

**SHERWOOD VALLEY BAND OF POMO INDIANS
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

VISION STATEMENT

Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians (SVBPI) is committed to supporting tribal members in the pursuit of their higher education and valuing education as a lifelong process that is an integral part of our community and pride in our Pomo heritage.

I. PURPOSE

To ensure that SVBPI Tribal Members maintain access to education assistance today and in the future. We will accomplish this by maintaining an education committee who will advocate for members and assist in providing ongoing support for students.

II. POLICY

Depending on funding availability, SVBPI will provide financial education assistance to tribal members enrolled for classes at an Accredited University, Community College or Trade/Vocational School. The dedicated money in the education fund shall revolve back into the education fund.

III. ELIGIBILITY

- Enrolled member of the SVBPI
- Good standing with Education Assistance Program, i.e. Current with education payback
- Acceptance to an Accredited University, Community College or Trade/Vocational School
- Up to completion of a Bachelor's degree or trade school completion

IV. REQUIREMENTS

- Completed Grant Application
- A brief written summary of what you hope to accomplish by furthering your education
- Maintain a cumulative 2.0 grade point average
- Submit class schedule each semester, quarter or session
- Submit final grades at completion of each semester, quarter or session

V. ASSISTANCE PER ACADEMIC YEAR (24 units maximum)

- Up to \$1500 for full time University students -or- \$125 per unit for part time students, per semester
- Up to \$840 for full time Junior College students -or- \$70 per unit for part time students, per semester
- Up to \$1500 for Trade/Vocational School students, payable to institution

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

Each student is responsible for submitting final grades no later than forty-five (45) days after the completion of the semester to the designated representative.

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VII. ACADEMIC PROBATION

Academic probation allows a student one semester to complete required previously funded units with no assistance to stay in financial good standing on future education grants. Students who fail to complete required units and/or the 2.0 grade point average requirement shall be placed on academic probation and must request support from the SVBPI Education Committee to help identify alternative sources of financial aid. Students may request reimbursement for additional earned credits (Not to exceed 12 units) during academic probation period upon completion of the semester by submitting final grades.

VIII. DROPPING A CLASS

If a student drops a class, notification must be made to the SVBPI Education Committee to calculate the incomplete portion of their education assistance. Students can repay an incomplete portion of their education assistance to Sherwood Valley Rancheria Fiscal Department at any time prior to the end of the semester. Students can pay unused grant funds for dropped class to avoid academic probation. Students will be considered lower priority applicants in requests for future educational funding until the incomplete portion of their education assistance is paid in full by the student.

IX. DEFAULT ON EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

Education loans must be repaid in full so funds shall be available to other students in the future. Educational assistance will default into an education loan if grades: 1) are not received within forty-five (45) days following the end of the semester; 2) and/or the student's grade point average falls below a 2.0; 3) and/or the student drops classes they were originally funded for and/or fail to communicate circumstances to committee or designated representative. A letter from the SVBPI Education Committee -or- designated representative will be sent to the student informing them they have defaulted on their grant. The SVBPI Education Committee -or- the designated representative will work with the student to develop a plan for repayment. Loans in repayment allow for funds to replenish into the education assistance fund and made available to fund other students.

X. APPEAL PROCESS

Students who believe they have an extenuating circumstance to extend their probation or loan repayment can request an appeal in writing to the SVBPI Education Committee within thirty (30) days of receiving "Notice of Default". The SVBPI Education Committee will review the appeal and submit a response back to the student within thirty (30) days. If the student has a valid grievance against the Education Committee's decision, they can appeal, in writing, to the SVBPI Tribal Council, Attn: Chairman, within ten (10) days of receiving of the "Notice of Default" from the SVBPI Education Committee. SVBPI Tribal Council will decide if circumstances are beyond the control of the student. Approved extensions shall not exceed a semester.