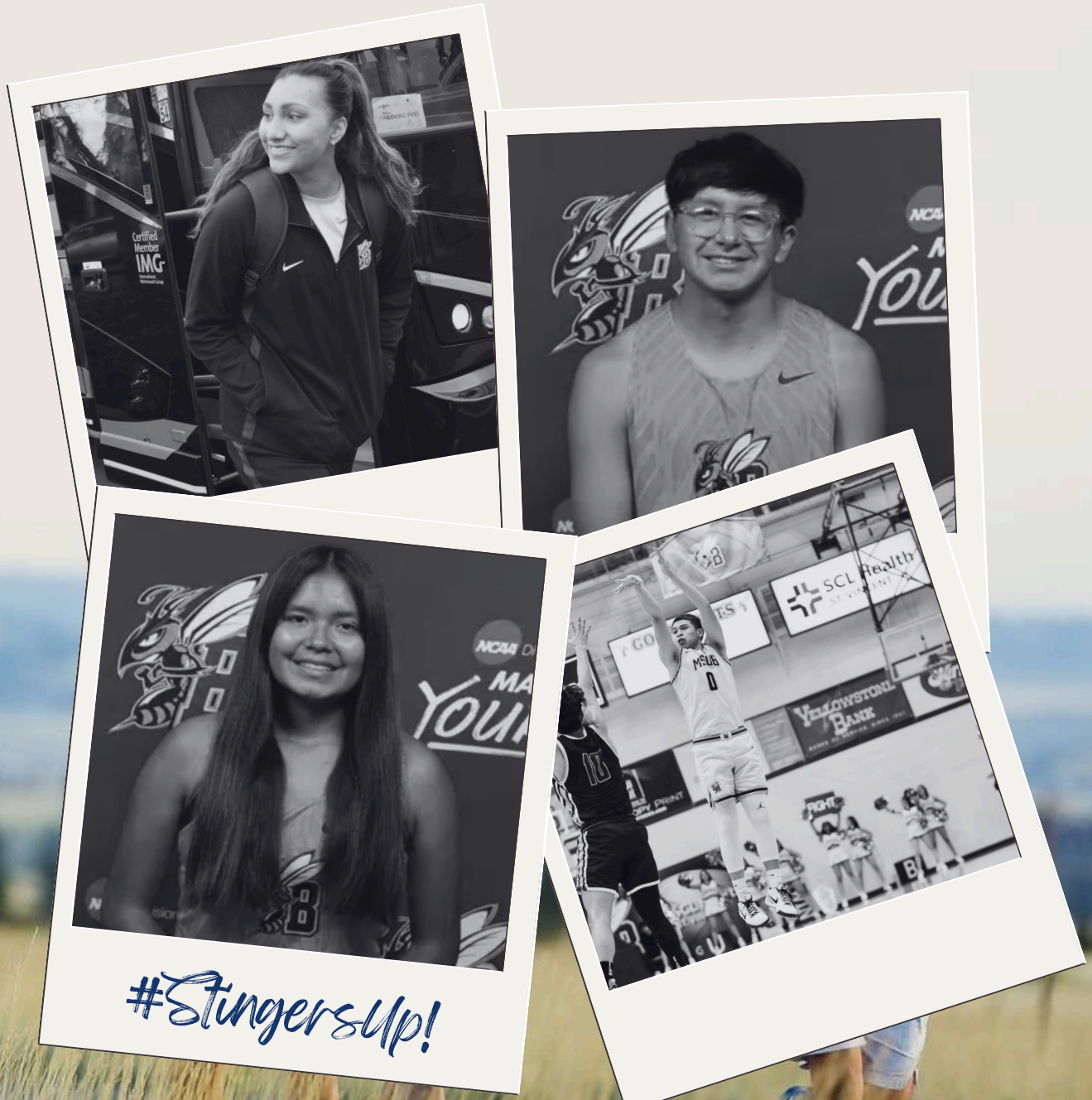
American Indian Student Financial Aid Guide

Madisan Chavez
MSUB Alumna, 2023
Environmental Studies
Crow Agency, MT

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS



msubsports.com

**Additional need-based and/or academic scholarships may be available for student-athletes*

gnac
Great Northwest Athletic Conference

NCAA Division II
MAKE IT YOURS™

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What is Financial Aid?

