



COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

Career Development Office

26600 MOHAVE ROAD
 PARKER, ARIZONA 85344
 (928) 669-5548 • Fax (928) 669-5570
 careerdevelopment@crit-nsn.gov

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

CDO HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Congratulations on your decision to continue your education!

The Colorado River Indian Tribes (C.R.I.T.) supports eligible tribal members pursuing accredited college degrees, including Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate programs. Through Tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funding, the Career Development Office (CDO) provides opportunities for students to reach their educational goals with the hope that, upon graduation, they will return and contribute to the continued growth of C.R.I.T.

The Higher Education Program offers financial assistance through BIA Grants and Tribal Scholarships. BIA Grants support undergraduate students with financial need as determined by the Financial Aid Needs Analysis (FANA). Tribal Scholarships support undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students who demonstrate strong academic ability. All awards are based on completed FANA forms submitted by the student's college or university.

VERY IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES:

FALL SEMESTER JUNE 30TH BY 5:00 PM MST

SPRING SEMESTER OCTOBER 30TH BY 5:00 PM MST

*If a deadline falls on a Saturday, the deadline will be the Friday **BEFORE** the actual deadline date.*

*If a deadline falls on a Sunday, the deadline will be on Monday, the **NEXT** business day.*

START DATES MUST BE APPROXIMATELY 60 DAYS AFTER THE SPECIFIED DEADLINE DATE (AUGUST 29, 2026).

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY:

1. Be an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes
2. Be a high school graduate with a 2.25 cumulative grade point average (GPA) or earn a GED certificate with a 45% composite score; Applicants who have taken college courses **ARE REQUIRED** to submit an official transcript with a cumulative GPA of 2.50 from the *last institution attended*; Graduate/Postgraduate students must have earned a Bachelor's degree and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Be admitted and enrolled at an accredited college/university.
4. Apply for all available funding sources. FAFSA (www.fafsa.edu.gov)
5. Be pursuing a professional degree (associate's, bachelor's, etc.).

APPLICANT INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. Complete, sign & date, and submit the application. Please submit accompanying documentation as soon as possible as specified on the checkoff list.
**This must be done every academic year. Applications/documents do not "roll over."*
- B. Complete the top portion of the Financial Aid Needs Analysis (FANA) form located in the application packet and submit it to your institution's Financial Aid Office (FAO). NOTE: Processing times vary and could delay school funding if not received by deadline dates; it is recommended to submit the form early to avoid deadline issues. The applicant is responsible for contacting and communicating with FAO to **decline** all student loans & have **all necessary fees** included on the form. Request in writing childcare assistance from CDO.
Inquire with your FAO for clarification of additional coverages, lab fees, board exams, certifications, special equipment, etc.
- C. Request **ALL** transcript or GED scores to be sent **directly** to CDO from the school; a transcript bearing a raised seal and/or printed on tamper-proof security paper from the institution will be verified as official. **SNAPSHOTS AND SCREENSHOTS OF TRANSCRIPTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** You can mail official transcripts to: **CRIT CDO, 26600 Mohave Road, Parker, AZ 85344**, or Certified E-SCRIPTED Official transcripts are also acceptable; they can also be emailed to careerdevelopment@crit-nsn.gov should your institution have that option. **Students cannot send in electronic Official Transcripts; they MUST come from the school.**
- D. First year students and/or transfer students must submit an acceptance letter from the institution they will be attending. **Continuing students must submit an Enrollment Verification in lieu of an Acceptance Letter**, which is obtainable with either the registrar's office and/or your academic advisor; **a class schedule or billing letter will not suffice.** Enrollment verification confirms your active enrollment/acceptance status in your school's system for the term you are applying for. *Enrollment verification is not enrolling/registering for classes.*
- E. Submit a copy of the **FAFSA Submission Summary**. Fill out a **"Free Application for Federal Student Aid" (FAFSA)** at www.fafsa.edu.gov. After submitting the FAFSA, you will receive the Submission Summary in approximately 10 days via email. In some instances, your institution's Financial Aid Office (FAO) will require a copy of your (parents) 1040 tax forms for **verification**. This will be indicated by *(asterisk) next to your SAI.
Verifications/Reviews may impact your FANA and your overall application. If selected for verification, you will need to contact your institution's FAO.
 °CDO is available to assist in filing your FAFSA; Set appointments with CDO Financial Coordinator.
NOTE ALL students under the age of 24, who are not married or have children will need to file with your parent(s) or guardian(s) W-2s*
- F. **First-year students** must submit a degree outline, which is a listing of all the classes needed to take to complete the program/degree. **Continuing students** must submit a degree plan with an updated audit, tracking student progress and completion of program. **Transfer students** are required to have a current college transfer audit or an outline of how completed credits will transfer to new institution. Outlines/audits are obtainable by contacting your academic advisor or in your student portal.

