

## FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid )

This is the primary documents that students should be applying for as it opens the door to the Federal Pell Grant; Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG); and the Federal Work Study Program. It is also needed to be awarded with “need based aid (scholarships) from our school, and many other scholarship programs such as Cobel and other tribal higher ed programs who require a need analyses filled out as part of their application process.

The application determines a student’s dependency status (either dependent or independent). If you are dependent then you will need to additionally provide information about you parent(s) and/or sibling(s).

The application uses household size, number in college and income to determine how much need a student has for college. This calculation is represented as a number called EFC (expected family contribution) this number will range from 0 to 999999. Those students with a lower EFC have the greatest need.

In addition to calculating the EFC, you application is processed though several different databases like IRS, Social Security, and the National Student Loan Database, for example. Typical problems that come up for our students are the Name, Social Security, and Date of Birth not matching on the application and with what is reported in those databases. Additional if a student is in default on a student loan from another college, or owes and overpayment amount, this information is also reported back on the Institutional Student Aid Report. When this occurs, documentation may be required in order to resolve or confirm the information.

Lastly approximately 30% of all students are selected for verification by the US Department of Education. If this happens to a student, they will need to provide specific documentation to verify the information is accurate and correct. One such document is a Tax Return Transcript from the IRS. This report can be requested free from their website or by mail or fax. We help all student who want to request this document by fax and help them navigate the website as needed.

## Federal Pell Grant.

This is an entitlement to you as a US Citizen. It uses the EFC number to calculate how much of an award you may be eligible for. Once the results from a student’s FAFSA are correct and any additional verification and documents that may be required are in; and all comments on the FASFA results are resolved, including corrections to the FASFA that may need to made are back; then a Federal Pell Grant can be awarded for the student.

When calculating an award, the student’s enrolment status is considered. A full time award for a student in 12 or more credit hours;  $\frac{3}{4}$  time award for students in 9-11 credit hours,  $\frac{1}{2}$  time award for students in 6-8 credit hours. And less than half time award for student in 1-5 credit hours. Pell grants awards are broken up into two or more semesters. So a student will never get more that the total amount for the year.

Example: a student is eligible for up to 4000 dollars. They sign up full time in the fall semester, they would not get a 4000 dollar award, they would get half of that which equals 2000 dollars. Then if they come back in the spring semester and sign up for full time again, they would get the remaining 2000

dollars. But let's say they sign up for 9 hours in the fall and 6 hours in the spring. They would get 1500 in the fall which equals  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the award they would have gotten in the fall if they were full time, and then in the spring they would get 1000 dollars which is half of the 2000 they would have gotten in the spring if they were full time. Although they were eligible for up to 4000 for the school year, because of their enrollment status they were only eligible to receive 2500 dollars.

A student is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for 150% of their program length. Instead of utilizing 6 years for a 4 year degree, we go with 150% of the credit hours required for 4 year degree, which works out to 192 hours attempted. Additionally, a max cap has been in place on the total amount of Federal Pell Grant a student can get in their lifetime. No student can receive more than 600% LEU (lifetime eligibility used). The way this is calculated coincides with their award. If a student is awarded at full time, then 50% of that eligibility is used, at half time it would be 25% etc... When those total percentages reach 600%, a student is no longer eligible.

#### FSEOG: Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant

This is money designated to help those student with the greatest need. The greatest need is defined as those students with an EFC of 0 first then all those with a EFC of 1 then EFC of 2 etc... because of the limited amount of money we get (a little more than 30,000) compared those schools with 500,000 or more dollars, we try to help as many students as we can with a 300 dollar award (150 dollars in the fall, 150 dollars in the spring). These awards are made around the 10<sup>th</sup> week after the last day to withdraw.

#### Federal Work Study Program

We get about the same amount as we do in FSEOG. Students who are selected for the program can work no more than 20 hours a week, can be assigned to work when they are to be in class, and are paid at the federal minimum wage.

Positions are assigned as follows. 10% of the money goes to community service, we utilize the library as it is the only public library in the area. 10% for America Counts, 10% for America Reads, and 10% for America Civics.

Those positions are assigned to Cheryl Medearis who selects and monitors to students to make sure they are documenting the requirements for these positions. The remaining positions are assigned out to those departments who requested them.

In January, we send out an email reminding all departs that are interested in a work-study position for the upcoming school year to put in a request. We start with the departments who put their requests in first until we run out of positions. The departments that are awarded work-study positions are responsible for selecting the student they want that best fills their needs. The financial aid office just assures that those individuals who are selected are eligible to receive those awards.

