

Scholarship Program Policy

The Cherokee Nation Foundation (CNF) strives to motivate and empower Cherokee Nation citizen students to achieve their higher education goals by providing knowledge, skills and financial resources essential for success. In addition, CNF offers merit-based scholarships for eligible Cherokee Nation citizens who enroll in an accredited two- or four-year postsecondary institution.

Applicants must be a Cherokee Nation citizen with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA, with the exception of the Bill Rabbit Art Scholarships in which applicants may be a member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees. Graduating high school seniors must have a minimum 21 composite ACT score.

Some scholarships may outline additional requirements. See the Opportunities tab for more information.

To receive a CNF scholarship award, students must:

Meet ALL deadlines – NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS.

January 31 – Complete and submit the Cherokee Nation Foundation scholarship application at cherokeemnation.academicworks.com.

June 3 – Complete the post acceptance process through the online application at cherokeemnation.academicworks.com. This includes an updated transcript, proof of enrollment (this can be a letter from the school or a class schedule) for the upcoming FALL semester and the signed scholarship acceptance agreement.

January 6 – Complete the post acceptance agreement through the online application at cherokeemnation.academicworks.com. This includes an updated transcript with the fall semester and proof of enrollment for the upcoming SPRING semester (this can be a letter from the school or a class schedule).

To maintain eligibility for a CNF scholarship award, students must:

Earn a cumulative GPA as defined by their designated scholarship and meet the requirements to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) by the four-year postsecondary institution they attend. If an enrolled student does not meet the SAP and/or GPA requirements, that student is given a one-term grace period and placed on CNF academic probation. Students may still receive a scholarship award if they are on CNF academic probation and meet all other requirements. If an enrolled student fails to achieve or meet the academic requirements for two or more consecutive terms, that student will be placed on CNF academic suspension. Students

must meet all scholarship requirements BEFORE a suspended CNF scholarship will be reinstated.

To renew an eligible CNF scholarship, students must:

1. Renew the CNF online scholarship application and update all information in accordance with CNF application deadlines each year.
2. Maintain a 3.0 GPA.
3. Meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for financial aid at the college or university in which they are enrolled, as defined by that institution.
4. Be enrolled full time, as defined by your college or university.
5. Sign the Scholarship Acceptance Agreement.
6. Continue to meet criteria for the initial award. Renewal students who elect to delay scholarship payments for one (1) academic year are not required to meet initial award criteria for the period of withdrawal (see “Scholarship Award Information”).

Re-applying for a CNF scholarship after loss:

Students who do not renew the CNF scholarship according to this policy are ineligible to receive a CNF scholarship for the ensuing academic year. However, if after losing a CNF scholarship opportunity for a year, the former recipients that have remaining years of eligibility may re-apply as renewal applicants if they have received CNF approval for scholarship delay.

Scholarship Award Information:

1. CNF scholarship amounts are determined by the donor and the foundation. The scholarship values detailed on the application are annual flat rates for students who are enrolled full time for the entire academic year (August–May or September–June). CNF scholarship award amounts may change annually.
2. CNF scholarships are based on a student’s full-time enrollment for the term.
 - a. Undergraduate: students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours each term.
 - b. Graduate: students enrolled in six or more credit hours each term.
3. Universities will return CNF dollars to CNF according to their official institutional withdrawal policy should a student withdraw.
4. CNF scholarship payments will be made directly to a student’s university account. Scholarship payments will be paid per-term basis upon verification of enrollment; completion of all financial

aid requirements; satisfactory GPA and SAP requirements; and verification that the student is not in default on a federal student loan and does not owe repayment on a government grant. The annual scholarship amount will be divided into equal portions for each term during the academic year (two equal portions for semesters, three equal portions for quarters, etc.).

5. CNF scholarships can be used for full-time summer enrollment.

6. CNF scholarship payments may be delayed at the student's request for academic or personal reasons for up to one academic year. Examples include, but are not limited to, study abroad, internships, medical or family emergencies, etc. Students are required to notify CNF before payments are made to institutions. Failure to notify CNF may result in the loss of scholarship, pending an Education Committee decision.

Scholarship Appeal Process

To file an appeal, students must contact CNF Executive Director Janice Randall.

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