

THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION PRESENTS

YOUR COLLEGE JOURNEY

A SUPPLEMENTAL POCKET GUIDE TO AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE CENTER'S
JOURNEY TO COLLEGE TURTLE MAP



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JOURNEY TO COLLEGE TURTLE MAP



FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEAR

■ ORGANIZE & PRIORITIZE

Thoroughly review assignments for each class and make note of big projects/exams. Use an organizer/planner or use your phone's calendar to monitor deadlines and due dates.

■ SET GOALS

Start by setting three long term goals and each long term goals should be broken down into shorter term goals to help you succeed.

■ CREATE A STUDY SPACE

Find a study space with limited distractions that supports productivity. Set up a desk space that is not on your couch or bed. Make sure you have all the tools you need (i.e. calculator, highlighters, books, etc.).

■ SUPPORT SYSTEM

Surround yourself with mentors and those who support you: family members, school counselor, coach, youth pastor, teachers, supervisors, etc.

■ LEARNING STYLE

There are several different learning styles. The way in which you best understand information. Your preferred learning style is the way in which you learn best.

To help you study better, go to

www.AIGCS.org/college-during-covid19
and find out your learning style!

MY LEARNING STYLE IS: _____

LEARN TO SAY NO ■

Remember your most important goals and do not let others make you feel bad for focusing on your priorities.

Try not to over commit yourself to organizational involvement. Do not cave into peer pressure.

SCHOOL RESOURCES ■

Take advantage of what your school offers: study hall, study groups, before/after school tutoring services, etc. Participate in any student success organizations: Upward Bound, National Honors Society, Academic Clubs, etc. Enroll in a college prep course if your school offers it.

SELF CARE ■

Don't sacrifice sleep. Make time for some type of physical activity every week and try to eat well-balanced meals. Schedule time to recharge and reward yourself after completing tough assignments/projects. Find an effective outlet for relieving stress.

IDEAS

SCHOOL COUNSELOR ■

Ask if you are taking the right classes to prepare you for your college journey, such as AP and honors classes. Your counselor can help you stay on track to make certain you are fulfilling all graduation requirements.

JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEAR

COLLEGE PREP PROGRAMS

List out College Prep Programs in your area and research which one is right for you.

INTERESTS & ABILITIES

Participate in opportunities available in your school or community to better identify your interests: job shadowing, summer jobs/internships, professional presentations, clubs, organizations, volunteer opportunities, cultural activities, competitive teams, etc. These experiences could help you in choosing your career path.

MY INTERESTS

PERSONAL PROFILE

Create a portfolio of all the things you do in high school so that you can remember them for your college and scholarship applications. You can start a list below of your extracurricular activities, leadership roles, community service projects and more:

RESUME BUILDING

Using the content you've compiled under the personal profile section of this handbook, start building a resume that highlights your accomplishments throughout your high school journey. Don't forget to include notable achievements, volunteer and work experience that highlights your skills and abilities.

Don't know how to create a resume? Use websites like Canva or My Perfect Resume to access free templates that will help get you started.

RESUME BUILD

ALTERNATIVE PATHS

Not all students pursue a college degree after completing high school. Alternatively, students could pursue trade school, military training, or directly join the workforce. For more information about alternative opportunities, please contact your high school counselor.

MANAGE YOUR TIME

Create a schedule with class times, study hours, athletic practices, student organization meetings, work shifts, etc. Try to stick to a routine until it becomes a habit.

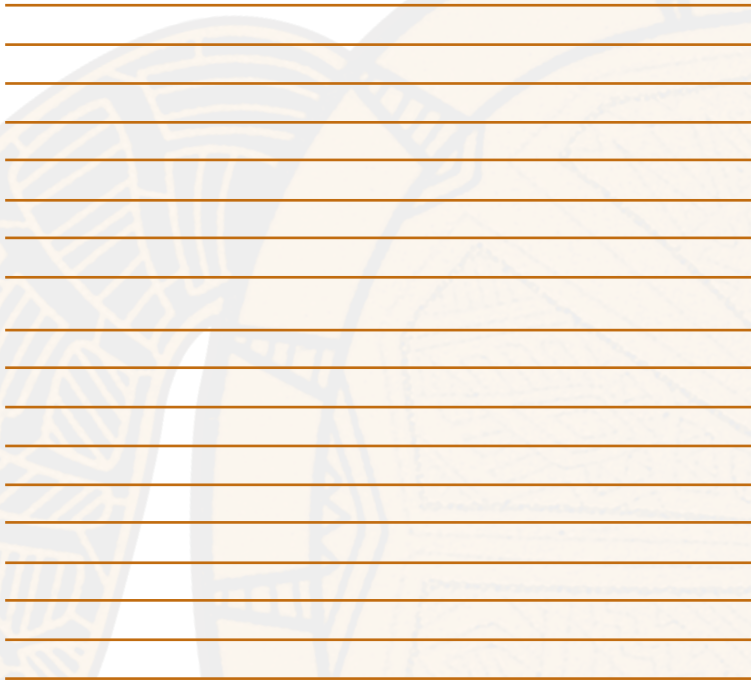
FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEAR

