



Seneca Nation of Indians
Education Department
Where Learning Is Tradition

12861 Route 438 • Irving NY 14081 • Phone (716) 532-3341

**Seneca Nation Professional Scholarship 2009-2010
Program Policy & Application Instructions**

Purpose

The Seneca Nation of Indians will need ongoing professional expertise in many fields to accommodate the growth and progression of the tribe. In recognition of this, “The Seneca Nation Professional Scholarship” has been established to encourage two Seneca students per year, one per territory beginning in FY 2003, to pursue and complete advanced degrees (Masters Degrees, Doctoral Degrees or other Professional License Related Degrees, such as M.D; J.D; etc.) Upon graduation from their advanced degree program, scholarship recipients must work one year in their respective discipline within the Seneca Nation of Indians, for each year of scholarship support, which he/she receives.

FY 2009-2010 Award Amount

The scholarship award amount is contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated each fiscal year (FY) by the Seneca Nation of Indians and is therefore, subject to change each year. In FY 2009, SNI Council has appropriated two scholarships, each in the amount of \$20,000.00.

2008-2009 Application Deadline Date

The deadline for 2009-2010 is 4:30 PM on July 10, 2009 applications must be complete. No faxes will be accepted. No extension will be granted.

Recruitment

Announcements regarding the Seneca Nation Professional Scholarship Program will be publicized through the official Seneca Nation Newsletter. Additionally,

notices will be sent to the colleges in the State University of New York (SUNY) system.

Complete Application

Applications are not considered complete without the following items:

- Completed application form
- Student Essay
- Two faculty or employer recommendations
- SNI tribal enrollment certificate
- Documentation of Bachelor’s degree conferral-Official Transcripts
- Letter of acceptance into a graduate school course curriculum
- Acknowledgement letter from AIGC & Application
- Copy of SARS report-FAFSA
- Financial Aid award letter-school

Submit Applications

Complete applications can be submitted to the nearest location of the Seneca Nation Education Department. We welcome any question applicants may have regarding the scholarship.

**Seneca Nation Education Department
Allegany Territory**

P.O. Box 231
Salamanca, NY 14779
Mr. Todd Waite, Director
Telephone: (716) 945-1790

**Seneca Nation Education Department
Cattaraugus Territory**

12861 Route 438
Irving, NY 14081
Mrs. Carrie Peterson, Director
Telephone: (716) 532-3341

Specific Applicant Requirements

Each applicant must:

1. Be an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation of Indians, SNI Tribal Councilors and Executives are not eligible to apply for the scholarship during the years in which they are serving terms of office
2. Have a permanent residence on the Allegany or Cattaraugus Territories or within New York State. Preference will be given in relation to the student's permanent residence as follows:
 - Level 1: Students with the permanent residence on the Allegany or Cattaraugus Territories.
 - Level 2: Students with permanent residence within New York State.
3. Be conferred with a Bachelor's degree. If the student's transcript (s) lists all the courses he/she took, but does not state that they actually received a diploma, the student must have an official letter from his/her college/university stating that their degree was conferred, or the student must bring the actual diploma with his/her transcripts.
4. Be pursuing a Masters, Doctoral or other professional license related degree as a full-time student at an accredited college or university.
5. Intend to accept employment with the Seneca Nation of Indians in their respective discipline for each year of scholarship support, which he/she receives
6. Apply for funding through the Seneca Nation Higher Education Program.
7. Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
8. Apply for a fellowship through the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC).
 - The American Indian Graduate Center
 - 4520 Montgomery Blvd, N.E., Suite 1-B
 - Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109-1291
 - www.aigc.org
9. Be in compliance with each financial funding source's regulation and submit a copy of an award or denial letter, or a copy of their FAFSA and AIGC application.
10. Send updated transcripts or copies of a grade reports and proof of registration to the SNI Education Department at the end of each term.
11. Submit written notification of a change in the number of credit hours within ten (10) working days of the change. Students must maintain full-time status to receive the scholarship. Failure to report changes will result in termination of future funding.