- G. Submit class schedule for your semester/term/phase including dates, times, and credit hours. **Please be aware, CDO WILL NOT fund any repeat courses, if that course has already been funded by CDO previously.**
- H. Submit a copy of the Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) or Tribal ID card issued by the CRIT Enrollment Office or the BIA Preference Form; *CRIT Enrollment Office can be reached at (928) 669-1240.*

Direct questions to the C.R.I.T. CDO, C.R.I.T. Education Board, and C.R.I.T. Tribal Council can be accessed on the C.R.I.T. website www.crit-nsn.gov.

NO APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNTIL ALL DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY CDO.

It is the student's responsibility to make inquiry regarding the application to verify all documents have been received.

Completed applications are forwarded to the Education Board for recommendation of approval/denial. Then forwarded to Tribal Council for their final action of approval/denial. This process takes approximately 4-6 weeks AFTER the deadline.

NOTE: SHOULD YOU BEGIN YOUR PROGRAM WITHOUT FINAL APPROVAL FROM TRIBAL COUNCIL, YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CHARGES INCURRED.

For more information regarding the Higher Education (HE) Program, please contact CDO.

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All documents can be:

Mailed to:

Career Development
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, Arizona 85344

Dropped off at:

Career Development
1120 W. 16th St.
Parker, Arizona 85344

Emailed to: careerdevelopment@crit-nsn.gov

Our contact information:

Website: <https://crit-nsn.gov/critcareerdev/>

Fax: (928) 669-5570

Office: (928) 669-5548

CDO HIGHER EDUCATION APPLICATION CHECKOFF LIST

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO ENSURE ALL PAPERWORK HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE CRIT CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE BY THE DEADLINE DATE & TIME.

Phone: (928) 669-5548

Fax: (928) 669-5570

Email: careerdevelopment@crit-nsn.gov

Applicant: _____

Program/Major: _____

Institution: _____

Housing Plan: On Campus Off Campus With ParentsONLINE: YES NO

***SCREENSHOTS/SNAPSHOTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Last four of SSN: _____

Start Date: _____

End Date: _____

Student Status: Former Continuing NewDEADLINE: JUNE 30TH OCTOBER 30TH

____ 1&2) CDO Higher Ed. Application

____ 3) CDO Student Agreement

____ 4) CDO Repayment Policy

____ 5) CDO FERPA

____ 6) CDO Authorization of Information

____ 7) CDO Student Responsibility

____ 8) Financial Aid Needs Analysis (FANA)

- Must be submitted by the applicant to the Financial Aid Office to be filled out by the Financial Aid Office(r).

____ 9) School FERPA

- School's form of third-party release of information/consent to release educational records to CRIT CDO.

____ 10) Official Transcript(s) (OT)

-- Must bear a raised seal or be printed on tamper-proof security paper from the school/institution and received in a sealed envelope **directly from the school/institution/E-Script.**

____ 11) Acceptance Letter (AL/Enrollment Verification)

- AL for new programs/first-time students. EV for continuing students in the same program as prior semester(s). EV takes the place of AL for continuing students and confirms active enrollment/acceptance at your school. EV is not enrolling in classes.

____ 12) FAFSA Submission Summary

- You may be selected for verification, which is identified by an asterisk (*) on the first page of the report. If selected, you will need to contact your Financial Aid Office.

____ 13) Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB)

- Submit only once with the first application.

____ 14) Degree Audit/Transfer Audit

- **First-time students** must submit a degree outline (listing of all courses needed for degree). **Continuing students** must submit degree audits (tracking progress of your degree). **Transferring students** must submit a transfer audit (report of accepted credits).

Contact your advisor for outlines and audits.

____ 15) Class Schedule (CS)

- Listing of classes with credit hours, dates, and times.

____ 16) CDO Student Intakes

- CDO will schedule your intake appointment following Tribal Council approval. The intake will complete your application for the current AY.

____ Financial ____ Academic

NOTICE: As a courtesy, if you are leaving your area where IHS services are provided/utilized. Please contact your local IHS Purchased Referred Care (PRC) for coverage options when away at school.



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CDO HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Please fill out the application in its entirety; CDO cannot process any applications with missing information. Then return it, along with the accompanying documentation as specified on the checkoff list.

