

# Native American Education Grant

## Guidelines for Applicants

### **Introduction**

The Native American Education Grant was created for Native American and Alaska natives pursuing full-time post-secondary education attending a college or university in the U.S.A. We invite applications from students of all tribal backgrounds; however, 55% of the funds supporting this program are donor restricted to members of the following tribes: Hopi, Pima, Papago, Tohono O’odham, Navajo, Nez Perce, and Eskimo.

Native American Education Grant applicants will explore who God created them to be in a series of essay questions intended for students to explore with mentors and peers. This program requires that students maintain an active involvement in a worshipping community or campus ministry program while they are attending college. Visit [pcusa.org/SOS/Guide](http://pcusa.org/SOS/Guide) to explore the essay topic. Students entering the program in any year other than sophomore may select either the question for rising sophomores or the question for the rising juniors and seniors. Students receiving the Native American Education Grant Scholarship in the current academic year may expect to receive the renewal application in an email.



### **Eligibility**

Presbyterian Church (USA) members who are:

- Rising Freshman planning to attend a Presbyterian related college or university.
- Normally enrolled full-time
- Eligible to receive need-based aid – all applicants must complete the FAFSA.

### **Range of Award**

Minimum: \$250  
Maximum: \$1,500

### **Deadlines**

May 15: Getting Started, Copy of Tribal ID, Essay, Resume, Church Membership/Pastor’s Endorsement

June 15: Secondary School Report, Transcript, Financial Information Form

### **Apply**

The application includes a short “Getting Started” document, a church membership and pastor’s endorsement form, and the secondary school report form. These forms as well as a copy of the applicant’s tribal ID, resume and essay are due on May 15. The secondary school report, which includes a teacher recommendation, high school transcript, and financial information form are due by June 15.

Current college students requesting renewal will write an essay on an assigned topic, provide an evaluation by a leader of the community they worship with, and obtain a financial information form from the college or university they attend.

### **Selection**

A reading committee will meet in the spring to select students for awards. Selected students will be eligible for up to \$1,500 in funding, dependent on need. A scholarship acceptance form will be sent to the student to sign.

If the student fails to accept the scholarship, or elects to attend a college or university that is not related to the Presbyterian Church (USA), the award will be offered to another eligible student. The reading committee selects students based on:

- Personal qualities of character and leadership reflected in contributions to church, school, and community.
- Creativity and completeness in response to the essay topic.
- Academic achievement, taking into consideration the recommendation of the guidance counselor or teacher, the transcript, and the standardized college exam scores.

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## The Essay

### **Essay Overview**

NAEG awardees are required to write an essay each year. The purpose of the essay is to explore vocation by thinking about who God created you to be. Over the next four years we will work together to understand what you are good at and what makes you feel inspired and happy. We'll ask you to think about community, how the Gospel is seen and felt in the world, and where it ought to be seen and felt. Before you graduate, we'll challenge you to think about the ways you are called.

### **The Essay Topic**

#### **Freshman essay:** *What is Christian Vocation?*

Reflect and discuss with parents, pastor, and peers: Who is someone you admire because they are faithful to their call? What distinguishes this person?

#### **Sophomore Essay:** *What does it mean to be gifted by God?*

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–7. Define “common good” in your own words. What is a gift that you have been given for the common good? How do you use your gift serving the common good?

**Junior Essay:** *God gives us gifts and talents to enjoy as well as share. Which gifts and talents do you enjoy about yourself? What are you good at? What makes you feel inspired and happy? Discuss with friends; how do your gifts and interests address what you perceive to be the challenges facing your generation?*

**Senior Essay:** *Synthesize what you've learned through the essays you've written for your scholarship program and answer this series of questions: What's next for you? For the church? For the world?*

Students may respond by writing an essay or by submitting a video responding to the question. Guidelines for the video are found at: [www.pcusa.org/2015/WhatNext](http://www.pcusa.org/2015/WhatNext)

### **Deadlines & Extensions**

The goal of Financial Aid for Service is to present as many students as possible to the NAEG reading committee. We consider deadline extensions on a case-by-case basis with the goal of presenting a complete application to the selection committee.

### **Email & Faxes**

Deadlines are by postmark; it is not necessary to use express or overnight mail to meet deadlines. You may email scanned documents or files to: [finaid@pcusa.org](mailto:finaid@pcusa.org)

### **Confidentiality of Evaluations**

Information collected to support your application is maintained by the Office of Financial Aid for Service. The church membership/endorsement form, the secondary school evaluation, work product of Presbyterian colleges and universities, and the reading committee are confidential and will not be released to the student and/or parent/guardian. Applications are viewed only by staff members with responsibility for the NAEG program, NAEG reading committee members, and financial aid staff at the student's selected college or university.



### **Essay Guidelines**

Your essay should be 500—1,000 long. Readers will be instructed to consider how creatively and comprehensively you address the question. Approximately half of the NPCS readers are high school teachers and will expect your work to be appropriate to grade level and thoroughly proofread.

Essays should be double spaced and on plain white paper. They may be faxed or submitted by email, but they will not be altered in any way. The essay should be written in the language of instruction; students attending Universidad Inter-Americana may submit their essay in Spanish.

*The National Presbyterian College Scholarship may not be used for study abroad. Students must be enrolled full-time at a Presbyterian Related college or university, complete and academic year, maintain a cumulative 2.5 GPA, and demonstrate financial need in order to be considered for renewal.*