

# WHAT IS THE MICHIGAN INDIAN TUITION WAIVER PROGRAM?

The amending Statute, Michigan Public Act 505, of 1978, reads as follows:

An Act to provide free tuition for North American Indians in public state community colleges or public junior colleges, public colleges or public universities.

§1 A public state community or public junior college or public university shall waive tuition for any North American Indian who qualifies for admission as a

full-time, part-time or summer school student and is a legal resident of the state for not less than 12 consecutive months.

§2 For the purposes of this Act, "North American Indian" means a person who is not less than 1/4 quantum blood Indian as certified by the person's tribal organization and verified by the ITC.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. STUDENT, Complete the "STUDENT PORTION" of Tuition Waiver (TW) application located on front of this form.  
**PROOF OF RESIDENCY: Include a copy of your Driver's License, Social Security card, and Tribal card (If available).** Other proof may be requested, as needed.
2. "TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION." Request a Tribal certification and signature from an authorized tribal certifier, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) certifying 1/4 or more degree Indian blood quantum. The Tribes and BIA are listed below. An **original** tribal certification letter may be sent indicating 1/4 or more Indian blood quantum instead of having the tribe complete the "TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION".
3. Request that the tribal organization send the application back to the applicant after completing the "TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION", or ask that they Mail the completed application and **original** letter back to the ITC office. Do not assume that your tribal organization has forwarded this information to the ITC.
4. NOTICE OF DECISION. The ITC will review and check your application for the required information; and, if complete, the ITC will prepare a verification letter. A copy of the application and the verification letter will be sent to the college financial aid office and to the student. Any original tribal certification letter, or card, which is separate from the application form, will be returned to the student, if requested.
5. TRANSFER STUDENTS. Transfer students must fill out the "STUDENT PORTION" section of a new application indicating the school which they will be attending or they may contact the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver (MITW) program to notify them of any changes. It will not be necessary to have the "TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION" completed again since the ITC has it on file.

## DOCUMENTATION NECESSARY FOR TRIBAL CERTIFICATION

1. Your Tribal organization or the BIA can certify your blood quantum by checking tribal or federal records from information you provide.
2. If you are not a registered member of a tribe and you want to trace your ancestry to certify your blood quantum, you will need to obtain background information such as names of your parents and grandparents, where they resided and the name of your tribe (if known).
3. The BIA in Sault Ste. Marie, MI may be able to help confirm or identify your tribal affiliation. The BIA will do an initial free search to trace your Indian ancestry. Requests for assistance should be accompanied by a brief family tree. Three generations is enough to start the search.

Document your relationship to the names on the family tree chart by providing a birth certificate for yourself and a birth, death or marriage certificate for your natural Indian parents and grandparents. These certificates are acceptable documents to begin to verify ancestry. They may be obtained from your family, the County Clerk's office of the state Vital Records office where the birth, death or marriage took place. In Michigan, it would be the County Clerk's office where the event took place or the Michigan State

Registrar's Office. You may contact them at (517) 335-8656. The racial designation is often incorrectly entered on many Native birth and death records. Do not be concerned. The primary data that is cross checked by the Tribal organization are the family names, etc.

4. The BIA can assist you in obtaining information from adoptive birth records. Submit your family tree and the documentation to: Bureau of Indian Affairs, ATTN: Tribal Operations, 2901 S. I-75 Business Spur, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783.

State that you are applying for the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver program. You will be advised if further information is needed. If you have any questions or comments on tracing your ancestry, you may direct them to Tribal Operations at the above address or phone (906) 632-6809.

5. The Inter Tribal Council of Michigan staff can also provide initial guidance and printed information to get you started on tracing your Indian ancestry. Tribal certification contacts and family tree charts are also available at the ITC office or by calling 1-800-562-4957.

## FEDERAL AND HISTORIC TRIBES IN MICHIGAN

### Chippewa Tribes:

• Bay Mills Indian Community  
12120 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Brimley, MI 49715  
(906) 248-3241

• Keweenaw Bay Indian Community  
107 Beartown Road  
Baraga, MI 49908  
(906) 353-6623

• Lac Vieux Desert Band Tribal Council  
P.O. Box 249, Choate Road  
Watersmeet, MI 49969  
(906) 358-4577

• Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe  
7070 E. Broadway  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
(989) 775-4000

• Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians  
523 Ashmun Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
(906) 635-6050

### Ottawa and Chippewa Bands:

• Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and  
Chippewa Indians  
P.O. Box 206  
Brutus, MI 49716  
(231) 529-6113

• Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa &  
Chippewa Indians, Inc.  
2605 NW Bayshore Drive  
Peshawbeston, MI 49682  
(616) 271-3538  
(888) 271-3538

### Ottawa Bands:

• Little Traverse Bay Band  
of Odawa Indians  
7500 Odawa Circle  
Harbor Springs, MI 49740  
(231) 348-3410

• Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, MI 49660  
(231) 723-8288

Northern Michigan Ottawa Assoc.  
2428 Timber Lane  
Alpena, MI 49707  
(616) 354-3442

Grand River Band of Ottawa Indians  
P.O. Box 2937, 1251 Plainfield NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501  
(616) 458-8759

### Potawatomi Bands:

• Gun Lake Tribe  
1743 142nd Avenue, P.O. Box 218  
Dorr, MI 49323  
(616) 681-8830

• Hannahville Potawatomi Indian  
Community  
N-14911 Hannahville, B-1 Rd.  
Wilson, MI 49896-9717  
(906) 466-2932

• Huron Potawatomi, Inc.  
2221 1-1/2 Mile Rd.  
Fulton, MI 49052  
(269) 729-5151

• Potawatomi Indian Nation, Inc.  
(Pokagon Band)  
104 N. Riverside Drive  
Dowagiac, MI 49047  
(616) 782-8998

• Indicates a federally recognized tribe.

