

FORT MCDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION POLICY

The FMYN is committed to education and strongly encourages Tribal Members to continue their education beyond high school. To assist in the pursuit of education, the FMYN will provide financial assistance and incentives for Tribal Members attending and completing accredited post-secondary programs. Under this policy, accredited post-secondary programs from those that provide a vocational certificate to those offering degrees through the Doctoral level will be eligible for financial support. The effective date of this policy will be August 1, 2004. Courses, Degrees, Certificate Programs and other incentive programs completed prior to August 1, 2004, are not eligible for payment.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The financial assistance program is intended to provide for the basic educational expenses. Financially supported expenses are tuition, required books, lab fees and (for full time students) stipends. Expenses covered by other sources will not be eligible for reimbursement from FMYN (double dipping). Other expenses such as parking, transportation, housing, tutoring, and day care* are not expenses covered by this program. Stipends for full time students will be \$300.00 per month for each month the student has ten (10) days of scheduled classes. Months with less than ten (10) days of scheduled classes will not be prorated.

Applicants may apply for reimbursement of costs funded under this policy for up to one academic year previous to the date of the request for reimbursement.

To be eligible for financial assistance under this policy:

- A. Applicants shall be an officially enrolled member of the FMYN, with proof of blood quantum and enrollment with either their Certificate of Indian Blood or a FMYN tribal identification card.
- B. Applicants shall be in good financial standing with the FMYN.
- C. Applicants shall be officially and fully or conditionally admitted to an accredited or approved non-accredited institution or program that provides post-secondary education. If an applicant is interested in attending a non-accredited institution or program, the applicant must request approval from the Education Division Director prior to enrollment. Financial assistance will not be granted if the applicant enrolls in a non-accredited institution or program without the express approval of the Education Division Director.
- D. Applicants shall be at least 18 years of age by August 1st of the year of application. An applicant must be a high school graduate or have obtained a GED if required by his/her post-secondary institution of choice. Twelfth (12th) grade high school students in transition to college may be approved at the discretion of the Education Division Director.
- E. Applicants will comply with the application procedures and participation requirements set forth by the FMYN Education Division Post-Secondary Financial Assistance and Incentives Procedures.

Application and procedures will include:

- A. Proof of enrolled membership in FMYN
- B. Signed and completed Post-Secondary and Vocational Education Application packet
- C. Completed and signed Authorization for Disclosure of Information form
- D. Statement of Educational Goals (required annually)
- E. Signed Use of Funds Agreement
- F. Proof of admission/or schedule of classes
- G. Proof of accreditation from the institution or program, unless the Education Division Director has approved enrollment in a non-accredited institution or program.

Participation requirements will include but not necessarily be limited to:

- A. Undergraduate students receiving financial assistance post-secondary education under this policy, will be required to maintain a grade point average of not less than 2.00 in any given semester.
- B. Students will remain in good disciplinary and financial standings with the educational institution.
- C. Applicants will provide documentation and information as required by the Education Division to verify enrollment, actual costs, and academic performance.

Under this policy, the FMYN Education Board has the authority to develop Post-Secondary Education Procedures, as approved by the FMYN Tribal Council, to implement this policy.

** While day care services are not funded through the Higher Education Financial Assistance Program, Tribal members may be eligible for financial support through the FMYN Day Care Center.*

INCENTIVES

Educational incentives are intended to be provided to post-secondary students upon completion of their approved certification and degree programs, as well as to encourage exceptional academic performance while pursuing the required coursework.

Students participating in approved post-secondary programs may receive educational incentives in accordance with procedures developed by the FMYN Education Board, approved by the FMYN Tribal Council, and implemented by the Education Division Director. Those procedures will ensure that students receiving educational incentives meet all participation requirements under this policy and have the following applicable documents on file:

- A. Proof of enrolled membership in FMYN
- B. Signed and completed Application for Educational Incentive form
- C. Official Transcript in a sealed envelope from the educational institution to the Education Division

Failure of the student to provide this information may result in the application not being considered for payment.

AWARDS

The Post-Secondary incentives program will include the incentives set forth below:

<u>Program Completion – Levels</u>	<u>Incentives</u>
1. Vocational Certificate program * 200 clock hours minimum * 12 or more credit hours * 15 weeks (4-5 months)	\$ 2,000.00
2. Vocational Diploma program * 500 clock hours minimum * 25 or more credit hours * 60-66 weeks (15-16 months)	\$ 3,000.00

3. Vocational Associates Program	\$ 4,000.00
* 1,200 clock hours minimum	
* 60 or more credit hours	
* 60-66 weeks (15-16 months)	
4. Associates Degree	\$ 5,000.00
5. Bachelors Degree following payment for an Associate Degree	\$ 5,000.00
6. Bachelors Degree with no prior Associate Degree	\$10,000.00
7. Masters Degree	\$10,000.00
8. Doctoral Degree (PhD, MD, DDS, JD, DD, EdD)	\$10,000.00

Only one (1) incentive may be earned at each level 1-8. Completion of a second program at any level will not be eligible for another incentive.

<u>Exceptional Academic Achievement – Levels</u>	<u>Incentives</u>
A. An undergraduate student who earns a semester G.P.A. of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) and who earns a minimum of 12 semester credits during that semester will receive:*	\$ 299.00
* This incentive is limited to a maximum of 10 semesters per student	
B. A student who receives a Bachelors, Masters, or Doctoral Degree with “Honors” (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Cum Laude) will receive:	\$ 1,500.00