Financial aid is money given to students to help them pay the cost of attendance for their education. It can either come from the federal government, which is the largest provider of aid, state governments, the University itself, or a variety of other public and private sources.

There are two main types of aid:

Merit-Based aid is given to students who have a special characteristic, skill, talent or ability. A scholarship is an example of merit-based aid. Merit-based aid is usually a gift that does not have to be paid back, although students may have to follow certain guidelines to stay eligible for aid.

Need-Based aid is given to students who can show they have financial need. Most financial aid is awarded on the basis of need. There are three main types of need-based aid: grants, loans and work-study.

FEDERAL TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

To apply for any of the following funding sources, you must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Prospective students who apply for financial aid must also apply for admission to MSU Billings before any consideration or decisions on financial aid, including scholarships, can be made.

However, students do not need to wait for formal acceptance to simply apply to see if they are eligible for financial aid!

Grants

Students will be offered the maximum grant aid possible, based on their Student Aid Index (SAI) as determined by the FAFSA. Some funds are limited, so applying early is vital for receiving the best possible award package. Applying for aid is free!

Free Application for Federal Student Aid:
studentaid.gov

Work Study

Supervisors respect you are a student first, making this a great option. Stop by the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office and fill out a Work Study request form to see if you are eligible. Just like any other job, you will receive a paycheck for hours you work that doesn't go directly towards your bill.

For more information, please visit:
msubillings.edu/finaid/WorkstudyFAQ.htm

Loans

The types of loans available to students will depend on different variables. Because loans must be repaid, MSU Billings encourages students to accept the least amount of loans necessary to complete their educational goals.

For more information, please visit:
msubillings.edu/finaid/loans.htm

Federal Pell Grant: Unlike loans, the Pell Grant does not have to be repaid. Pell Grants are awarded only to undergraduate students who have not earned a bachelor's or professional degree (a professional degree is usually earned after earning a bachelor's degree in a field such as medicine, law or dentistry). In some cases, you may receive a Pell Grant for attending a post-baccalaureate teacher certification program. For many students, Pell Grants provide a foundation of financial aid to which other aid may be added. Awards range from $400-$4,050.

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG): For undergraduate students with exceptional financial need – that is, students with the lowest Student Aid Index (SAI) – the SEOG gives priority to students who received a Pell Grant and does not have to be paid back.

Federal Direct Loan Program: Enables eligible students and parents to borrow from the U.S. Department of Education instead of from a bank or other lending institution. This allows borrowers to work with a single entity when repaying loans or dealing with loan related issues. The Direct Loan program offers a range of flexible repayment options to meet borrowers' varied financial circumstances. The most common loans in this program are the **Stafford Subsidized Loan** and the **Stafford Unsubsidized Loan**. Subsidized loans are awarded to students on the basis of financial need. You will not be charged any interest before you begin repayment or during authorized periods. Unsubsidized loans are not awarded on the basis of need. You'll be charged interest from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full.

NON-FEDERAL TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

AMERICAN INDIAN TUITION WAIVER

This waiver eliminates tuition costs charged to a qualifying undergraduate student making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). However, it does not waive any other charges (i.e. fees). A completed FAFSA with a Student Aid Index (SAI) that is less than the student's overall Cost of Attendance is required. Students who have already submitted documentation and received the waiver do not need to reapply.

https://www.msubillings.edu/finaid/forms/Indian_Tuition_Waiver_App.pdf

TRIBAL HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Each tribe awards Tribal Higher Education Funding based on its own criteria and standards.

- Call your Tribal Higher Education office for eligibility and deadlines **(see page 8)**.
- Tribes require the MSU Billings Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships to complete a Needs Analysis Form.

NOTE: We recommend that you submit this form at least two weeks prior to the tribal deadline.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Incoming freshmen and new transfer students must be admitted to the University or City College campus before completing the scholarship application. The MSU Billings General Scholarship Application is available to both incoming and current students. Native American students are also encouraged to fill out the American Indian College Fund scholarships.

https://www.msubillings.edu/scholarships/

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS: IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

FALL

october

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens for the following academic year (Fall and Spring).

november

MSU Billings General Scholarship Application opens November 1st for the following academic year.

december

File your FAFSA at MSU Billings by December to receive priority funding.

Cobell Scholarship opens December 15 for the following academic year.

