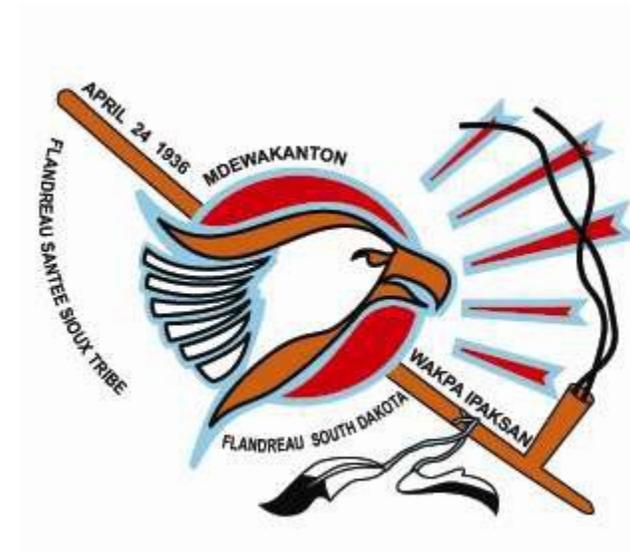


**Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Education Office**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK
ON
EDUCATIONAL FUNDING**



Revised: March 29, 2018

**FSST Education Department
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT HANDBOOK**

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FSST Education Department
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT HANDBOOK

PURPOSE

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) encourages tribal members to continue their training and education beyond high school for the purpose of enhancing their worth as members of the Tribe and society at large.

POLICY

Congress appropriates the funds for the BIA Higher Education/AVT programs which aid qualified Native American students in need of financial assistance (after other funding resources are considered) to pursue a higher education. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) has set aside additional funding from the Tribe's gaming revenues to provide financial assistance toward meeting the financial need of eligible FSST tribal members desiring to continue their training and education beyond high school. Tribal funding is supplemental to other forms of federal and campus-based financial aid.

This booklet (referred to now as the FSST Higher Education Student Handbook) has been designed to inform students of the requirements for the Adult Vocational Training (AVT) Grant, the BIA Higher Education Grant, the Tribal Higher Education/AVT Scholarships, the Wowapi Scholarship and any restrictions regarding these funding sources. All continuing students must reapply in the fall of each year. Scholarships/Grants are based on the availability of funds in each program. A submitted application does NOT guarantee funding for any student.

HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Higher Education Committee (HEC) is comprised of five tribal members appointed by the FSST Executive Committee. All committee members have attended colleges or vocational schools, are aware of student needs, and what students need to be responsible for in order to become productive students and community members.

The FSST Education Coordinator processes applications for scholarships. All required forms and information must be received by the Education Office before the applications are brought before the HEC. The HEC will meet once a month and as needed, to review applications or address other education related issues.

UNMET FINANCIAL NEED

Financial assistance from the AVT, BIA Higher Education, or Tribal Higher Education program is based on a student's *unmet* financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer. All applicants must apply for federal funding using the Free Application for Student Aid Application (FAFSA) each year. Students apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The institution's financial aid office or the FSST Education Office can help students complete the FAFSA. Failure to meet this requirement will deem the student ineligible for any kind of funding through FSST, *with exception of the Wowapi scholarship*.

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Your school's financial aid officer, using the Student Aid Report (SAR) based on the completed FAFSA, establishes your unmet financial need. Your unmet financial need is the difference between Expenses and Personal plus Other Resources shown on the Needs Analysis form.

Upon review of your Needs Analysis Form by the HEC, the amount of Federal Student Loans for which you are eligible may be excluded from your resources to determine your unmet financial need. In addition, if you are unmarried, without dependents, and under 24 years of age and submit a copy of your Individual Income Tax Return showing you are an emancipated individual, your parents income may be excluded from your resources to determine your unmet need.

Decisions are made based on student's unmet need. Students will file a Needs Analysis form to demonstrate their unmet need. Decisions will be prioritized based on need. The total higher education award will not exceed the student's unmet financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer.

AVAILABLE GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

BIA AVT Grants. The purpose of this grant is to assist native students in acquiring job skills necessary for full time satisfactory employment. Up to 24 months of vocational training may be funded for institutional, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training courses. Grants are for tuition and fees and are paid directly to the institution.

BIA Higher Education Grants. The purpose of this grant is to assist FSST members entering or attending college who are seeking an associate degree (that leads to a bachelor's degree) or a bachelor's degree. Grants are for tuition and fees and are paid directly to the institution.

