

**Cherokee Nation  
College Resources  
Scholarship Policies**

**Citizenship Eligibility**

Scholarship applicants must be citizens of the Cherokee Nation.

**Institutional Eligibility**

Cherokee Nation scholarships may be utilized at any accredited public or private higher-education institution. Proprietary (for-profit) institutions, non-accredited institutions, and preparatory academies will not be funded. The Directory of Higher Education and other sources will be used to make this determination.

**Degree Eligibility**

Cherokee Nation scholarships may be used to obtain approved undergraduate and graduate degrees. Applied Science degrees, excluding the field of Nursing, will not be funded. Certificate and licensing programs will not be funded.

**Academic Eligibility**

Recipients of the Cherokee Nation Scholarship must make satisfactory academic progress toward an undergraduate or graduate degree. In order to ensure academic progress the following guidelines must be met.

**First**, students are required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average.

**Second**, students are required to complete (pass) a minimum number of credit hours per semester, future scholarship awards will be based on the hours earned during the previous semester (full-time, or half-time).

These two requirements are summarized in the following charts. Failure to meet **both** of these minimum academic standards will result in the loss of scholarship eligibility.

**Grade Point Average Requirement**

Each student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average to remain eligible for the scholarship program.

Scholarship	Minimum Cumulative GPA
Undergraduate Scholarship	2.0
Graduate Scholarship	In good standing with college/university
Directed Studies	3.0
Valedictorian/Salutatorian ( <i>One-Semester Award</i> )	3.5

### Satisfactory Completion of Semester Hours Requirement

Students must also complete and pass a minimum number of credit hours per semester in order to remain eligible for the scholarship program. The proceeding semester's funding will be based on the amount of hours earned for the previous semester. If a student applies for full-time and drops courses or fails to earn sufficient hours he/she will be funded at part-time for the next semester. Cherokee Nation will fund only at the full-time and part-time status. A schedule with less than full time but meeting the minimum hours to be earned will be considered part-time. If a student falls below half-time status he/she will be placed on suspension.

Scholarship	Minimum Number of Semester Hours
Undergraduate Scholarship	6
Graduate Scholarship	3
Directed Studies	Full Time Only
Valedictorian/Salutatorian ( <i>One-Semester Award</i> )	Enrolled in at least 6 hours

### Financial Eligibility

All scholarship recipients must demonstrate financial need. Financial need will be based on the final information provided from the FAFSA Student Aid Report. Eligibility is summarized in the chart below.

*\*\*Please note that Estimated Family Contribution is NOT Annual Gross Income. It is a number calculated by the Federal government when students complete the FAFSA.*

### Undergraduate Funding Levels

<b>Pell Funding Level/Estimated Family Contribution/Other scholarships, etc.</b>	<b>Full Time Award Amount</b>	<b>Part Time Award Amount</b>
<b>Max Pell \$2500 or above</b>	\$500 per semester	\$250 per semester
<b>Pell Funding from \$1500-\$2499</b>	\$1000 per semester	\$500 per semester
<b>Pell Funding \$1-\$1499</b>	\$2000 per semester	\$1000 per semester
<b>Tribal College and University Students</b>	\$500 per semester	\$250 per semester
<b>Students with Full Tuition, Room and Board Scholarships</b>	\$500 per semester	\$250 per semester
<b>FAFSA Estimated Family Contribution of \$30,000 or greater</b>	Not Eligible	Not Eligible

### Graduate Funding Levels

<b>Estimated Family Contribution/Other scholarships, etc.</b>	<b>Full Time Award Amount</b>	<b>Part Time Award Amount</b>
<b>Tribal College and University Students</b>	\$500 per semester	\$250 per semester
<b>Students with Full Tuition, Room and Board Scholarships</b>	\$500 per semester	\$250 per semester
<b>FAFSA Estimated Family Contribution of \$29,999 or below</b>	\$2000 per semester	\$1000 per semester
<b>FAFSA Estimated Family Contribution of \$30,000 or greater</b>	Not Eligible	Not Eligible

### Residency Eligibility

All scholarship recipients (except Pell-eligible undergraduate students) must have a permanent address inside the Cherokee Nation proper or contiguous counties. For these boundaries, please see map in Appendix A. Pell-eligible undergraduate students are eligible without regard to residence. Incarcerated students are not eligible.

### Application Requirements

All scholarship applications are required to be complete and submitted by the established deadline. Missing or falsified information will result in denial of scholarship. A list of required documentation will be included with each application. Each scholarship applicant must complete the FAFSA and print or e-mail a Student Aid Report to be considered for a scholarship. Some students may need a parent signature on the FAFSA, which may delay the status of the SAR for 3-5 days. In these instances (with proper documentation) the SAR may be accepted as complete.

If a scholarship is awarded, the Cherokee Nation must receive a signed award letter by the established deadline to ensure funding. Failure to submit an award letter in a timely manner may result in denial of the scholarship application.