SAP Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards.

Sinte Gleska University uses the minimum standards allowed by the US Department of Education for students to remain eligible for financial aid. At a minimum, a student needs to maintain an overall completion rate of 67% of all the classes they attempt, with a GPA of 2.0, or for freshman students, 1.5.

If a student fails to do this, they are placed on financial aid warning. If they fail to improve their completion rate and/or GPA while on warning they are placed on financial aid ineligible. They remain on financial aid ineligible until their completion rate and GPA are the minimum SAP standards.

The US Department of Education allows us to use an appeal process so that a student who becomes ineligible for aid because of a reason beyond their control. Appeals and the decision to place a student on probation or an academic plan are decided by the Financial Aid Committee. The VP of Student Services, the Registrar, and the Financial Aid Director make up the committee.

#### BIA Higher Education Grant Program

This is awarded to students who are enrolled members of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe who are in a two-year degree that leads to a 4-year degree, or a 4-year degree. There are two types of aid we award. The first is a monthly stipend for educational-related expenses. The amounts vary depending on a student's status ranging from dependent to independent, married, single with children, married with children, etc... The dollar amounts range from 250 dollars a month for a dependent student to a max of 600 dollars a month for an individual or family with several dependents. To be eligible for the stipend, a student must be maintaining their SAP, have their FASFA filled out and resolved if there are any issues, and be enrolled full-time. These awards are made in the fall for the school year, and are evaluated between semesters to ensure they remain eligible in the spring. We set a limit around 120,000 dollars a semester which would leave us some money left to help those graduating with the second type of aid we offer from this program, help with tuition, fees, and books.

We look at those students who are graduating with their BA degrees first, then AA degrees at graduation time and try to help them with any unpaid tuition, fees, and books that we can. The past couple years we have made these awards to students at the end of the semesters as well when we have the money available.

#### American Indian College Fund TCU Scholarships

This is money awarded to Sinte Gleska University from the American Indian College Fund to help with scholarships for students attending our university. The award amount varies based on our enrollment, but the past couple years it has been around 140-150 thousand dollars a year. These are broken up into fall and spring awards by AICF. Based on their funding efforts and requirements from their donors, a portion of these awards may be specific in the type of student who qualifies for these scholarships.

Examples: 3000 dollars to go to Female Native American students with children in a BA in education. Or 12,000 dollars to fund Native American students pursuing a fine arts degree, etc....

A committee made up of individuals from each academic department, the VP of Student Services, and on occasion the Admission Director and/or individual from the Retention Department. The Financial Aid Director serves as a liaison providing guidance when needed and ensuring that the requirements are met for each of the donor's criteria, and not overspending any of the designated money.

The applications are available for students to apply around AUG 1<sup>st</sup> for the Fall and Jan 1<sup>st</sup> for the Spring, the date is set by AICF. We keep the application period open until the drop/add period is over and all the "no show" lists have been turned in. Students apply online, either at home, the library, their phones, or on one of the computers we have set up in the financial aid office for this purpose. We assist students with their application, helping to scan the documents that are needed so they can be attached to their applications.

#### American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship

These are scholarships the students apply to the same way as they do for the TCU scholarships. However, the dollar amounts and individuals who are chosen, are selected by the readers who the American Indian College Fund selects. On our end, when the awards are ready to be sent to us for these students, we have to log into AICF and verify the student's enrollment, anticipated graduation date, and GPA

#### Adult Vocational Training Program

Is available to students who are enrolled members of any tribe residing in our area who seek training in an AAS degree or lower. Students are awarded for the length of their program provided they maintain SAP and eligibility at the schools they are attending. A typical award for AVT students is whatever the Federal Pell Grant doesn't cover towards tuition, fees, books, supplies and tools as required. Additionally there is a stipend for educational related expenses, single students get 500, 2 in the household get 650 and 3 or more get 750 a month. If the school requires a computer, then one is provided for the students as well.

#### Institute of Technologies

They have a stipend program that they administer for students in their program. The financial aid office will provide them with needs analyses as requested on their applicants and utilize our software to transfer award amounts from our office to student billing

\*the amount of money a student gets back from any of their awards that aren't stipends is not determined by the financial aid office. The student billing office has policy in what is taken out from these awards to go towards their tuition, fees, books and supplies.