FRESHMAN SCHEDULE

NOTES



CLASS SCHEDULE

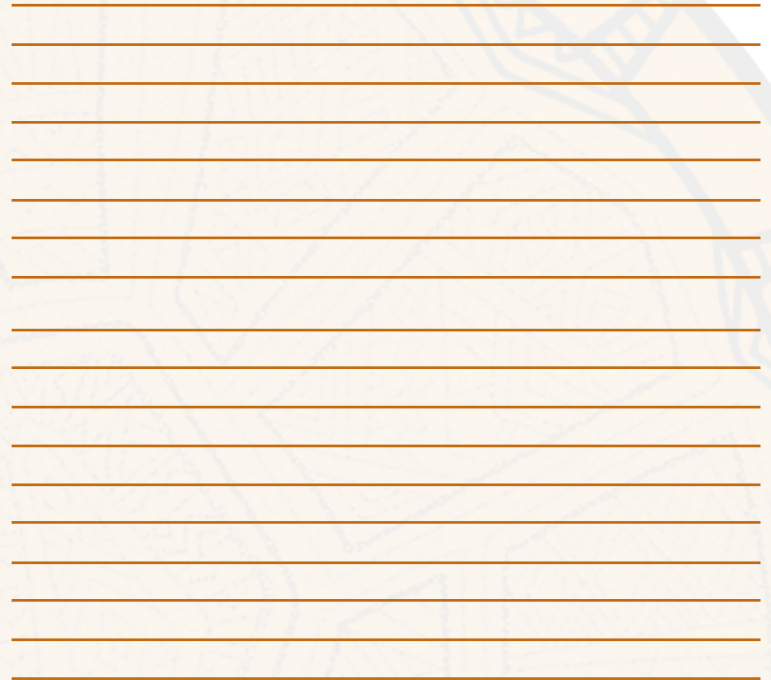


SOPHOMORE SCHEDULE

NOTES



CLASS SCHEDULE



JUNIOR YEAR

■ APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applying for admission and scholarships can seem intimidating. Creating a timeline can help you stay organized and make the process a lot easier. Some things you should consider putting in your timelines are early admission dates, final admission date, scholarship due dates, recommenders or recommendation letter(s) due date and any admission application fees you might have to pay.

■ RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS

- **Need-based scholarships** are awarded based on your financial need.
- **Merit-based scholarships** are awarded based on your talents, leadership, community service, honors, awards, and are not directly tied to your financial need.

There are several places you can go to find out about scholarships. You can check out **www.AIGCS.org** to see what American Indian Graduate Center has available. You can also look at your Tribal education department and foundations, private and civic organizations, university scholarships or utilize search engines like **www.Fastweb.com**.

To learn more about applying for scholarships visit **www.AIGCS.org/students**.

SCHOLARSHIP NOTES

■ TOP COLLEGES

Organization is key when applying for college! No two colleges are the same and there are different types of colleges and universities that you can attend. Take time to research these various types of colleges and universities. An easy way to stay organized is make a list of the top six institutions that you're interested in. Some of the things that you might keep track of are the different costs, majors offered, support services, student organizations and campus housing.

COLLEGE LIST

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

COST

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

POSITIVES

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

LOCATION

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

JUNIOR YEAR

COLLECT ON A DRIVE

To make sure you can find all the content you need for your college applications, it's best to keep it all in one place. Create a drive that includes your application essays, letters of recommendation, transcripts and any other items that you need to complete your college apps.

MY PLAN



LAPTOP



TABLET



HOME COMPUTER

LEADERSHIP ROLES

Leadership comes in all different forms. When asked about your leadership experience make sure that you talk about all the different activities that you do. It could be things you do in school, for your family, for your Tribe and or in your community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

You shouldn't choose just anyone to be your recommender. You want to make sure that you choose someone that can speak to your strengths, whether that's in the classroom, in your community or with your team. Make sure to ask your recommender at least two weeks before the deadline to give them plenty of time to write a quality letter.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Develop personal resume, letter of interest, and personal statement.

Most colleges and universities will ask you to submit a **resume**, **letter of interest** or a **personal statement** or sometimes all three! Using the portfolio that you created in your freshman and sophomore years, share everything you've accomplished throughout high school. If you want support as you create these items, set up a time to meet with your school counselor or a teacher.

CAMPUS VISITS

Most colleges and universities encourage potential students to tour their campus. If there is a college that you are interested in, reach out to their recruitment office and set up a tour. During your tour ask about what support systems or organizations they have on campus that serve Native students. While most tours don't last all day, you could also set up a meeting with any of the degree programs that you might want to pursue.

