

Memorandum of Understanding between the Intertribal Timber Council and the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington

January 1, 2025 - January 1, 2030

The School of Environmental and Forest Sciences (SEFS) at the University of Washington (UW) has had many productive opportunities to provide baccalaureate and graduate school education to Native American tribal members. Many of our graduates have gone on to become leaders in Native American forestry programs in Washington State and beyond. Native American students enrich the quality of education for all UW students by bringing to our campus the knowledge of the history and accomplishments of tribal resource management. We respect and appreciate this contribution. To make SEFS and the UW more accessible to tribal students, we wish to augment to the Intertribal Timber Council (ITC) Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program in order to increase Native American enrollment.

ITC intends to provide \$2,000 awards to selected graduating senior high school students studying Natural Resources, Forestry or Fire, \$3,000 awards to selected college students, graduate students or graduating college seniors applying/accepted for grad school studying Natural Resources, and \$4,000 awards to selected college students, graduate students or graduating college seniors applying/accepted for grad school studying Forestry or Fire.

Individuals selected for an ITC scholarship who:

- *declare an undergraduate major or graduate program in SEFS at the UW;
- *are ranked as meritorious by the SEFS Scholarship Committee;
- *are eligible for resident tuition

will receive, subject to availability, supplemental SEFS scholarship funds to cover full in-state tuition, less student-required fees, for at least two quarters. Depending on other opportunities, such as availability of graduate Research Assistantships or other types of funds, including scholarship funds, additional quarters may be provided. It is expected that awards announced each spring will be directed to a quarter or quarters in the following academic year.

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28B.15.0131 establishes that Native American students who meet the following two conditions are eligible to pay resident tuition at colleges and universities in Washington State:

1. For a period of one year immediately prior to enrollment at a state institution of higher education the student must have been domiciled in one or a combination of the following states: Idaho, Montana, Oregon, or Washington.
2. The student must be a member of one of the federally recognized Indian tribes, as determined under Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, whose traditional and customary tribal boundaries included portions of the state of Washington, or whose tribe was granted reserved lands within the state of Washington.

SEFS's academic programs can be reviewed through this portal, <https://sefs.uw.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions> which also provides a link to graduate study. Programs cover a broad range of areas, including ecology and conservation, environmental horticulture, urban forestry, restoration ecology, sustainable forest management, urban ecology, wildlife science, and bio-resource science and engineering. The sustainable forest management option of the undergraduate program can lead directly into an SAF-accredited Master of Forest Resources program.

Communication is key to making this agreement work most effectively to spread available resources to meet our shared goal of increased Native American enrollment in higher education natural resource programs. Because the SEFS graduate student recruitment process occurs in advance of ITC's scholarship decisions, SEFS will, each February, alert ITC's Scholarship Committee chair of any potential qualifying applicants to SEFS graduate programs. Similarly, ITC will by April 1 of each year, alert the SEFS Director of Student and Academic Services of any potential new undergraduate applicants to SEFS programs or any potential qualifying current students in SEFS programs. When SEFS and ITC have each completed their deliberations, a final tally of awards made, including amounts will be shared.



Cody Desautel
Intertribal Timber Council Executive Board

Dec. 5, 2024

Date



Clare Ryan, Acting Director
UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences

Dec. 2, 2024

Date