FSST students may receive one of the two scholarships listed below. FSST Scholarships include the:

- Tribal Higher Education Scholarships. These scholarships are for FSST members funded through the BIA AVT/Higher Education grant or for Graduate Students. The purpose of these scholarships is to assist students with school expenses, such as; tuition, books, fees, housing, tools, supplies, equipment, uniforms, and transportation costs. Scholarships are sent directly to the student. These scholarships are also subject to collection by FSST in the event that any student fails to attend school, changes from enrolled to non enrolled status, or is dropped administratively.
- FSST Wowapi Scholarship. The purpose of this scholarship is to assist FSST members that are full-time employees seeking to improve their job related skills, take a college class for enrichment, test their interest in a college program of study, or introduce themselves to academic rigors. Students are limited to 1 class up to 3 credits per semester. Students are limited to a total of 12 funded credits under this classification. Scholarships are sent directly to the institution.

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CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES – What to Do When

New Student (planning to start fall term)

- November & December – Contact schools for an admission application and financial aid form, to determine which forms are required.
- January – Apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Remind your parents that your financial aid application will be due so they can begin gathering financial records. It can take up to 6 weeks for your FAFSA and Student Aid Report (SAR) to be processed and returned. Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Students under 24 years of age must report your parents income unless you are married or/and have a child/ren (or you are an emancipated individual).
- January – Obtain a copy of the FSST Higher Education Student Handbook (includes application) from the FSST Education Office.
- February-March – File your FAFSA online. Submit your FAFSA as early as possible. To receive federal student aid, some colleges require the FAFSA be completed as early as March 1. Check the deadline for the school you plan to attend.
- July-August – Submit a completed scholarship application to the FSST Education Office one month before the beginning of the fall term.

Continuing Student (a student currently receiving FSST funding)

- Submit a copy of your grades for the term/semester just completed verifying a **term and cumulative** GPA of 2.0 or better.
- Submit copy of class schedule.
- If the next semester is the beginning of a fall semester, submit a new FAFSA to re-verify your financial need and a completed application packet.
- **Transfer and Returning students:** For students that have transferred or returning, please submit a new application packet that includes all previous transcripts.

*Students on *continuous terms* will be required to submit their grade reports after the completion of the classes that have been funded. Standard GPA requirements will still apply.

FUNDING DEADLINES

For an initial application, the completed application and documents must be submitted to the FSST Education Office **one month before** funds are needed. For a continuing student, evidence of “successfully completing” the preceding term through grade reports or transcripts that show cumulative GPA, course schedule and, if applicable, Needs Analysis information must be received by the FSST Education Office as soon as possible to ensure timely review of their funding request by the Higher Education Committee.

The Higher Education Committee will meet:

Spring Quarter	During the first week of February
Summer Semester/Quarter	During the first week of June
Fall Semester/Quarter	During the first week of August
Spring Semester/Winter Quarter	During the last week of December

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It is the responsibility of the student to submit their application and other required paperwork by these dates to ensure prompt processing and payment to the institution. The FSST Education Office cannot guarantee that payment will be on time for the start of classes. Students who fail to complete their applications on time will not automatically be denied funding. However, the Higher Education Committee will decide when applications for the current term will no longer be accepted or considered.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the FSST Education Office of the start and end dates of their term.

Continuous terms will be funded based on credits equivalent to one semester. Any classes that overlap into the new semester will not be funded again.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

Students with completed applications submitted before funding deadlines receive priority in the following order:

1. Continuing undergraduate students
2. Continuing graduate students
3. New undergraduate students
4. New graduate students
5. Returning undergraduate students
6. Returning graduate students

Within these categories, class rank, financial need, and residency are considered.

- Upper classman are funded before lower classman.
- Students with unmet financial need are funded before students with no financial need.
- Students that are on reservation are funded before students that are off reservation.

Not all funding priorities are applicable to all programs.

FUNDING TIME LIMITS

Associate Degree	Maximum quarter credits of 134 or receipt of degree
Associate Degree	Maximum semester credits of 89 or receipt of degree
Bachelor Degree	Maximum quarter credits of 225 (includes funded Associate credits)
Bachelor Degree	Maximum semester credits of 154 (includes funded Associate credits)
Master Degree	Maximum quarter credits of 60 or receipt of degree
Master Degree	Maximum semester credits of 40 or receipt of degree
Doctorate Degree	Maximum quarter credits of 150 (includes funded Master credits) or receipt of degree
Doctorate Degree	Maximum semester credits of 100 (includes funded Master credits) or receipt of degree

Measurement is based on cumulative credits attempted and funded by the FSST Education Office.

