

## Affordable Ivy

The Ivy League institutions are committed to making education accessible to all students, including Native American students, through comprehensive financial aid programs. Eligibility for financial support is primarily determined by demonstrated financial need, and each university employs a need-blind admissions process, ensuring that a student's financial situation does not influence admission decisions. This approach is designed to promote inclusivity and equal opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds.

### **Dartmouth:**

<https://home.dartmouth.edu/financial-aid>

Dartmouth College is committed to Native American education, reflecting its historical founding mission. The college offers need-based financial aid to Native American students and is dedicated to meeting 100% of demonstrated financial needs. Dartmouth's average scholarship for the class of 2028 was \$72,720. Additionally, there is zero parent contribution and no loans for families with annual income below \$125,000. Dartmouth has a significant Native American community, comprising 1.01% of its student body representing over 70 tribal nations—the highest percentage among Ivy League schools. The college offers resources through its Native American Program, which focuses on academic support, well-being, community engagement, and personal development.

Dartmouth College's Indigenous Fly-In Program (IFI) is designed for rising high school seniors in the U.S. who identify as Indigenous or have a demonstrated interest in Indigenous communities and/or Dartmouth's Native American and Indigenous Studies Department. The program covers travel expenses, housing, and meals for selected participants, providing an immersive experience of campus life. Established over 30 years ago, IFI has welcomed hundreds of prospective students, offering insights into Dartmouth's academic and social environment.

<https://admissions.dartmouth.edu/visit/visitation-programs/indigenous-fly-program>

They include a tuition estimator that only takes around 5 minutes to complete to give you an idea of the cost of attendance:

<https://admissions.dartmouth.edu/afford/estimate-your-cost>

Raylen Bark, a Cherokee student at Dartmouth, shares her testimony about the financial and institutional support she received during her time there. She highlights Dartmouth's strong commitment to Native American students and emphasizes that she was able to attend with little to no financial burden.

[Jake Tapper '91 on Financial Aid: Meet Raylen Bark '24](#)

**Harvard:**

<https://college.harvard.edu/financial-aid>

Harvard is committed to making education affordable, ensuring that 24% of students pay nothing and over 50% receive need-based scholarships. Families earning less than \$85,000 pay nothing, while those making between \$85,000 and \$150,000 contribute between 0–10% of their annual income. For 90% of American families, attending Harvard costs less than a public university, and financial aid is awarded regardless of nationality or citizenship. Harvard guarantees that students only pay what their families can afford.

Harvard University supports Native American students through the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP), which fosters community and provides resources like fellowships and grants for research, professional development, and conferences. HUNAP also hosts an Indigenous Health Seminar Series and offers advisement for prospective students, including recruitment and admissions guidance. Through these initiatives, Harvard is committed to the academic, professional, and personal success of Native American students.

<https://hunap.harvard.edu/>

**Yale:**

<https://finaid.yale.edu/faq>

Yale meets 100% of the demonstrated need for all admitted students, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Families with annual incomes below \$75,000 and typical assets qualify for a "zero parent share award" — Yale's most generous financial aid package. These awards cover the full cost of tuition and fees, housing, food, and travel with a Yale Scholarship, and qualifying students receive a \$2,000 grant for their first year and hospitalization insurance coverage.

The Native American Cultural Center (NACC), established in 1993, serves as a hub for fostering understanding of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, First Nations, and other Indigenous cultures. The NACC offers programs featuring speakers, artist talks, cultural installations, and dialogues with leading Indigenous scholars to promote awareness and appreciation of Indigenous communities. Additionally, first-year Native students are assigned Peer Liaisons who provide support tailored to the unique experiences of being a Native student at Yale. These Peer Liaisons organize bonding events and offer guidance to help new students navigate university life.

<https://nacc.yalecollege.yale.edu/>

**Other Support Systems:**

## **American Indian College Fund**

<https://collegefund.org/>

The American Indian College Fund, established in 1989, is the nation's largest charity dedicated to supporting Native student access to higher education. Their vision is to provide students with access/successful experiences in higher education within American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The organization provides scholarships and programming to help Native students not only access higher education but also succeed once enrolled. Additionally, the College Fund offers tools and support to ensure students thrive throughout their college journey.