### **Limit on Number of Semesters or Credit Hours**

Students are eligible for funding for 8 semesters or 140 credit hours whichever comes first. Students may request additional semesters by making application to the Appeal Committee.

### **Self Help Requirements**

#### *Undergraduate and Graduate*

Recipients of the Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship are required to volunteer one hour of service to the Nation (Cherokee Nation) or a non-profit entity for every \$100 they receive in scholarship funding. Official written verification will be required. (Example: \$2,000 per semester = 20 community service hours.)

Self Help service must be completed at a non-profit entity, individual family (other than the student's immediate family members), or at Cherokee Nation. Self Help Service should benefit Cherokee communities, citizens, elders & disabled to the extent possible. For residents of the Nation, projects and entities within the Cherokee Nation boundaries are preferred.

Self Help Service must be hands-on community involvement focused on humanitarian functions. (Acceptable examples: Food pantry, clothing closet, soup line, and disaster cleanup.)

Self Help service cannot be completed with immediate family, a family owned/operated organization, or with an organization in which an immediate family member is employed. Self Help service cannot be completed with an organization in which the student is employed.

Incoming freshman may use participation in a college-readiness camp (Rookie Bridge Camp, ROCK Camp, Fish Camp, etc.) as 5 hours of their community service. Upperclassman may volunteer for these programs as a mentor to receive 5 hours of community service.

Study skills, time management, or other related workshops may be utilized for Self Help service hours. Contact your scholarship advisor for the number of community service hours to be awarded.

Enrollment in selected Cherokee classes may count as fulfillment of Self Help hours.

If a student is involved in two or more student organizations, 4 hours of community service will be awarded.

Students who do not complete the required number of community service hours will be suspended from the program.

Self Help Service hours must be performed in the semester awarded.

A self-help verification form must be submitted by the student before receiving an award for another semester.

### *Directed Studies/Nursing*

Directed Studies and Nursing participants must work for the Cherokee Nation for a minimum of two years after completing their degree program. An employment commitment agreement must be signed as part of the award.

### **Funding Priorities**

Should the number of eligible, timely applicants exceed the amount of funding appropriated for scholarships, applications may be prioritized based upon class ranking (senior, junior, sophomore and freshman), followed by GPA.

### **Denial, Probation and Suspension**

#### **Falsification of Information**

Any information or back-up documentation provided to the Cherokee Nation that is found to be falsified in nature will be considered grounds for scholarship denial/suspension. Scholarship recipients that have falsified information will also be required to pay back the total of all scholarship monies received.

#### **Denial**

An applicant may be denied based on not meeting the minimum requirements, submitting late or incomplete applications, falsifying information, not returning a signed award letter, or availability of funding.

#### **Probation**

##### *Academic*

First time applicants not meeting the minimum GPA requirements will be awarded on scholarship probation for one semester. Students remain eligible for the scholarship during their probationary period. Continuing students that fail to meet the GPA requirements for the prior

semester will be placed on scholarship probation for one semester. Students remain eligible for the scholarship during their probationary period.

## **Suspension**

### *Academic*

At the end of the probationary period, if students fail to earn a minimum cumulative GPA in accordance with the chart in the Academic Eligibility Section, they will be placed on scholarship suspension. While on suspension, students are not eligible for any Cherokee Nation Scholarship program. Once a student's cumulative GPA meets the minimum requirements the student may reapply.

*Please note: Scholarship probation and suspension are separate from academic probation and suspension as provided by an educational institution.*

### *Self-Help*

Students who do not perform or report their self help hours will be placed on suspension. While on suspension, students are not eligible for any Cherokee Nation Scholarship Program. A student may reapply during the next available application cycle once self help hours are completed.

## **Appeal of Denial, Probation or Suspension**

A student with extenuating circumstances may appeal a denial, probation or suspension by submitting a written appeal to the Cherokee Nation College Resources Office within 15 calendar days of the date of the adverse decision. Appeals must explain in detail why the student failed to meet the minimum academic standards, what extenuating circumstances caused the failure, and how the situation has since improved.