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FUNDING AWARD

W9 Requirement

Please be aware that if a student's school or institution is new to the FSST Finance Department's accounting system, the school will need to submit a W-9 form to the Finance Department in order to receive payment.

In addition, some students may need to submit a W-9 form to the FSST Finance Department.

DROPPING CLASSES

Students funded as full time students are expected to maintain their full time status for the entire term. Full time students that drop classes and become part time students will be placed on funding probation for the next term. If the student repeats this behavior in the succeeding semester, they will be placed on funding suspension.

WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

If a student (full or part time) who has been awarded a grant/scholarship withdraws from school early and/or drops out officially or unofficially from school, then he/she will be placed on funding suspension. The student who is on funding suspension shall not be considered for future funding until the recipient completes an academic term by their own means and meets the minimum requirements. The number of credits must meet the number of credits funded during the semester/term preceding suspension.

NON ATTENDANCE/NO SHOWS

If a student who has been awarded a tribal grant/scholarship

1. fails to start/attend school (is considered a NO SHOW), or
2. changes from enrolled to non enrolled status during the drop/add period (usually the first 4-6 days of the term but varies by school), or
3. is dropped administratively,

the student is expected to return the FSST scholarship funds, that were sent directly to the student, back to the FSST Treasurer. Collection will be turned over to the Tribe's treasurer.

FUNDING PROBATION/SUSPENSION

The following applies to both the BIA Higher Education, Tribal Higher Education, and BIA Adult Vocational Training programs.

- **Funding Probation**

A grant/scholarship recipient who does not meet the minimum GPA requirements shall be placed on funding probation for the following academic term/semester. Undergraduate students must receive at least a **2.0 term GPA** on a 4.0 scale. Graduate students must receive at least a **3.0 term GPA** on a 4.0 scale. Any full time grant/scholarship recipient who drops classes to a part-time status will be placed on funding probation. The student must be notified in writing of their placement on funding probation and what they must do to be removed. They will remain eligible for scholarship funding during this time.

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- **Funding Suspension**

A grant/scholarship recipient who has been placed on funding probation has one academic term/semester to improve grades or credits to the minimum GPA requirement. If he/she does not meet the minimum GPA requirements during that time, he/she shall be placed on funding suspension. However, students on probation or suspension will be considered for funding if *term* GPA is above a 2.0. However, students will remain on probation until their *cumulative* GPA is above a 2.0. Graduate students on probation or suspension will be considered for funding if their *term* GPA is above a 3.0 but will remain on probation until their *cumulative* GPA is above a 3.0. Any grant/scholarship recipient who withdraws before the term/semester is over for any reason shall be placed on funding suspension.

The student who is on funding suspension shall not be considered for future funding until the recipient completes an academic term by their own means and meets the minimum GPA requirement. The number of credits must meet the number of credits funded during the semester/term preceding suspension (i.e. if a student was funded for 6 credits, then he/she must complete 6 credits on his/her own; those funded for 12 credits, must complete 12 credits on their own, etc.).

Students who have been placed on funding suspension are not guaranteed a funding slot upon meeting the requirements; continued funding is based on monies available.

If a returning student applies for higher education funding 7 or more years after being placed on probation/suspension, the Higher Education Committee may forgive their probation/suspension status.

APPEAL PROCESS

An applicant, who feels that they have been wrongly denied, as per the guidelines, may appeal the decision within 20 working days of the denial letter. The appeal shall be in writing setting forth the reason(s) why the applicant believes the decision should be changed. Students may attach additional documentation supporting their appeal. Documents must be submitted prior to their appeal date in order to be included for the HEC to review. The Education Coordinator will schedule a date for the HEC to meet and make a second decision on the original student request. That decision shall be final. If the student is still denied funding, the student will receive a letter containing the reason for denial.

Committee members are prohibited from talking about student cases outside of HEC meetings. All members are held to strict confidentiality according to the confidentiality statement they signed.

Written appeals shall be sent to the following address:

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Attention: Higher Education Committee
PO Box 283
Flandreau, SD 57028

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BIA ADULT VOCATIONAL TRAINING (AVT) PROGRAM

The program will assist a student in acquiring job skills necessary for full time satisfactory employment. Institutional, apprenticeship, or on-the-job training courses shall not exceed twenty-four (24) months in length of full time training. Individual program recipients may not receive more than twenty-four (24) months of full-time training. The total BIA/AVT award will not exceed the student's unmet financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer.

