



Sealaska Scholarship Program Guidelines

Academic Year 2017-2018: **August 1, 2017** through **July 31, 2018**; or beginning with fall term and ending with the spring term. To qualify for funding, courses must take place during this time frame.

The Sealaska Scholarship Program, which is administered by Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) awards academic scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and vocational studies at accredited institutions based on the SHI Scholarship Policy and the following eligibility and guidelines:

Deadline

- Online application must be complete with all required documentation uploaded by **March 1, 2017**. Applications cannot be finished after the **March 1, 2017** deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Official transcripts must be received by SHI by **March 1, 2017**. Copies, faxes and transcripts sent by students will not be considered.

NOTE: SHI recommends that applicants request an official transcripts immediately as they often take a week or more to obtain. More often applicants are denied scholarships because the transcript was not received by SHI by the **March 1, 2017** deadline.

- Students who upload applications and all required documentation by **February 1, 2017** will receive an early bird incentive of \$50 added to their award.

Eligibility

In order to qualify, individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Alaska Native as defined as "Native" under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 43 U.S.C. 1602(b).
- Enrolled to Sealaska Corporation, OR are Native lineal descendants of Alaska Natives enrolled to Sealaska Corporation whether the applicant owns Sealaska Corporation stock or not.
- Accepted and enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution.
- Enrolled to attend on a full-time basis as defined by the education institution which you are attending (typically 12 credits or more for two consecutive terms for undergraduate, and 9 credits or more for graduate students).
- Have a GPA of 2.0 for undergraduate, and 3.0 for graduate.

New Applicant and Continuing Student Requirements

Official Transcripts

- Official Transcripts/Transcript Request Receipt must be received by SHI by **March 1, 2017**. Copies, faxes and transcripts sent by students will not be considered.
- Applicants who have not yet attended college must submit their official high school transcript and Grade Point Average (GPA), or GED test scores.

- Continuing college students, including those who previously attended college but are not currently attending, must submit their official transcript of all college coursework and cumulative GPA for the last completed school term.

Reference

- The online reference must be completed by a non-family individual, teacher or employer who is familiar with your personal abilities and goals.
- The online reference must be completed in order for your application to be complete.

Multiple Questions

- The student must complete the multiple questions included in the application by **March 1, 2017**. You may consult general publications on Northwest Coast cultures or online sources including the Sealaska, Sealaska Heritage Institute and the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indians of Alaska websites.

New Applicant Required Documents

Shareholder Identification

- Photocopy of your Sealaska shareholder identification card or stock certificate, OR, if qualifying as a descendant, photocopy of the parent or grandparent shareholder identification card or stock under whom you qualify. If your grandparent is the sponsoring shareholder, you must also submit a copy of your parent's birth certificate who is the child of your grandparent to demonstrate lineal descendency.

Native identification

- Photocopy of your certificate of Indian Blood from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, OR
- Photocopy of your tribal enrollment card from a federally-recognized Alaska Native tribe showing your blood quantum.

Photocopy of your Birth Certificate

- Photocopy of your birth certificate. If your grandparent is the shareholder, you will also need your parent's birth certificate. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL.** (Birth cards are NOT accepted.)

Renewal Limits

- Each renewal is competitive, and recipients must reapply each year.
- Renewal of scholarship awards are limited to the following:
 - Six awards toward a bachelor's degree;
 - Three awards toward a master's degree;
 - Two awards toward a doctorate;
 - Three awards for vocational scholarships
- Renewal is limited to nine years combined.
- Scholarship recipients are eligible for only one Sealaska scholarship award per year.

Selection and Award Criteria

Scholarship awards are based on the following criteria:

- Grades: An applicant's academic performance. A GPA of 2.0 will be required to be considered. (A=4.0; B=3.0; C=2.0; D=1.0; below D=0)
- Class Standing: (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Masters, Doctorate, Voc-Tech)
- Reference by a non-family individual, teacher or employer.
- Multiple Questions demonstrating knowledge of Southeast Alaska Native cultures and history.

Terms and Conditions

1. Submission of Applications

I understand that to qualify for a scholarship I must obtain and complete a current Student Application by **March 1, 2017** (all applications must be completed and submitted online, paper versions will not be accepted).

I understand that applications cannot be completed after **March 1, 2017** and incomplete applications will not be considered for a scholarship award. (You are encouraged to save a screenshot of the submission page of the application after it has been submitted.)

I understand that to qualify for a scholarship that I must order an official school transcript from my school in time for it to reach SHI by the **March 1, 2017** deadline.

I further understand that SHI must receive a completed online Student Application and an official school transcript by the **March 1, 2017** deadline of each year.

I understand that I must reapply each year to be considered for the following academic year. Updated applications for continuing students are available in January from the website at <https://www.mysealaska.com>

I understand that to qualify for the early bird incentive of \$50 added to awards that I must complete the application, including the reference and transcripts, by **February 1, 2017**.

2. Scholarship Award

The award is divided equally into trimester (3) or semester (2) payments.

I understand that the scholarship award is for students who maintain at least a cumulative GPA of 2.0 for undergraduate and 3.0 for graduate.

Students who fall below the required GPA will be placed on probation. Students are given one term to return to 2.0 or 3.0 respectively or higher GPA.

I understand that I must be enrolled for a full-time course load only (typically 12 credit hours undergraduate, 9 credit hours graduate).

Students who fall below full time will have their award forfeited only for the term they are

I understand that I must be enrolled in an accredited postsecondary educational institution, where accredited means accredited by a national accreditation association or the regional accreditation association for the area where the school is located, that is recognized by the Secretary of Education of the United States Department of Education.

3. Grade Transcripts and Certificate of Completion

I understand that immediately upon the completion of each term or semester, I must submit an official copy of my grades/transcripts. Failure to do so will result in the delay of the next terms or denial of next academic year's scholarship payment.

Upon completion of my degree or vocational-technical certificate, I will submit a certificate of completion to the SHI Scholarship Program Office.

4. Notification of Changes and Penalties

I understand that I am responsible for immediately notifying SHI of any changes of school addresses, or enrollment status.

I understand that a \$50 penalty fee may be charged against my award if SHI is required to re-issue another check because of failure to notify SHI of any changes prior to its disbursement of awards. To avoid penalty fees, students must notify SHI in writing of any changes at least two weeks in advance of SHI issuance of checks (see dates below).

5. Appeals

I understand that if I am denied a scholarship award and believe that I have grounds to appeal the process, I must submit a written appeal, by December 1 of the academic year in which the award is made, to the President of SHI who shall respond in writing to the appeal.

6. Important Dates

December 15, 2017	Application becomes available.
February 1, 2017	Early Bird Incentive Deadline
March 1, 2017	Scholarship Application/Documentation Deadline.
May 1, 2017	Scholarship Recipients selected.
August 18, 2017	Fall Term checks mailed out.
November 17, 2017	Winter Term checks mailed out.
December 22, 2017	Spring Term checks mailed out.