12. Submit a copy of their diploma after completing their degree program to the SNI Education Department.

Maximum Funding Period

The following are the number of terms the Seneca Nation Professional Scholarship Program will fund a graduate student:

Master's Degree: Two Academic Years
(Four semester or Six quarters)

Doctoral Degree: Four Academic Years
(Eight semesters or twelve quarters)

Two Master or two Doctoral Degrees: are not funded by the Seneca Nation Professional Scholarship Program because of limited funds available for students pursuing their first masters or first doctorate.

Selection Criteria

Applications from eligible students will be scored according to the extent to which they meet the criteria listed below.

SNI Professional Needs

Applicants are considered for scholarship awards based on how their desired career goals relate to current Seneca Nation professional needs.

Academic Performance

Applicants are partially rated according to their academic performance as evidenced by transcript and faculty evaluations. You must have a Cumulative GPA of 3.0. If your GPA is below this minimum standard, your application will not be reviewed.

Faculty/Employer Recommendations

Applicants are partially rated according to evaluations by faculty members and employers regarding the applicant's potential in the chosen profession.

Student Essay

Each applicant must provide a brief, well written explanation of his/her reason for asking for a scholarship and his/her career goals and how the SNI will benefit from their gained expertise.

Ranking Procedure

All eligible applicants with complete applications are reviewed and rated using the above selection criteria. The scores are determined for each application and a rank order listing is developed beginning with the highest to the lowest.

Selection Committee

The selection Committee shall consist of the SNI President and the SNI Education Directors- Allegany & Cattaraugus.

Scholarship Allocations

Two scholarships, one per territory, will be awarded through the SNI Professional scholarship Program. Un-met tuition expense will be paid directly to the higher education institution ,with the remaining funds, if any to be paid on a monthly basis for an annual maximum (all total) of \$20,000.00.

Scholarship Conditions

The Seneca Nation Professional Scholarship is renewable for the maximum funding period as long as the recipient meets the following requirements:

- Maintain full-time college status.
- Maintain satisfactory progress of a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

- Meet with a representative of the SNI Education Department twice a semester.
- Attend at least one workshop per year provided by the SNI Education Department.

- Complete three hours of community service per funding cycle.
- Assist in annual higher Education Program

Failure to Complete Academic Training

Students who are dismissed from school for academic or disciplinary reasons, or who voluntarily terminate academic training before graduation from the educational program for which the scholarship was awarded, will be liable to the Seneca Nation of Indians for repayment of all scholarship funds paid to them and to the school on their behalf. Payment must be made within one year from the date academic training is terminated.

Withdrawal

Withdrawal from College: The student must provide written notification to the SNI Professional Scholarship Program within 10 days working days of withdrawal. The SNI Professional Scholarship Program funds awarded must be returned to the program. The student is responsible for repayment of all monies. If the student fails to repay the funds they will automatically forfeit future eligibility for SNI Professional Scholarship funding.

Drop or Withdrawal from Classes: The student must provide written notification to the SNI Professional Scholarship Program within 10 working days of dropping or withdrawing from a class if the change results in a change from full-time to part-time. If payments have already been made, the student must repay or make arrangements to repay the SNI Professional Scholarship Program. Failure to do so will automatically forfeit future eligibility for SNI Professional Scholarship funding.

Buy-Out Clause

Seneca Nation Professional Scholarship recipients who have a documented medical or family hardship, which interrupts their required Seneca Nation employment, will be eligible for a buy-out for the remainder of their contract. As stated above, for general calculating purpose, 12 months of employment shall fulfill \$10,000.00 of the scholarship awarded.

Academic Probation

A Grade Point Average (GPA) below 3.0 will result in a student being placed on Academic Probation for the next term and are still eligible for funding. The students must then achieve a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the next term, or their funding will be denied for the subsequent term.

If a student is denied funding for academic reasons the student may have funding restored when he/she submits proof reflecting a GPA of 3.0 or higher. A student will be allowed one (1) academic probation in a two-year period

Taxability of Benefits

Federal income taxes will be withheld from the recipient's stipend checks.