Vocational education is an organized education program which is directly related to the preparation of individuals for paid employment or a career that does not require a bachelor's or advanced degree. The BIA/AVT program is not meant to serve as a preliminary to immediate further education. Most courses of study at community and technical colleges may be funded through the BIA/AVT program. Most courses of study at 4-year colleges and universities may not be funded through the BIA/AVT program.

Eligibility

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR, 27.5) an Adult Vocational Training applicant must meet the following criteria. An applicant must be:

1. An enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe; or be a resident within Moody County, who is a member of a federally recognized tribe.
2. Between the ages of 18 and 35.
3. In need of training to obtain reasonable and satisfactory employment.
4. Prove a need for financial assistance.
5. Willing to accept full-time employment as soon as possible after completion of training.
6. If applying for repeat AVT services, applicant must be "unemployed, under employed, or unable to work in primary occupation due to physical or other disabilities."
7. Desiring to pursue full-time training at an institution accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting association.
8. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Higher Education Student Handbook.

Application Process

Time Frames: See [CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES \(Page 4\)](#), [FUNDING DEADLINES \(Page 4\)](#) AND [FUNDING TIME LIMITS \(Page 5\)](#)

Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.

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2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.
3. All applicants must submit a copy of their Letter of Acceptance or a Letter of Readmission to an accredited institution.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report.
5. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
6. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the institution of their choice.
7. All applicants must have their needs evaluated by the Financial Aid Officer from the college or technical school of their choice reflecting the consideration of all available funding resources. A FSST Scholarship Needs Analysis form must be received from the Financial Aid Officer verifying the student has an unmet financial need.
8. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications, based on funding availability.
9. All continuing full-time students, as defined by the institution, (e.g. 12 credits per semester) must successfully complete the attempted number of credits with a 2.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
10. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.
11. Must verify a residence within Moody County to meet *priority funding*. Students must verify Moody County residency in the following way:
 - Submit 2 documents that show they are living and/or maintaining a residence within Moody County. Refer to Appendix A for a list of acceptable documents.

Funding Amounts

- **BIA/AVT Grants.** Full time status, which is determined by the institution's definition of full time, as well as financial need, is used to decide the amount awarded. Students will receive payments per semester/term at the same rate as students funded as 1st half full time freshman receiving BIA Higher Education Grants. Grants may not exceed the total cost of tuition and fees, or be funded for more than 3 semesters/terms per year.
- **Tribal AVT Scholarships.** Students must be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe to receive this scholarship. Tribal Higher Education and AVT Scholarships are to be used to assist with school expenses, such as: tuition, books, fees, housing, tools, supplies, equipment, uniforms, and transportation costs. Full time status, which is determined by the institution's definition of full time, as well as financial need, is used to decide the amount awarded. Funding priorities will apply. Students will receive payments per semester/term at the same rate as students funded as 1st half full time freshman receiving Tribal Higher Education Scholarship. Scholarships will not be funded for more than 3 semesters/terms per year. Students that reside in Moody County will be considered before students that reside outside of

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Moody County. Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are issued directly to the student.

BIA AVT Grants

*Status	1st Half	Funding Probation <i>If previous semester GPA is less than 2.0</i>	2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was between 2.0 and 3.0</i>	** 2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA Was 3.0 or higher</i>
Full Time Student	Up to \$1,000.00	Up to \$800.00	Up to \$1,000.00	Up to \$1,100.00

Tribal AVT Scholarships

*Status	1st Half	Funding Probation <i>If previous semester GPA is less than 2.0</i>	2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was between 2.0 and 3.0</i>	** 2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was 3.0 or higher</i>
Full Time Student	Up to \$1,050.00	Up to \$840.00	Up to \$1,050.00	Up to \$1,150.00

*Status is determined by the institution’s definition of full time.

**A student must complete one-half of the required credits per *college year*, as determined by the standards implemented by the institution, regardless of a student’s full-time/part-time status, in order to be eligible for a higher level of funding.

Example: If the institution requires 32 credits to achieve 2nd year status, then a 1st year student must complete 16 credits to be eligible for a higher level of 2nd semester funding. If the student earns less than 16 credits, he/she will remain eligible for the base level of funding for that year until 16 credits are completed.

