

Myths & Realities about Access & Affordability

What do we know about Native American Students in Washington

Higher Education Coordinating Board

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High School enrollment patterns

Native American students drop out of high school at a much higher rate than all students combined.

Class of 2008 Cohort (WA Public High Schools)	Cumulative Dropout Rate (grades 9-12)	On-time Graduation Rate	Cohort Continuing Rate
Native American students	40.8%	47.9%	11.3%
All students	21.4%	72.0%	6.6%

Source: OSPI (2009). *Graduation and Dropout Statistics for Washington, 2007-08*

Postsecondary enrollment patterns

Native American high school graduates in Washington are less likely to enroll in postsecondary education in the year directly after graduation than graduates overall.

Class of 2008 Graduates	WA Public 2-Year	WA Public 4-Year	WA Private 4-Year	WA Other 2/4-Year	Not Enrolled
Native American students	28%	10%	2%	3%	56%
All students	31%	18%	3%	9%	38%

Source: WSU SESRC for OSPI. (Dec. 2009). *Class of 2008: College Enrollment in the First Year after Graduation. Statewide Results*

Undergraduate enrollment patterns

Nevertheless, Native American students as a percentage of all undergraduates tends to mirror the Native American population percent of the state population.

WA State Pop Ages 18-44	Total Enrollment	Public 2-Year	Public 4-Year	Private 4-Year	Private Vocational
1.6%	1.8%	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%	1.9%

Notes: Enrollment includes undergraduate degree/certificate-seeking students from institutions participating in Washington's state aid programs. Excludes students from "unknown" and "nonresident alien" backgrounds. Northwest Indian College included with the Public 2-Year. Sector.

Source: IPEDS fall 2008 enrollment; WA OFM estimates of 2008 state population.

Four Myths & Realities Related to Affordability

Myth 1:

Most Native American students attend part-time and are therefore less likely to qualify for financial aid.

Enrollments show that overall Native American students are not any more likely to attend part-time.

Percentage of degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates attending part-time in:

	All Sectors	Public 2-Yr	Public 4-Yr	Private 4-Yr	Private Voc
Native American students	22%	34%	10%	13%	15%
All students	23%	39%	11%	6%	17%

Note: Sectors include only institutions participating in Washington's state aid programs. Northwest Indian College included with the Public 2-Year sector.

Source: IPEDS, fall 2008 undergraduate degree-certificate seeking enrollments.

Myth 2:

Native American students don't apply for financial aid.

- A national study found that 80% of Native American students apply for any financial aid and 60% for federal financial aid*
- In Washington, Native American students represent more than 2% (2,900) of the needy undergraduate students receiving aid**
- In Washington, Native American students received a higher percentage of grants & scholarships than the total need-based population (64% versus 55% overall)**

*Institute of Higher Education Policy with American Indian Higher Education Consortium and American Indian College Fund. (February 2007). *The Path of Many Journeys. The Benefits of Higher Education for Native People and Communities.* Washington, DC: IHEP.

**Unit Record Report data as submitted by institutions, 2008-09.

Myth 2: (cont.) Native American students don't apply for financial aid

- Nationally, 82% of Native American students received financial aid compared to 76% of all students – the average aid received, \$9,500, was not measurably different than the average for all students, \$9,900.*
- The national patterns are mirrored in Washington
- Native American students receive more “outside scholarships” – 15% of their grants/scholarships compared to 5% for all students*

	Received Aid	All Aid	Grants /Scholarships	Loans
Native American Students	60%	\$10,300	\$6,600	\$3,500
All Students	48%	\$10,900	\$6,000	\$4,600

Source: HECB URR for financial aid data; IPEDS for fall 2008 enrollments.

*Devoe, J., Darling-Churchill, K. & Snyder, T. (Sept. 2008). *Status and Trends in the Education of American Indians and Alaska Natives*. Washington DC: US Department of Education, NCES. Based on full-time, full-year students only.

Myth 3:

Some cultures are averse to taking out loans and therefore don't borrow for education.

- Nationally, Native American students were as likely as all undergraduates to receive subsidized and unsubsidized loans and the average awards were about the same.*
- However, in WA, Native American students are less likely to borrow than students overall: 49% compared to 59%.**
- About 34% of the total aid for Native American students was in the form of loans compared to 42% for all students.**
- Some schools (including NWIC, Seattle CC District, and Centralia College) do not participate in the federal Stafford Loan program.

* IHEP, et al., 2007.

** Unit Record Report data as submitted by institutions, 2008-09.

Myth 4:

Native American students are fully funded.

- Native American students have a slightly higher average “unmet need”: \$2,323 compared to \$1,945 for all students.*
- Many factors may contribute to the “unmet need” of Native American students.**
 - Higher percentage are independent (68%)
 - More than half of recipients were age 24 or older
 - More than 1/3 have children
 - Tend to be lower-income on average
 - Average income for Independent students \$16,636

*Unit Record Report data as submitted by institutions, 2008-09.

**Unit Record Report data as submitted by institutions, 2007-08.

American Indian Endowed Scholarship

Created in 1990 to establish a partnership among the American Indian community, the state, and the private sector to support these students in higher education.

- State set aside nearly \$300,000 which was matched in private donations
- From interest earnings, 7 scholarships of \$1,000 & 1 scholarship of \$2,000 each year (students apply for renewals)
- Priority for upper division, graduate & professional students
- 258 scholarships awarded through 2008-09

These are the findings of a research study on Native American students and financial aid conducted by HECB staff.

- The findings were presented in a session at the Pathways Conference held in SeaTac on Feb. 18, 2010.
 - The Pathways Conference was the culmination of a larger study on Native American students completed in 2009 titled *Pathways for Native American Students: A report on colleges and universities in Washington State*.*

* Institute of Higher Education Policy in collaboration with the American Indian Higher Education Consortium and the American Indian College Fund. (February 2007). *The path of many journeys. The benefits of higher education for Native people and communities*. Washington, DC: IHEP.