

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN WAIVER AND
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AGREEMENT Effective Date: April 2010**

Purpose

The purpose of the North American Indian Waiver and Scholarship is to encourage North American Indian students to participate in public higher education in Maine. Our goal is to provide sustained support for all UMS North American Indian students who wish to pursue post-secondary study and, in particular, those who wish to obtain a certificate and/or an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree or some other appropriate credential that will serve them personally and professionally as they plan for the future.

Eligibility

This program covers some portion of tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board charges for:

- a. Individuals whose names are included on the current tribal census or who have at least one parent or grandparent who are included on the current tribal census of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet, the Aroostook Band of Micmac, or
- b. Individuals with at least one year of Maine Residency who are included on a current tribal census or who have at least one parent or grandparent included on the census of a state, federal, or provincial North American Indian Tribe. Proof of Maine residency is required for all applicants with the exception of current tribal members of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation, the Houlton Band of Maliseet, or the Aroostook Band of Micmac.

To receive and maintain the waiver and the room and board scholarship, all matriculated students (undergraduate and graduate) must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), apply for financial aid and remain eligible to register for classes each year. To maintain the room and board scholarship, students must show satisfactory academic progress as defined by federal guidelines. For the 2010-2011 academic year, students must file the FAFSA and complete the financial aid process by September 1 to receive the waiver and scholarship for the fall semester and/or academic year or January 1 to receive the scholarship for the spring semester.

Students must notify the UMS Native American Waiver Coordinator of their intentions of either transferring to, or participating in a course on a UMS campus where they are not currently enrolled or, in the case of degree students, matriculated. Students must also contact the coordinator of the campus they will be attending to sign a new agreement letter; a new agreement letter is only necessary when a student is transferring to a new institution. Students must also contact the Financial Aid Office at the new/visiting institution regarding their financial aid.

Tuition and Mandatory Fees Waiver

Tuition and mandatory fees are defined as required fees charged of all students enrolled at the institution and automatically assessed at the time of registration exclusive of travel and accommodation fees related to travel courses. Qualified students, both matriculated and non-matriculated, who are enrolled in academic, credit-bearing courses at the

undergraduate, graduate, or continuing education level at the campuses of the University of Maine System are eligible. Tuition, mandatory fees and campus room and board charges will be paid by a combination of grant, scholarship and waiver resources (depending on eligibility) such that the student has no out of pocket expense for these specific charges. **The waiver will be applied to that portion of tuition, mandatory fees and room and board charges not covered by financial aid.** The total amount a student receives from the North American Indian Waiver and Scholarship Program and from all other educational resources (sources of financial support for the same purpose), whether from the institution or from outside agencies, may not exceed the total cost of attendance. The receipt of other aid may, in some cases, reduce or eliminate the receipt of the room and board scholarship and/or the tuition waiver.

Room and Board Scholarship

1. Summer housing is NOT covered by the UMS Scholarship Program. If a student is enrolled in an academic program that requires the student to be enrolled full time and remain in campus housing, the student is responsible for contacting their campus coordinator or the University of Maine System Office Waiver Program.
2. To qualify for the room and board scholarship, applicants must be **matriculated** students in an undergraduate or graduate degree program within the University of Maine system, enrolled in a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours for undergraduates or nine (9) credit hours for graduate students at USM, or six (6) credits hours for graduate students at UM, and living in a residence hall on one of the campuses of a University of Maine System institution. Room and board charges will be covered **ONLY** during the time period when the student is actively enrolled.
3. An eligible North American Indian student's university bill will be credited with a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees and/or room and board scholarship after initial authorization from the campus staff member serving as Campus Coordinator of the North American Indian Waiver and Scholarship Program, the approval of the UMS Coordinator at the Wabanaki Center, the completion of all necessary paperwork for the financial aid application and financial aid award.
4. The total amount a student receives from the North American Indian Waiver and Scholarship Program and from all other sources of financial support from outside agencies for the same purpose may not exceed the total cost of attendance.
5. Room charges will be subsidized at the double occupancy rate for the student's residence. Charges for single, double single, or computer or telephone devices, for which there is a separate charge, will be the responsibility of the student tenant.
6. Standard meal plan will not exceed the cost of the maximum meal plan.
7. Students who maintain a permanent private residence, other than the parent's home, within commuting distance of the university are NOT eligible for room and board scholarships.
8. Persons employed by the University of Maine System on a half-time or greater basis and who are carried on the University employee payroll are NOT eligible for the room and board scholarship.

Appeal Process

A student dissatisfied with a decision regarding the waiver and/or scholarship may, within six months of the date of the decision, ask the UMS Coordinator for a statement of reasons for the denial. The applicant may then respond to what s/he contends are the factual or legal errors in the statement of reasons. If the UMS Coordinator does not change the decision regarding the applicant based on the applicant's response, the applicant may submit all materials to the UMS Executive Director of Student Affairs for final review. The UMS Executive Director of Student Affairs may change the decision only upon a showing of clear factual error or a misapplication of the governing Program Agreement. For other appeals (e.g., academic issues, financial aid, housing, billing, etc.), North American Indian students will use the appropriate campus appeals processes.

Misuse of the Program

The UMS Native American Program Coordinator has the authority to investigate improprieties in the use of the North American Indian Tuition Waiver Program. If the Coordinator determines misuse of the Program, s/he has the authority to suspend, temporarily and/or permanently, an individual's eligibility for the North American Indian Tuition Waiver Program and Room and Board Scholarship.

Agreement

I have read and agree to the above terms of this program. I understand that the Campus Coordinator has the authority to deny the North American Indian Waiver and/or Room and Board Scholarship based on academic or disciplinary action by the campus.

Student (Print Name)

Student (Signature)

Student Id (EMPL ID) Date

Campus Coordinator, North American Indian Waiver & Scholarship Program

Date