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BIA HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

BIA Higher Education Grants are provided to supplement financial assistance to eligible students entering or attending college who are seeking an associate degree (that leads to a bachelor's degree) or a bachelor's degree. The BIA Higher Education Grant Program is not an entitlement program. The total higher education award will not exceed the student's unmet financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer.

Eligibility

A student must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe BIA Higher Education Grant Assistance:

1. Be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.
2. Actively pursuing an associate degree (that leads to a bachelor's degree) or a bachelor's degree at an institution accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting association accepted by the Federal Government.
3. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Higher Education Student Handbook.

Application Process

Time Frames: See **CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES (Page 4), FUNDING DEADLINES (Page 4) AND FUNDING TIME LIMITS (Page 5)**

Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.
2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.
3. All applicants must submit a copy of their Letter of Acceptance or a Letter of Readmission to an accredited institution.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report.
5. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
6. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the institution of their choice.
7. All applicants must have their needs evaluated by the Financial Aid Officer from the college or technical school of their choice reflecting all of the available funding resources. A FSST Scholarship Needs Analysis form must be submitted by the Financial Aid Officer verifying the student has an unmet need.
8. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications.
9. All continuing full-time students, as defined by the institution, (i.e. 12 credits per semester) must successfully complete the attempted number of credits with a 2.0 or

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better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.

10. All continuing part-time students must successfully complete the number of course/credits attempted with a 2.0 GPA per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
11. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.

Funding Time Limits (see page 5)

Funding Amounts

• **BIA Higher Education Grants (Undergraduate)**

*Status	1st Half	Funding Probation <i>If previous semester GPA is less than 2.0</i>	2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was between 2.0 and 3.0</i>	** 2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA Was 3.0 or higher</i>
Full Time Freshman	Up to \$1,000.00	Up to \$800.00	Up to \$1,000.00	Up to \$1,100.00
Part Time Freshman	Up to \$500.00	Up to \$400.00	Up to \$500.00	Up to \$550.00
Full Time Sophomore	Up to \$1,100.00	Up to \$880.00	Up to \$1,100.00	Up to \$1,200.00
Part Time Sophomore	Up to \$550.00	Up to \$440.00	Up to \$550.00	Up to \$600.00
Full Time Junior	Up to \$1,200.00	Up to \$960.00	Up to \$1,200.00	Up to \$1,300.00
Part Time Junior	Up to \$600.00	Up to \$480.00	Up to \$600.00	Up to \$650.00
Full Time Senior	Up to \$1,300.00	Up to \$1,040.00	Up to \$1,300.00	Up to \$1,400.00
Part Time Senior	Up to \$650.00	Up to \$520.00	Up to \$650.00	Up to \$700.00

*Status is determined by the institution's definition of full or part time.

**A student must complete one-half of the required credits per *college year*, as determined by the standards implemented by the institution, regardless of a student's full-time/part-time status, in order to be eligible for a higher level of funding.

Example: If the institution requires 32 credits to achieve sophomore status, then a freshman student must complete 16 credits to be eligible for a higher level of 2nd semester funding. If the student earns less than 16 credits, he/she will remain eligible for the base level of funding for that year until 16 credits are completed.

• **Tribal Higher Education Scholarships (Undergraduate, see pages 13 - 15)**

Students must be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe to receive this scholarship. Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are to be used to assist with school expenses, such as: tuition, books, fees, housing, tools, supplies, equipment, uniforms, and transportation costs. Full time status, which is determined by the institution's definition of full time, as well as financial need, is used to decide the amount awarded. Funding priorities will apply. Students that reside in Moody County will be considered before students that reside outside of Moody County. Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are issued directly to the student.

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TRIBAL HIGHER EDUCATION/AVT PROGRAM

The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) encourages its membership to continue their education beyond high school. Scholarships were specifically established to encourage, assist and support FSST members in their pursuit of Adult Vocational Training and Higher Education opportunities. The Tribal Higher Education Scholarships are provided to supplement financial assistance to eligible students entering or attending college who are seeking an associate degree (leading to a bachelor's degree), a bachelor's degree, or a graduate degree.

The Tribal AVT Scholarships are provided to supplement financial assistance to eligible students entering or attending school who are seeking vocational education, which is directly related to the preparation of individuals for paid employment or a career that does not require a bachelor's or advanced degree. The Tribal AVT program is not meant to serve as a preliminary to immediate further education.