## **College Horizons**

<https://collegehorizons.org/about/>

College Horizons is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the higher education of Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students. Each summer, they offer a pre-college program for high school sophomores and juniors, providing a comprehensive five-day workshop on the college admission and financial aid process. Participants engage with college counselors and admissions officers to research top schools, complete application materials, and develop essential skills like essay writing and interview techniques. The program aims to empower Native students to select and apply to colleges that align with their goals and to secure adequate financial aid.

First things first, get your basic financial aid package started:

The Office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or career school. They offer more than \$150 billion each year to help millions of students pay for higher education. Federal Student Aid, a part of the U.S. Department of Education, is the largest provider of student financial aid in the nation.

To Get the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FASA Click here) <https://fafsa.ed.gov>

OTHER IVY LEAGUE INFORMATION:

[How to Get Into an Ivy League School](#)

Below, you'll find information about the admissions, Native American Programs, and financial aid policies of each Ivy League school.

## **Dartmouth College**

- [Admissions at Dartmouth College](#)
- [Financial Aid at Dartmouth College](#)
- [Dartmouth Native American Program](#)

Dartmouth College's Native American Program (NAP) offers comprehensive support and resources to Native and Indigenous students, fostering community engagement, leadership, education, and advocacy. Community initiatives feature the Indigenous Peer Mentor Program, heritage celebrations like Indigenous Peoples' Month, and annual events such as the Powwow and Lū'au. The Native American House, established in 1995, serves as a central gathering space for the community. Notable events include the annual Indigenous Fashion Show and visits from prominent figures like U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.

### **Brown University**

- [Admissions at Brown University](#)
- [Financial Aid at Brown University](#)
- [Native Americans At Brown](#)

[Native Americans At Brown](#) The Natives at Brown (NAB) student organization welcomes Brown students of any Indigenous background. Serving 50+ community members, NAB stands as a crucial space for all Indigenous students on campus. Their community engagement consists of annual events such as the Frybread Social, the Spring Native Formal, cultural workshops, journalling/movie nights, and weekly General Body Meetings. Our organization is committed to serving the broader Indigenous students at Brown. Brown University's Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative (NAISI) is a cross-disciplinary program dedicated to enhancing understanding of the cultural traditions, histories, political experiences, and contemporary knowledge of Native American and Indigenous peoples.

### **Columbia University**

- [Admissions at Columbia University](#)
- [Financial Aid at Columbia University](#)
- [Native American Council](#)

The Native American Council (NAC) at Columbia University is a student organization representing over 20 Native and Indigenous nations from the Americas and Pacific Islands. The NAC fosters an inclusive community, welcoming all Indigenous students regardless of enrollment status or blood quantum. The council organizes various events, including an annual Powwow, Native American Heritage Month celebrations, and Indigenous Peoples' Day activities. Additionally, the NAC provides resources and information for prospective Indigenous students considering Columbia University.

## **Cornell University**

- [Admissions at Cornell University](#)
- [Financial Aid at Cornell University](#)
- [American Indian Program At Cornell](#)

The American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (AIISP) at Cornell University is dedicated to fostering the education of new generations of Indigenous scholars and leaders. AIISP offers a unique combination of courses, student engagement, and leadership opportunities, providing an academic minor in American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) that immerses students in scholarship grounded in ethical research practices guided by community needs. The goals of Cornell's Native American programs focus on academic excellence, cultural representation, and community engagement. They aim to enhance recruitment and retention strategies to support Native American students in successfully completing their academic programs. A key priority is providing a rigorous and interdisciplinary Native American Studies curriculum that accurately portrays Indigenous Peoples in historical, social, and contemporary contexts while utilizing university resources. Additionally, the program seeks to build a strong intellectual foundation for the resurgence of Native communities and Nations through scholarship and research. Outreach initiatives further enrich the learning environment by fostering meaningful dialogue rooted in Indigenous culture.