EARN COLLEGE CREDIT

Did you know that you could earn college credit while still in high school? This can be a great way to get used to tougher coursework and help you better transition to college. Two of the most common ways are through Advance Placement (AP) courses or through concurrent enrollment with a local college or university. Talk with your high school counselor to learn more about what options are available for you at your school.

JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

JUNIOR YEAR



EXPLORE COLLEGE PREP

Explore Summer Bridge or College Prep Programs

Summer Bridge and College Prep programs are designed to ease the transition to college and encourage success by providing you with the academic skills and resources needed to succeed in a college environment. These programs occur in the summer “bridge” period between high school and college. Now is the perfect time to start exploring these opportunities!

PROGRAMS OF INTEREST



COMPLETE THE COMMON APP

The Common Application is an undergraduate college admission application that students can use to apply to any of more than 900 member colleges and universities, and can streamline the application process if you’re applying to multiple schools. Please note, not all schools use the Common Application - make sure to check with your high school counselor to see if the university you are applying to uses this tool. For more information, visit: <https://www.commonapp.org/>

COLLEGE TYPES



There are a variety of different types of colleges you may choose to attend. Be sure to research the differences between public institutions, private institutions and Tribal Colleges and Universities, as well as the benefits that each one offers.

Another item for consideration is in-state versus out-of-state tuition. Students who attend public colleges or universities within their state of residence will receive a reduced tuition amount, called in-state tuition. Students who attend a public college or university in a state different from their state of residence will pay out-of-state tuition, which is typically more expensive than in-state tuition.

To learn more about the different types of colleges, talk to your high school counselor or visit the College Board Big Future website:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/college-101/types-of-colleges-the-basics>

TYPES

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____

NAMES

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____

COST

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____

LOCATION

1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____

JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

JUNIOR YEAR

STANDARDIZED TESTING

When applying for colleges you may need to take one of two tests, the ACT or the SAT. Typically the ACT is used by colleges and universities in the central part of the United States, while the SAT are used by institutions on the coast. Make you check and note what test the college you are applying to requires. For more tips visit our Preparing For College page at www.AIGCS.org/students.

SAT & ACT DATES

Make sure to plan ahead for your SAT or ACT exams. Remember to double check which exam your college or university of choice accepts.

SAT Dates: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>

ACT Dates: <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>

I will take the **SAT / ACT** on: _____

FAFSA NIGHT

Remember to schedule a **FAFSA** Night to review your financial aid information! Ask your school counselor or a teacher when your high school will host **FAFSA** nights.

My **FAFSA** Night will be: _____

JUNIOR SCHEDULE

NOTES

CLASS SCHEDULE

SENIOR YEAR

FALL TERM

TOP SIX COLLEGES

Narrow your college list to your top six choices.

Keep in mind deadlines, admission requirements (such as ACT/SAT minimum requirements), documentation needed and cost of application fees.

List your top colleges below:

COLLEGE LIST	1	_____
	2	_____
	3	_____
	4	_____
	5	_____
	6	_____

COMPLETE FASFA

The FASFA portal opens October 1st each year and funding is available on a first come first serve basis. Apply as early as possible and make sure you have all the correct, documentation ready, such as your parents or /guardian's tax returns. Check out our Student Resource page for additional tips and resources at www.AIGCS.org/students.

FINANCIAL NEED

On the FAFSA website (www.fafsa.gov) access the free tool FAFSA4caster and enter your information. This tool gives an estimation on expected family contribution (EFC) and if you qualify for federal financial aid.

TRIBAL DOCUMENTS

Request documents from your Tribe including CIB, CDIB, letter of descent or enrollment verification. You will need this to apply for scholarships and in college applications. Always make copies to submit and to keep on hand.

FILL OUT APPLICATIONS

It's time to apply! Keep track of the deadlines for your top schools and make sure you have plenty of time to work with school counselors on your application requirements, (such as letters of recommendation and, transcripts. You can also use our Student Resource Center for additional advice and application strategies at www.AIGCS.org/students.

COLLEGES	1	_____	DEADLINES	1	_____
	2	_____		2	_____
	3	_____		3	_____
	4	_____		4	_____
	5	_____		5	_____
	6	_____		6	_____

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIPS

There is a huge variety of scholarships with many different requirements. Make sure you research both Native-focused and general opportunities to receive maximum funding.

Additionally, remember that many scholarship review committees look for well-rounded applicants who have leadership roles and community service on their application, and not only a high academic record. Be sure to include all of your relevant experience to ensure the best chances at receiving scholarships. Check out the Student Resource Center for additional resources at www.AIGCS.org/students.

JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

SENIOR YEAR

SPRING TERM

AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE CENTER

American Indian Graduate Center offers a variety of scholarship opportunities for Native students pursuing undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. We offer over 20 scholarships ranging from \$200 to \$30,000 per student per year that can be used at any accredited college or university in the United States. All applications open on January 1. Learn more and apply at www.AIGCS.org.

American Indian Graduate Center is proud to partner with the Bureau of Indian Education for several of these scholarship and academic support opportunities.

To learn more, visit

www.bie.edu/audience/students.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

Special Education students graduating from high school with a regular diploma are required to provide a summary of academic achievements and functional performance. The Summary of Performance (SOP) should include recommendations about ways to help you meet post-secondary goals and must be completed during your final year of high school education. For more information contact American Indian Graduate Center's Scholarship Operations Team at fellowships at fellowships@aigcs.org.

FINANCIAL AID AWARDS

Consider any additional costs not included in your award package. Are you satisfied with your award offers? How much student loans are offered (if any)? How much scholarship aid is offered? Is your school completely paid for?

MONETARY NEEDS

Not all financial needs are met through scholarships. There may be additional costs to consider, including travel costs, on/off campus transportation (sheets and bedding, shower items, towels etc.), meal plans, school supplies and books. Keep track of your additional costs

COSTS	1	_____	7	_____
	2	_____	8	_____
	3	_____	9	_____
	4	_____	10	_____
	5	_____	11	_____
	6	_____	12	_____

HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPTS

Some college admissions or scholarships require either an official and unofficial transcript before the start of college classes, so keep a copy of both your official and unofficial transcripts in your personal records.

SUMMER TERM

STUDENT ORIENTATION

Mark your calendar for new student orientation and plan a trip to campus. Orientations are important to attend because they cover information about your first semester (classroom and library locations, student ID information, dorm locations).

SUMMER JOB /INTERNSHIP

Use this time to gain experience and save money to offset additional or unexpected costs.

JOURNEY TO COLLEGE

NOTES

SENIOR SCHEDULE

IDEAS

CLASS SCHEDULE



ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

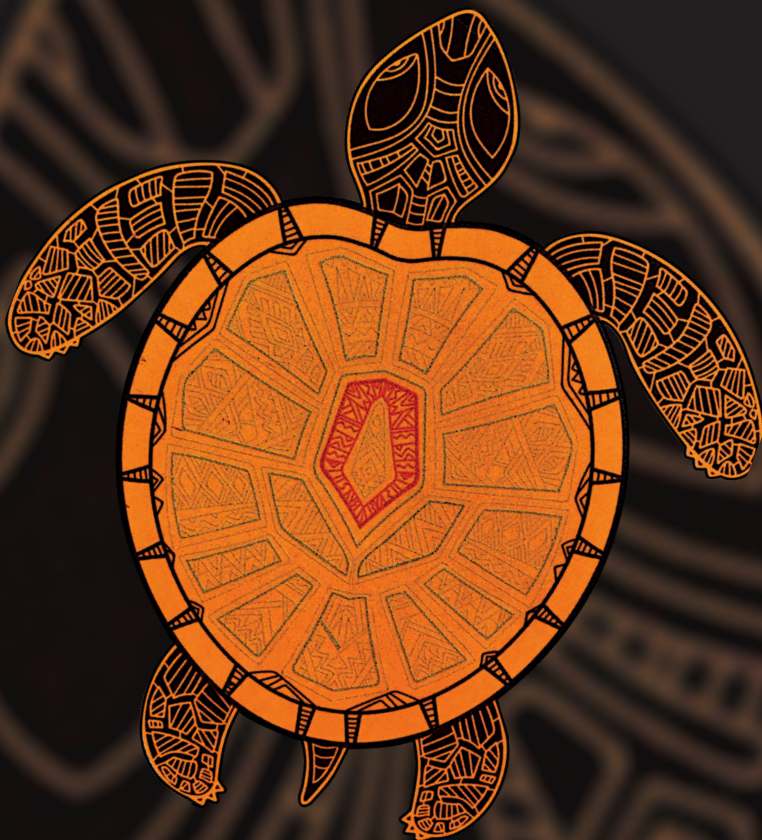
For more information and to access additional scholarship opportunities, please visit the following websites:

- The American Indian College Fund:
<https://collegefund.org/>
- American Indian Science & Engineering Society:
<https://www.aises.org/>
- American Indian Higher Education Consortium:
<http://www.aihec.org/>
- Indigenous Education, Inc.:
<http://www.i-e-i.org/home-2/>
- Indian Health Services:
<https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/scholarships/>
- Fastweb:
<https://www.fastweb.com/>
- Federal Student Aid:
<https://studentaid.gov/>

THOUGHTS

JOURNEY TO COLLEGE





AMERICAN INDIAN
GRADUATE CENTER

THE CENTER FOR NATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION

www.AIGCS.org