SPRING

january

The Native Forward Scholars Fund opens on January 1st for the following academic year.

february

Submit your MSU Billings Scholarship Application by February to be considered for priority scholarships.

The American Indian College Fund scholarship opens on February 1st for the following academic year.

march

Cobell Scholarship closes March 31st.

may

Submit your American Indian College Fund application by May 31st to receive priority funding.

MSU Billings General Scholarship Application:
https://www.msubillings.edu/scholarships/

American Indian College Fund:
https://collegefund.org/students/scholarships/

Cobell Scholarship:
https://cobellscholar.org/

Native Forward Scholars Fund:
https://www.nativeforward.org/

NATIVE FORWARD SCHOLARS FUND

COBELL SCHOLARSHIP

AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND
EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

FINANCIAL AID FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN

Yellowjacket Excellence Scholarship (YES)

MSU Billings is proud to offer the Yellowjacket Excellence Scholarship, a financial pledge to benefit **incoming first-year students** beginning college.

Our financial commitment to you depends upon your unweighted high school GPA and automatically renews for those who remain **full-time**, **degree-seeking**, and are **making satisfactory academic progress (SAP)**. Funding of this commitment is contingent on the completion of the general application and required documentation/transcripts.

To be considered for the YES, students must:

- Submit an application for admission (complete with GPA on the Self Report Form).
- Submission of final high school transcripts are required to confirm the high school GPA and scholarship before Fall classes begin.

University Campus

3.95+	3.949-3.65	3.649-2.85
$3,000	**$2,000**	**$1,000**

City College Campus

3.95+	3.949-3.65	3.649-2.85
$1,500	**$1,000**	**$500**

**Awards listed are for the academic year, annually, beginning in Fall*

Montana 10 Scholars Program

Are you eligible to become a MT10 Scholar?

- Be a Montana resident
- Complete a FAFSA and be Pell-eligible
- Be a first-time undergraduate or transfer student with fewer than 24 credits
  **not including dual enrollment or AP courses*

Financial Support: Scholarship, textbook stipend, monthly incentives

Purpose & Belonging: Individualized advising, career development, orientation, Freshman seminar

Academic Momentum: Full time schedule, corequisite math & writing, tutoring

For those who are interested in joining the program, please contact the MT10 office directly to schedule time to review your eligibility.

: (406) 657-1649
: MT10@msubillings.edu

OTHER RESOURCES

TRIO Student Support Services

TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) provides holistic and student-centered services, resources, and educational opportunities that support and improve graduation rates for eligible students. Support and encouragement are offered in a number of ways. We work towards the removal of barriers inhibiting academic completion, model acceptance and respect for all, and cooperate with faculty, staff, students, and community agencies to foster student success.

First-Generation	Low-Income	Documented Disabilities
Students are eligible to apply if neither of their parents or legal guardians have a 4-year bachelor's degree.	Students are eligible to apply if they are considered low-income based on federal government standards.	Students are eligible to apply if they have a documented physical, learning, mental, or emotional disability.

TRIO SSS aims to offer a "one-stop shop" of services to program participants at MSUB University campus and City College campus.

- **Academic Assistance:** Meet with a TRIO SSS Academic Counselor for pre-advising, assistance registering for classes, midterm grade evaluations, attend college success workshops, get assistance transferring, and applying for graduation.
- **Mentoring:** Our peer mentors provide support, help develop study skills, increase financial literacy, address personal concerns, and much more.
- **Tutoring:** Receive attentive tutoring for TRIO SSS participants only, for several math, science, and writing classes among many others.
- **Office equipment:** Print, scan, and copy documents and get all kinds of school supplies like notebooks, highlighters, etc. for FREE!
- **Resource Library:** TRIO SSS members can check out select textbooks, tech devices like calculators and audio recorders, as well as adaptive equipment including SmartPens, CPens, and more for FREE.

. . . and so much more!

I AM GOING TO COLLEGE
www.SupportMontanaStudents.org

November 8th is recognized as National First-Generation Celebration Day. This day celebrates students who are, or will be, the first in their family to attend a college or university after high school. The goal of this event is to create a culture of support for first-generation students and share the stories of those who have taken the journey before them.

Native American Achievement Center

"HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

MSUB has established two outreach centers to reach and engage Native American students. The first is the Native American Achievement Center (NAAC) on the university campus and the second is an extension of the NAAC, on the City College campus.

