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## ◇ LIFETIME BASIC EDUCATION

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Tribal members who are in high school and beyond are eligible for additional assistance with courses at accredited/certified institutions, including “**For Profit Schools**”<sup>1</sup>. To be considered accredited, the institution must be recognized as such by the U.S. Department of Education (<https://ed.gov/accreditation>). To be considered certified, the institution must be recognized by an independent body that provides widely-accepted written assurances that the program meets specific requirements as confirmed by an external review, education, assessment, or audit. The Education Department assesses whether institution is considered certified on a case-by-case basis.

- Covers **books, tuition, and fees only** and is limited up to \$2,500 a course for a lifetime total of 15 courses per person.
- Study abroad will only be considered when it is a degree or program requirement to graduate.
- Expenses beyond the \$2,500 limit will be the student’s responsibility.
- **Fund Distribution:** Lifetime Basic Education funding is on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you expect the class to be pre-paid, the application, registration, and invoice should be in our office two weeks before the tuition is due. In such cases, funds will be paid directly to the school.
- **Expectations:** Students are expected to successfully complete all courses and to provide the Education Department with a copy of their grades or certification of successful completion at the end of the course. Students who do not earn a grade of ‘C’ or better, or students who withdraw from the class too late for the Education Department to receive a full refund, must repay the funds they were given. Credit will be given for partial refunds received from the school or the student. If students fail to repay funds owed within 30 days of notice that repayment is due, then they will be referred to the Tribe’s Legal Department for collection.
- To receive aid
  - a. Fill out Stockbridge-Munsee Lifetime Basic Education Application. All requests must be received by the Education Department before the class begins.
  - b. Provide proof of Stockbridge-Munsee tribal enrollment.
  - c. Provide the Education Department with a copy of your registration and invoice for the course in a timely manner. See more information under fund distribution.
  - d. Provide a copy of your grade report or certificate of completion at the end of the course. See expectations.

Tribal members are eligible for **reimbursement** for fees that the tribal member paid that are: associated with the successful completion of a college entrance and/or state licensing exam or associated with testing out of a college course at accredited/certified institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> See, Eligibility Requirements subsection above for definition of “**For Profit Schools**”.

- Assistance is limited to \$1,000 for a lifetime total assistance with fees of 3 times per person.
- Study abroad will only be considered when it is a degree or program requirement to graduate.
- Expenses beyond the \$1,000 limit will be the individual's responsibility.
- To receive aid
  - a. Fill out Stockbridge-Munsee Lifetime Basic Education Application. All requests must be received by the Education Department within six weeks from the scheduled completion date.
  - b. Provide proof of Stockbridge-Munsee tribal enrollment.

Provide the Education Department with a copy of your registration, invoice, proof of successful completion, and paid receipt.