# MICHIGAN INDIAN (Higher Education) TUITION WAIVER APPLICATION

## INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF MI, INC.

2956 Ashmun Street

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

TELEPHONE: (906) 632-6896    1-800-562-4957    FAX: (906) 632-6878

**READ INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK BEFORE COMPLETING THE "STUDENT PORTION" OF THIS FORM.**  
 This form is required to apply for the Michigan Tuition Waiver. Applications must be complete and received by the Inter Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc. (ITC) six (6) weeks prior to class registration or as soon as possible. **INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED AND MAY DELAY ELIGIBILITY.**

**ADMINISTRATION SECTION**  
 (Applicant Leave Blank)

RESIDENCY \_\_\_\_\_  
 TRIBAL CERT. \_\_\_\_\_  
 BY \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE VERIFIED \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDENT PORTION - Please PRINT in INK or TYPE

NAME:	Last	First	Middle	Maiden	BIRTHDAY (mm/dd/yy)	*SOCIAL SECURITY NO.:
*PERMANENT HOME:	Street Address	City	State	ZIP Code	*TELEPHONE NO. & AREA CODE	

<b>LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN MICHIGAN:</b>	<b>NATIVE NORTH AMERICAN</b>	<b>*FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY: (Optional)</b>
Months: _____	UNITED STATES <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____
Years: _____	CANADA <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED
MI DRIVER LIC.# _____	TRIBES NAME: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED    No. Of Children In Household _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE		

### PUBLIC MICHIGAN COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY YOU WILL BE ATTENDING:

School Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED DEGREE:     ASSOCIATES     MASTERS     BACHELORS     DOCTORATE     CERTIFICATE    COLLEGE MAJOR: \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BE ENROLLING:     FULL TIME     PART TIME     TERM     SEMESTER     STARTING TERM OR SEMESTER & YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BE ENROLLING AS A:     FRESHMAN     SOPHOMORE     JUNIOR     SENIOR     GRADUATE     OTHER

**HAVE YOU BEEN APPROVED FOR THE TUITION WAIVER BEFORE?**     YES     NO    IF YES, LIST MONTH & YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

**ARE YOU TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL?**     YES     NO    IF YES, LIST COLLEGE YOU ARE TRANSFERRING FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

### GENEALOGY INFORMATION

<b>PATERNAL:</b>	<b>MATERNAL:</b>
<b>TRIBE (BAND):</b>	<b>TRIBE (BAND):</b>
FATHER'S NAME: _____	MOTHER'S NAME: _____
GRANDFATHER'S NAME: _____	GRANDFATHER'S NAME: _____
GRANDMOTHER'S NAME (Maiden): _____	GRANDMOTHER'S NAME (Maiden): _____

1. I DECLARE THAT THE INFORMATION GIVEN BY ME ON THIS FORM, TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, IS TRUE, CORRECT AND COMPLETE.
2. THIS INFORMATION MAY BE SHARED BY THE INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF MI, INC., MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, MY TRIBE AND MY SELECTED COMMUNITY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.
3. I AGREE TO SEND A COPY OF MY GRADE REPORT TO INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL UPON COMPLETION OF EACH TERM/SEMESTER, IF REQUESTED.
4. BY SIGNING THIS FORM, I AM DECLARING THAT I HAVE LIVED IN MICHIGAN FOR TWELVE (12) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE DATE ON THIS APPLICATION, AND THAT I AM A CURRENT MICHIGAN RESIDENT.

**Applicant's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### TRIBAL CERTIFICATION PORTION (This section to be completed by Tribal Chief, Chairperson or Enrollment Officer.)

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE NAMED APPLICANT IS 1/4 (ONE-QUARTER) OR MORE DEGREE OF INDIAN BLOOD QUANTUM ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE TRIBAL OR FEDERAL RECORDS. THIS PERSON QUALIFIES FOR THE MICHIGAN INDIAN TUITION WAIVER.

**Certifying Official Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFYING OFFICIAL NAME AND TITLE: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF TRIBAL NATION:	AREA CODE & TELEPHONE NO.
ADDRESS: _____	CITY/STATE: _____
	ZIP: _____

TRIBE OR APPLICANT. Return this completed form to the Inter Tribal Council of MI, Inc. at the above address AFTER the Tribal Certification has been completed by the tribe.  
 You will be notified of approval or disapproval of your application.    \*Indicates Protected Information.