The NAAC is located on the west side of campus. The structure is a two-level house with a full basement. It has a number of offices and work areas for the Director, Program Coordinator, work-study students, students, families, visitors, and community members. There are four computer stations, two of which are new for student use and a large meeting room for the All Nations Club (ANC) and American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL) chapter. The lower level has a laundry room for student use. The family room is for parents and young children for daytime use. The backyard offers a playground, garden, and sweat lodge area. On the second level, there is a drum room where the NAAC/All Nations Drum and the tribal flags from each Montana Indian reservation are displayed.

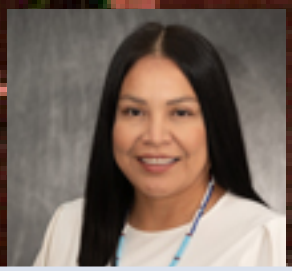
NAAC is an integral part of many major cultural activities on campus, including:
- Pre-Orientation for new incoming freshman and transfer students
- Monthly Sweats
- Smudging Area
- Native American Heritage Week
- Indigenous Peoples Day
- The Annual American Indian Heritage Day
- American Indian Heritage Month
- Annual MSUB Powwow
- Honoring Our Graduates

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS
NATIVE AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

Montana United Indian Association

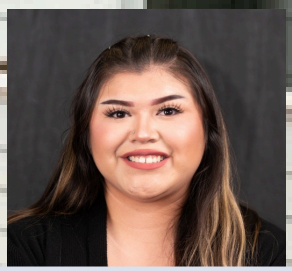
BOOK STIPEND

Nicole Leahy, WIOA Counselor
404 N. 31st, #105 Billings, MT 59101
Office: (406) 315-3413 Ext. 104
Fax: (406) 315-3414
nicole@muia74.org



Sunny Day Real Bird
Director of American Indian Outreach
sunnyday.realbird@msubillings.edu

Randy Bear Don't Walk
Native Success Coordinator
randy.beardontwalk@msubillings.edu



MarLynn Cloud
Native Student Financial Aid Navigator
marlynn.cloud@msubillings.edu

Fall 2024 Native American Student Program Enrollment

COLLEGE OF
Health Professions & Science **38**

COLLEGE OF
Liberal Arts & Social Sciences **88**

COLLEGE OF
Business **44**

COLLEGE OF
Education **18**

MSU Billings awarded nearly $45,000 in scholarships to our Native American students in Fall 2024

CITY COLLEGE
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY BILLINGS

BUSINESS **11**
TRANSPORTATION **5**
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY **3**
INDUSTRY **14**

NURSING &
HEALTH OCCUPATIONS **39**
FIRE SCIENCE **1**
GENERAL STUDIES **9**

Blackfeet Nation Higher Education Department
Browning, Montana 59417

#9 Old Person Street
406-338-7539

Crow Tribe Education Department
Crow Agency, Montana 59022

Gary H. Dawes, Higher Education Coordinator
gary.dawes@crow-nsn.gov
P.O. Box 159
406-679-1276

CSKT Education Department
Pablo, Montana 59855

Miranda Burland, Scholarship Officer
miranda.burland@cskt.org
P.O. Box 278
406-675-2700 Ext. 1074

Fort Belknap Higher Education Program
Harlem, Montana 59526

Treytin Stiffarm
656 Agency Main St.
406-353-2466 Ext. 8376

Fort Peck Tribes Department of Education
Poplar, Montana 59255

Goldie Red Eagle, Education Assistant
gredeagle@fortpecktribes.net
P.O. Box 1027
406-768-2394

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Education Department
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Darlene Hamilton, Counselor
darleneh@rangeweb.net
P.O. Box 307
406-477-6770

St. Labre Indian School
Ashland, Montana 59004

David Charpentier, Scholarship Coordinator
dcharpentier@stlabre.org
406-860-0429

Stone Child Education Department
Box Elder, Montana 59521

Amanda Belcourt, Scholarship Officer
abelcourt@stonechild.edu
8294 Upper Box Elder
406-395-4269

Montana Little Shell Chippewa Tribe
Great Falls, Montana 59404

frontdesk@lstribe.org
511 Central Ave W
406-315-2400

NATIVE AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT CENTER

2630 NORMAL AVENUE | BILLINGS, MT 59101 | 406-657-2182 | FACEBOOK.COM/MSUBNAAC/