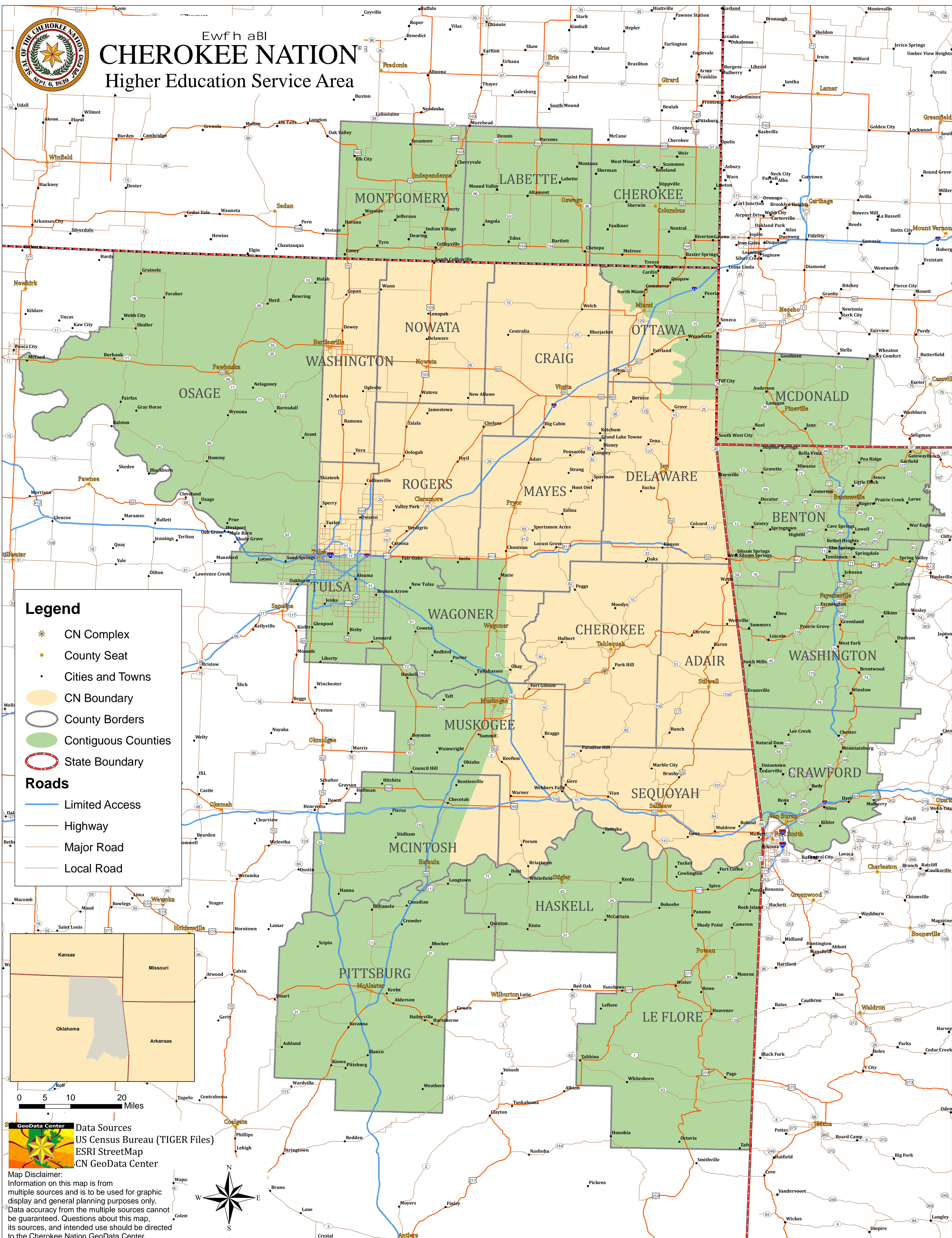
Examples of extenuating circumstances include illness, medical issues with immediate family members, or a death in the immediate family. Personal or financial issues with family, friends, or roommates are not considered extenuating circumstances.

The appeal should include supporting documentation to substantiate the request for reinstatement. The appeal and all supporting documentation will be reviewed by an Appeal Committee. The results of the appeal will be mailed to the student within ten working days of receipt of the appeal. Appeal Committee determinations will be final.



# CHEROKEE NATION

## Higher Education Service Area

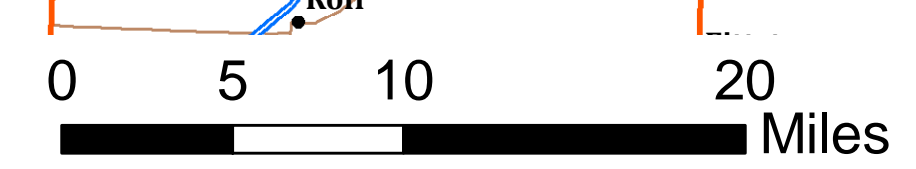


### Legend

- ★ CN Complex
- County Seat
- Cities and Towns
- CN Boundary
- County Borders
- Contiguous Counties
- State Boundary

### Roads

- Limited Access
- Highway
- Major Road
- Local Road



**GeoData Center**  
Data Sources  
US Census Bureau (TIGER Files)  
ESRI StreetMap  
CN GeoData Center

Map Disclaimer:  
Information on this map is from multiple sources and is to be used for graphic display and general planning purposes only. Data accuracy from the multiple sources cannot be guaranteed. Questions about this map, its sources, and intended use should be directed to the Cherokee Nation GeoData Center.