PERSONAL AND FAMILY INFORMATION

Name: _____ Sex: Male Female SSN: _____
 DOB: _____ Veteran? Yes No Enrolled C.R.I.T. Tribal Member: Yes No
 Currently employed? No Temporary Part-Time Full-Time
 Marital status and spouse: _____ No. of Children: _____
 Maiden name or other known names: _____
 Mother's name and tribal affiliation: _____
 Father's name & tribal affiliation: _____
 Are you a *First-Generation CRIT student? Yes No

*A first-generation CRIT student, is a student whose CRIT enrolled parent (s) did not complete a four-year degree that was funded by CDO. If your parent(s) completed a four-year degree that was funded by CDO, you are not considered a first-generation student.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Permanent home address: _____
 Mailing address: _____

PRIOR EDUCATION INFORMATION

Have you ever been funded by the C.R.I.T. higher education program? Yes No If yes, when? _____
 Last school attended & address: Boarding Public GED Private Other: _____
 Phone: _____ Month & Year of graduation/certification: _____
 Current academic level: Freshman(1-32hrs) Sophomore (33-64hrs) Junior (65-97hrs) Senior (98-128hrs) Graduate

HIGHER EDUCATION INFORMATION

School name and address: 2-Year 4-Year Technical Other: _____
 Phone: _____ School contact representative and title: _____
 Student ID: _____ Student email **REQUIRED**: _____
 Program & major/minor. _____ Online student: Yes No
 Degree track: AA AS BA BS BFA MA MS PhD Start date: _____

***ONCE APPROVED, ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS DONE THROUGH STUDENT E-MAIL. (EDU EMAIL ONLY) ***



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CDO/STUDENT AGREEMENT

This agreement is for the Academic Year 26-27 school year. The student is making application, by and between the C.R.I.T. Career Development Office here in after called CDO, and the student applicant here in after called the APPLICANT/RECIPIENT.

APPLICANT/ RECIPIENT:

- 1) The RECIPIENT shall abide by and comply with the policies of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the eligibility requirements of CDO. Furthermore, the RECIPIENT and/or APPLICANT shall be responsible for reading and understanding his/her rights and responsibilities regarding financial assistance and/or scholarship, including the responsibility to be informed of policies herein.
- 2) The RECIPIENT shall sign the application for scholarship and financial assistance and comply with the stated terms, conditions, and standards to receive the scholarship and/or financial assistance.
- 3) The RECIPIENT shall release their **Official Transcript** information indicating the most recent academic term grade, graduation date, academic major, and type of degree being pursued.
- 4) The RECIPIENT shall immediately report any change in academic enrollment status, withdrawal, and transfer status to CDO.
- 5) The RECIPIENT shall adhere to attendance guidelines of specified programs and maintain eligibility GPA or be subject to academic action, which can impact overall funding/eligibility. **CDO WILL NOT FUND REPEAT COURSES IF ALREADY FUNDED PREVIOUSLY.**
- 6) The RECIPIENT shall notify the CDO of their graduation date and certificate/degree to be conferred.

CRIT CDO:

- 1) The CDO shall place an APPLICANT and/or RECIPIENT on probation/suspension as outlined in the Colorado River Indian Tribes/CDO Policy and Procedures.
- 2) The CDO shall disqualify any APPLICANT from receiving financial assistance if they do not meet the requirements as outlined in the Colorado River Indian Tribes/CDO Policy and Procedures.

By signing this agreement, I shall accept and abide by the conditions stipulated in the terms above and will be bound by the responsibilities and consequences thereof and give permission to CDO to receive my transcripts and financial information.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____



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CDO REPAYMENT POLICY

APPLICANT MUST INITIAL ALL SECTIONS:

I hereby apply to attend the school indicated on this application and agree to follow all rules, regulations, and attendance requirements of the school and will, to the best of my ability, complete the courses that I have selected. If I choose to repeat a course that has been previously funded by CDO, I will pay for that expense out of my own pocket. **Initial:** _____

I further agree that the funds issued to me for educational purposes from the Colorado River Indian Tribes will be used, or repayment will be made back to the Colorado River Indian Tribes - Career Development Office. **Initial:** _____

I understand that if I am eligible for other funds, such as Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), Pell Grants, etc., this will be included when computing my financial aid packet, and I agree to use those funds for the purpose intended. I authorize the school to release grades, attendance, and income verification to the Colorado River Indian Tribes (C.R.I.T.) Career Development Office (CDO). I also understand that I am responsible for following all the rules and regulations regarding the HE Program. **Initial:** _____

*****LOANS*****

I also understand that accepting any student loan is discouraged. If I do accept a loan, my HE award will be reduced by the amount of my loan and returned to the Tribes. **I am aware that if I have accepted a loan, I will be held responsible for full payment. I cannot hold the Colorado River Indian Tribes responsible for any payments.** **Initial:** _____

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR LOANS

I hereby acknowledge consent and have provided the required information and authorize the use of such information to the extent of the use specified.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____



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CDO FERPA

Consent to Release Student Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of aspects of a student's educational record that are not considered 'directory' information. Educational records are considered confidential and will not be released without written consent from the student, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. For this reason, it is necessary for the C.R.I.T. Career Development Office to obtain **WRITTEN** permission *from* a student in order to release academic/financial information not excluded by FERPA laws.