Tribal Higher Education/AVT Scholarships are sent directly to the student unless otherwise noted. Students may receive either the Tribal Higher Education/AVT Scholarship or the Wowapi Scholarship. The Tribal Higher Education/AVT Program Scholarships are not an entitlement program.

The following are the Tribal Higher Education/AVT Scholarships:

Undergraduate

• **Eligibility**

A student must meet and submit all of the following to receive the highest funding priority for the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Higher Education/AVT Scholarship. Students with an unmet financial need are given funding priority over students with no financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer. Students that reside within Moody County are given priority in funding over other students.

1. Be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.
2. If claiming on reservation status, students must maintain a residence within Moody County. Students must verify Moody County residency the following way:
 - Submit 2 documents that show they are living and/or maintaining a residence within Moody County. Refer to Appendix A for a list of acceptable documents.
3. Actively pursuing an associate degree (leading to a bachelor's degree) or a bachelor's degree at an institution accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting association accepted by the Federal Government. Or students actively attending school who are seeking a vocational degree or certificate for paid employment or a career that does not require a bachelor's or advanced degree.
4. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Higher Education Student Handbook.

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Application Process

Time Frames: See **CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES (Page 4), FUNDING DEADLINES (Page 4) AND FUNDING TIME LIMITS (Page 5)**

Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.
2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.
3. All applicants must submit a copy of their Letter of Acceptance or a Letter of Readmission to an accredited institution.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report.
5. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
6. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the institution of their choice.
7. All applicants must have their needs evaluated by the Financial Aid Officer from the college or technical school of their choice reflecting the consideration of all available funding resources. A FSST Scholarship Needs Analysis form must be received from the Financial Aid Officer verifying the student has an unmet financial need.
8. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications.
9. All continuing full-time students, as defined by the institution, (i.e. 12 credits per semester) must successfully complete the attempted number of credits with a 2.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
10. All continuing part-time students must successfully complete the number of course/credits attempted with a 2.0 GPA per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0.
11. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.

The recipient of a FSST Tribal scholarship shall notify the FSST Education Office of his/her graduation date and the certification or degree to be conferred.

Funding Time Limits (see page 5)

Funding Amounts

- **Tribal AVT Scholarships (see page 10)**

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• **Tribal Higher Education Scholarships (Undergraduate)**

*Status	1st Half	Funding Probation <i>If previous semester GPA is less than 2.0</i>	2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was between 2.0 and 3.0</i>	** 2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was 3.0 or higher</i>
Full Time Freshman	Up to \$1,050.00	Up to \$840.00	Up to \$1,050.00	Up to \$1,150.00
Part Time Freshman	Up to \$525.00	Up to \$420.00	Up to \$525.00	Up to \$575.00
Full Time Sophomore	Up to \$1,150.00	Up to \$920.00	Up to \$1,150.00	Up to \$1,250.00
Part Time Sophomore	Up to \$575.00	Up to \$460.00	Up to \$575.00	Up to \$625.00
Full Time Junior	Up to \$1,250.00	Up to \$1,000.00	Up to \$1,250.00	Up to \$1,350.00
Part Time Junior	Up to \$625.00	Up to \$500.00	Up to \$625.00	Up to \$675.00
Full Time Senior	Up to \$1,350.00	Up to \$1,080.00	Up to \$1,350.00	Up to \$1,450.00
Part Time Senior	Up to \$675.00	Up to \$540.00	Up to \$675.00	Up to \$725.00

*Status is determined by the institution's definition of full or part time.

**A student must complete one-half of the required credits per *college year*, as determined by the standards implemented by the institution, regardless of a student's full-time/part-time status, in order to be eligible for a higher level of funding.

Example: If the institution requires 32 credits to achieve sophomore status, then a freshman student must complete 16 credits to be eligible for a higher level of 2nd semester funding. If the student earns less than 16 credits, he/she will remain eligible for the base level of funding for that year until 16 credits are completed.

Graduate

• **Eligibility**

A student must meet all of the following criteria to qualify for Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe Higher Education Scholarship. Students with an unmet financial need are given funding priority over students with no financial need as determined by the institution's financial aid officer. Students that reside within Moody County are given priority in funding over other students.

1. Be an enrolled member of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe.
2. If claiming on reservation status, students must maintain a residence within Moody County. Students must verify Moody County residency in the following way:
 - Submit 2 documents that show they are living and/or maintaining a residence within Moody County. Refer to Appendix A for a list of acceptable documents.
3. Actively pursuing a graduate degree at an institution accredited by a recognized national or regional accrediting association accepted by the Federal Government.
4. Submit a completed application packet in accordance with the FSST Higher Education Student Handbook.