## **Harvard University**

- [Admissions at Harvard University](#)
- [Financial Aid at Harvard University](#)
- [Harvard University Native American Program](#)

The Harvard University Native American Program is uniquely situated to bring together students, faculty, and staff from all parts of the University as well as friends and community members from peer schools and the surrounding Cambridge/Boston area. HUNAP is an interfaculty initiative dedicated to advancing the well-being of Indigenous peoples through self-determination, academic achievement, and community service. Its mission encompasses education, community building, scholarship, and inclusion, aiming to support Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and other Indigenous students. The program also organizes events like annual lectures, the Indigenous Health & Well-Being Colloquium Series, and the Harvard Powwow to foster community engagement and promote Indigenous culture. Additionally, HUNAP acknowledges that Harvard University is located on the traditional and ancestral land of the Massachusetts people, honoring their enduring connection to the area.

## **Princeton University**

- [Admissions at Princeton University](#)

- [Financial Aid at Princeton University](#)
- [Natives At Princeton](#)

Natives at Princeton (NAP) is a student organization at Princeton University that provides a support network for American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Indigenous students. NAP aims to increase the visibility of Native peoples and foster awareness and understanding of Native and Indigenous issues. The organization brings Indigenous speakers, activists, and artists to campus to engage with the university community. Every November, in collaboration with the Carl A. Fields Center for Equality and Cultural Understanding, NAP hosts Native American Heritage Month, featuring events such as speakers, movie viewings, a fry bread night, and a cultural food night in the Whitman College dining hall.

### **University of Pennsylvania**

- [Admissions at the University of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Financial Aid at the University of Pennsylvania](#)
- [Natives at Penn](#)

[Natives at University of Pennsylvania](#): Originally founded in 1994, is a student organization representing Native students on Penn's campus. NAP undergraduates and graduate students meet with University faculty and staff to increase awareness of contemporary Indigenous issues, attend interschool events such as the All-Ivy Native Conference, work with the Office of Admissions to sponsor recruitment efforts, and host Penn's Annual Powwow every year. Apart from engaging with the Penn community, NAP students also attend events hosted by local tribes and are supported by the partnerships they create within their own communities as well

### **Yale University**

- [Admissions at Yale University](#)
- [Financial Aid at Yale University](#)
- [Yale Native American Cultural Center](#)

#### **Native American Cultural Center Mission**

The NACC strives to maintain a permanent and prominent Native American presence at Yale that incorporates and supports the success of future Native leaders through recruitment, encouragement, mentoring, service, and the fostering of a community that makes Yale the most sought after Ivy Institution for Native American achievement, research and solidarity. The Native American Cultural Center (NACC) at Yale upholds core values that emphasize community, culture, and leadership. It nurtures individual and collective well-being through collaboration, family, kinship, and spirituality while sustaining cultural preservation by recognizing history and responsibility. The center promotes respect through pride, inclusion, and the recognition of diversity, fostering an environment where all voices are valued. Additionally,

it encourages leadership by emphasizing accountability, transparency, assertiveness, and honesty. The NACC welcomes all interested members of the Yale community to attend its events and engage with these principles.

OK, So they want to be considered as an Ivy too...

### **Stanford University**

[Admissions At Stanford](#)

[Financial Aid At Stanford](#)

[Stanford Native American Cultural Center](#)

The Native American Cultural Center (NACC) at Stanford University, established in 1974, serves as a central hub for the university's Indigenous community, which includes over 450 students representing more than 50 tribes and island communities. The NACC is dedicated to promoting Indigenous excellence, leadership development, and wellness by hosting a variety of events, programs, lectures, performances, and discussions centered on Native issues. It provides a welcoming space for students to learn, grow, relax, celebrate, and find support, fostering a strong sense of community among Indigenous-identifying individuals and others on campus.

Stanford University's financial aid program is need-based, ensuring that financial circumstances do not hinder access to education. The university employs a standardized method to assess family finances, determining the expected contribution from both students and parents. If this contribution falls short of covering the total costs, Stanford provides scholarships, grants, or other resources to bridge the gap. For the Class of 2027, the average scholarship and grant amount received by need-based aid recipients is \$70,349, which includes \$62,898 from Stanford and additional funds from federal, state, and private sources. Families who make less than \$75,000 received an average grant of \$92,303. Eligibility for Stanford Scholarship funds is determined by factors such as family income, family size, number of family members in college, and family assets.