FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who/what is the Department of Education?
The CPN Department of Education was established in October 2016. We provide an accessible entry point for college-bound CPN students in search of individualized college advice, scholarship help, or internship information, regardless of age or location. The department consists of a Director, two College Advisors, and an Internship Coordinator. One of our department’s major responsibilities includes administering the consolidated Tribal Scholarship via its online Education Portal.

How do I contact the Department of Education?
The best way to reach us is through email at college@potawatomi.org. You can also call us at 405-275-3121.

Why is the scholarship application process changing?
We want to make the process as streamlined and easy as possible for the students. Instead of completing three separate applications, students will only need to complete one application.

Why is there only one scholarship now?
Previously, there were three scholarships available to CPN students. After careful analysis, we decided to consolidate them into one scholarship available in the fall, spring, and summer semesters, and to set a standard amount based on full- or part-time status. Each semester, full-time students will receive $2,000, and part-time students will receive $750. Furthermore, the scholarship will be accessible via one easy-to-access, online application. These changes will make it easier on our students, and the CPN’s creation of a new, centralized Department of Education, which staffs a team dedicated to helping tribal members get the help and support they need to achieve their educational goals, will streamline the scholarship process as well.

How do I submit my application online?
Students can access the portal at portal.potawatomi.org. Users will be prompted to login using their Google or Facebook account (which we recommend so that you do not forget your password), or if preferred, you can create your own login. After completing your student profile, you will click on “Apply for New Scholarship” and provide the requested information and the three required supplemental documents (previous semester grades, proof of enrollment, and first page of taxes). After submission, students can log on at any time to check the status of their application.
Can I still receive the Tribal Rolls, Housing, and Higher Education Scholarships?
The Tribal Rolls, Housing, and Higher Education Scholarships have now been consolidated into one award, the Tribal Scholarship. For this reason, the Tribal Rolls, Housing, and Higher Education Scholarships no longer exist.

Do I have to fill out the application every semester?
Once you have completed your profile on the Student Portal, you will only need to update your current information each semester. This will save you from having to enter the same information each time.

Is this scholarship only available for undergraduate studies?
The scholarships cover everything from an Associate’s degree and beyond, including graduate studies.

What if I’m pursuing a technical degree or certification?
Scholarships for vocational and technical studies will be handled by the CPN Employment and Training Department, who can be reached via telephone at 405-878-3854.

Who will receive this scholarship check?
Checks will be made co-payable to both the student and the university and will be mailed to the address identified by the student on the portal.

How does this affect me taking summer courses?
Actually, it benefits students and encourages them to take classes year round. Previously, the housing scholarship was not offered during the summer, and students who were earning their associate degrees did not qualify for it. Now, they can apply for this scholarship and use it toward any degree (associate or higher) to cover whatever costs are incurred.

Will my scholarship amount change on how I am billed?
No, previously, students only received scholarships for the amount billed, whereas we will pay $2,000 or $750 regardless. $2,000 is for full time students and $750 for part time students. If the scholarship is more than the bill you owe the school, cash it out and use it for books, technology, housing, etc.

I may be receiving less money now. How am I able to offset that cost?
While the majority of students will receive more funding, we realize that, as a result of our setting the full-time scholarship at $2,000, some students (full-time students who qualified for housing assistance) will not receive as much as they did previously. However, students now have access to advising and internship support that they didn’t previously, which should result in additional benefits and scholarships. Specifically, the CPN Department of Education College Advisors can help students to identify outside scholarships that will reduce students’ college costs.