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Application Process

Time Frames: See **CALENDAR AND TIME FRAMES (Page 4), FUNDING DEADLINES (Page 4) AND FUNDING TIME LIMITS (Page 5)**

Grant Application Process:

1. All applicants must submit documentation showing they meet the above eligibility requirements.
2. All applicants must submit a completed BIA Higher Education/AVT Grant Application.
3. All applicants must submit a copy of their Letter of Acceptance or a Letter of Readmission to an accredited institution.
4. All applicants must submit a copy of their transcript of credits and their last term/semester grade report.
5. All applicants must submit a copy of their current term/semester schedule.
6. All applicants must submit a copy of their program of study.
7. All applicants must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) through the institution of their choice.
8. All applicants must have their needs evaluated by the Financial Aid Officer from the college or technical school of their choice reflecting the consideration of all available funding resources. A FSST Scholarship Needs Analysis form must be received from the Financial Aid Officer verifying the student has an unmet financial need.
9. Summer school applications will be processed under the same procedures and criteria used for academic year applications.
10. All continuing full-time students, as defined by the institution, (example 9 credits per semester) must successfully complete the attempted number of credits with a 3.0 or better grade point average (GPA) per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
11. All continuing part-time students must successfully complete the number of course/credits attempted with a 3.0 GPA per funded term/semester and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
12. All scholarships are based on the availability of funds. Submitting an application does not guarantee funding for any student.

The recipient of a FSST Tribal scholarship shall notify the FSST Education Office of his/her graduation date and the certification or degree to be conferred.

Funding Time Limits (see page 5)

As with all other higher education programs, time limits to receive awards are determined by the HEC. Time limits are based on the average program completion time within the chosen institution. If a student has not completed their program within this time period, they will not be eligible for further funding. The student may submit a written appeal.

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For graduate students seeking a doctoral degree (such as Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) Doctorate of Psychology (PsyD), etc.) whereas a thesis or dissertation is required for the completion of their program, the following limits apply:

- Doctoral students will be funded for their coursework the same as other graduate students; with funding time limits and credits applying.
- Once a student starts their dissertation process, the Higher Education Committee will fund the first two years of their research dissertation up to \$2330.00.
- When a Doctoral student enters years 3 and 4 of their dissertation, students will only receive up to 50% of funding at \$1165.00.
- Funding for research dissertation will not exceed four years.
- During the Dissertation process, students will be required to **submit a Plan of Study and schedule showing the number of dissertation credits** the student will be taking per term.

Even though students may not receive a traditional grade (such as “A” or “B”), but rather an “IP” or “In progress” grade at the end of the term, students must still submit **the grade report (or an equivalent measure of progress through the program)** to continue receiving funding.

Funding status will follow what the institution has established. For example, if the school considers 9 dissertation credits as full time, so will the Higher Education Committee.

Funding Amounts

Graduate Scholarships will be divided as follows: 52% of the award amount will be sent to the institution to cover the cost of tuition, fees and books, while the remaining 48% will be sent directly to the student to be used for tuition, fees, books, and living expenses.

*Status	1st Half	Funding Probation <i>If previous semester GPA is less than 3.0</i>	2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA was between 3.0 and 3.5</i>	** 2nd Half <i>If previous semester GPA Was 3.5 or higher</i>
Full Time Student	Up to \$2,130.00	Up to \$1,700.00	Up to \$2,130.00	Up to \$2,330.00
Part Time Student	Up to \$1,065.00	Up to \$850.00	Up to \$1,065.00	Up to \$1,165.00
First 2 years of Doctoral Research	Up to \$2,130.00	Up to \$1,700.00	Up to \$2,130.00	Up to \$2,130.00
Last 2 years of Doctoral Research	Up to \$1,165.00	Up to \$930.00	Up to \$1,165.00	Up to \$1,165.00

*Status is determined by the institution’s definition of full or part time.

** A student must complete one-half of the required credits per *Plan of Study*, as determined by the standards implemented by the institution, regardless of a student’s full-time/part-time status, to be eligible for a higher level of funding.

Example: If the Plan of Study requires 60 credits to achieve a degree, then a student must complete 30 credits before he/she is eligible to receive a higher level of 2nd half funding. If the student has not yet earned 30 credits, he/she will remain eligible for the base level of funding until 30 credits are completed.

