to the Chief Executive Officer; all decisions by the Chief Executive Officer are final. The IEI Board does not review appeals.

Q: Is there a waitlist?

A: IEI will maintain a waitlist and applicants may be offered a scholarship should funding become available. Applicants will be notified if they are placed on a waitlist and can view their application status on their OASIS account. There is not a projected date for when IEI will select applicants from the Waitlist but could be notified at any time.