Glossary of Terms

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GPA: Grade Point Average. A **term GPA** is the grade point average for the course grades a student has received for one semester or term at their university. A **cumulative GPA** is the most recent grade point average for all of your completed academic classes to date.

(Unofficial) Transcripts: Transcripts are grade reports that list your individual grades for each of your classes throughout your entire academic career. Some transcripts list each term's GPA but most transcripts will list the current cumulative GPA.

Course/Class Schedule: Document that completely lists a student's classes for a current or upcoming semester. This document needs to have at least a student's name, the term and year, the number of credits they are enrolled in, and all of their classes listed.

Full-Time/Part-Time status: Full-time status is determined by each university. Full-time or part-time status is determined by a minimum number of credits a student must be enrolled in that would designate them as full-time, part-time (or below half-time). Each class has a specific number of credits (typically 1-4) that add up to a total number of credits for a term.

Semester vs. Quarter: Academic terms are a group of classes that are split into portions within a year depending on the university. A semester system is an academic term that is approximately 12-18 weeks. Most schools follow have two semesters (Fall/Spring) and summer. The quarter system is an academic term that is about 10-12 weeks and is separated into 4 terms a year (Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer). Trimesters will function similarly to the quarter system excluding summer term. A continuous term does not follow split terms.

New Student: A student that has not previously applied for funding for the BIA/AVT grants or tribal scholarships.

Returning Student: A student that has taken an academic break (or has been suspended) from FSST Higher Educational funding (excluding summer) and re-applies for funding.

Continuing Student: A student that is continuing into a new term from the previous term for which they applied for funding (for example, the fall to spring semester, spring semester to summer term, and winter term to spring term (quarter system)).

Transfer Student: A transfer student is a student that changes their attendance to another academic institution, in which some students may have transferrable credits. A student may transfer after an associate's program or during the middle of their academic career.

Accreditation: The process of how colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning are evaluated by an accrediting body recognized by the US Department of Education. Schools can be regionally accredited or nationally accredited. This helps ensure that universities are providing academic programs that meet minimum standards. Schools that are not accredited might include diploma mills, scams, certain online colleges, or other types of training/classes that are not recognized or hosted by an accredited university.

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Glossary of Financial Aid Terms (refer to the Federal Student Aid Website)

FAFSA: *Free Application for Federal Student Aid.* An application used to help determine a student's financial need, therefore, if they are eligible for federal student aid such as federal grants, loans, and work-study. The results from a student's FAFSA may be used to determine other eligibilities like state or school scholarships or BIA and tribal grants.

Financial Need: The difference between the cost of attendance (COA) at a school and your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). While COA varies from school to school, your EFC does not change based on the school you attend. An **unmet financial need** is the difference between your *financial need* and your *financial aid offer* (The total amount of financial aid (federal and nonfederal) a student is offered by a college. The school's financial aid staff combines various forms of aid into a "package" to help meet a student's education costs.)

Expected Family Contribution (EFC): This is the number that's used to determine your eligibility for federal student financial aid. This number results from the financial information you provide in your FAFSA, the application for federal student aid. Your EFC is reported to you on your *Student Aid Report (SAR)*.

Cost of Attendance (COA): The total amount it will cost you to go to school—usually stated as a yearly figure. COA includes tuition and fees; room and board (or a housing and food allowance); and allowances for books, supplies, transportation, loan fees, and dependent care. It also includes miscellaneous and personal expenses, including an allowance for the rental or purchase of a personal computer; costs related to a disability; and reasonable costs for eligible study-abroad programs. For students attending less than half-time, the COA includes tuition and fees and an allowance for books, supplies, transportation, and dependent care expenses, and can also include room and board for up to three semesters or the equivalent at the institution. But no more than two of those semesters, or the equivalent, may be consecutive. Contact the financial aid administrator at the school you're planning to attend if you have any unusual expenses that might affect your COA.

Student Aid Report (SAR): A summary of the information you submitted on your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*. You receive this report (often called the SAR) via e-mail a few days after your FAFSA has been processed or by mail within 7-10 days if you did not provide an e-mail address. The SAR will contain your EFC, which is the number that's used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

Examples of Student Aid/Financial Assistance (excluding loans and work study):

- **Scholarships:** Money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.
- **Grant:** Financial aid, often based on financial need, that does not need to be repaid (unless, for example, *you withdraw from school* and owe a refund).

Emancipated: According to the Federal Student Aid Website, an individual who has legally been determined to be an adult by a court in his or her state of legal residence.