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. The undersigned authorize the release of any academic information to the person(s) listed below. This includes, but is not limited to, class schedule, name of instructors, grades, courses, and financial aid, I have selected for the upcoming semester. The Colorado River Indian Tribes Career Development Office must still abide by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 as to all other requests for student information.

This form will expire on the last day of the current academic year. Annual renewal is required to release academic/financial information to the person(s) specified below.

NAME: Colorado River Indian Tribes Career Development Office (CRIT CDO)
26600 Mohave Road
Parker, AZ 85344
P: (928) 669-5548 F: (928) 669-5570 E: careerdevelopment@crit-nsn.gov

I certify that I have read and understand the Consent for Student Release of Information form.

Student Signature Student ID Number Date

Make sure to retain a copy of this form for your records.

THIS FORM IS NOT CONSIDERED A SCHOOL FERPA.

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge & consent to the release of this information to necessary agencies to complete my financial aid package. I further understand that falsifying any information on this application will deem me ineligible for funding. I declare that I will use any funds received under the Higher Education Program solely for expenses connected with attendance at college/university. The C.R.I.T. Career Development Office Higher Education Program operates under the general authority of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. The applicant should understand that the intent of collecting & maintaining this data on individuals is to determine the eligibility of the applicant to receive funding as required under federal & tribal regulations, and to provide the means for producing certain statistical records required for this office to support the need of Congress to appropriate such funds.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

AS THE APPLICANT, I UNDERSTAND:

- My application will not be reviewed until all appropriate documentation as specified on the checkoff list is filled out in its entirety and returned to **CDO PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE DATE.**

Initial: _____

- It is my responsibility to make inquiries regarding my application to verify the required documents have been received by **CDO PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE DATE.**

Initial: _____

- Any missing documentation will deem my application incomplete.

Initial: _____

- Completed applications are forwarded to the Education Board for the Education Board's recommendation of approval/denial. Then forwarded to Tribal Council for their final action of approval/denial. This process takes approximately 4-6 weeks **AFTER** the deadline date.

Initial: _____

- Start dates must be at least 60 days after the deadline, giving sufficient time for deadline processes.

Initial: _____

- Starting a program without final approval from Tribal Council deems me responsible for any financial charges incurred (prior to final approval/denial by Tribal Council).

Initial: _____

- It is my responsibility to communicate any changes during my funding cycle(s) and to reply to correspondence from CDO and keep scheduled appointments with CDO.

Initial: _____

- I will not receive living expense funding if my residence is within a twenty (20) mile radius of the institution I am attending.

Initial: _____

- I understand if I should need to repeat any course that has been previously funded by CDO, that cost will be at my personal expense, and **WILL NOT** be funded by CDO in the future.

Initial: _____

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____



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STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES **2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR**

All recipients must observe and maintain the following responsibilities to remain in good standing with the (HE) Higher Education Program. If you neglect any of the following, your award may be jeopardized and/or discontinued.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Submit an official transcript at the **END of EACH** quarter/semester/module or phase. A RECEIPT for ordered Transcripts and the current class schedule is required to release subsequent checks for each quarter/semester/module or phase.
- Notify the CDO office of intent to transfer to another institution or of any withdrawals prior to the start of classes of the awarded term.
- Submit a Degree Audit/Transfer Audit/Educational Plan along with your **CURRENT** class schedule.
PLEASE NOTE: Repeat courses, previously funded by CDO, will be at the expense of the student.
- Reapply each academic year by **June 30th** for Fall/Winter/Spring terms OR **October 30th** for the Spring (ONLY) term
- **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:** must maintain the minimum requirements of a 2.50 Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) AND maintain twelve (12) credits or more each quarter/semester/module/phase
- **GRADUATE STUDENTS:** must maintain a 3.00 Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) AND be deemed a full-time student, with nine credit hours or more, or in accordance with the school guidelines for full-time status.
- **REPORT ALL FINANCIAL AID CHANGES OF YOUR FINANCIAL AID BUDGETS/PACKAGES TO CDO FOR REVISION OF AWARDS OR CONSIDERATION OF REVISED FINANCIAL AWARDS.**
- Verify your student account has a ZERO balance; make sure all charges are paid on the school account before spending. Early award check received; you may have school payments that need to be paid before spending on incidental items.
- Check with your school's Financial Aid Office for ANY disbursements you may receive. **CDO does not have any control** over when disbursements are posted to your student account once checks are released to the school.
Check with your Financial Aid Office if you have any questions.

PROBATION & SUSPENSION:

If a student does not comply with the provisions, the actions of the CRIT Education Committee are as follows:

- Student will be placed on academic probation, if the student does not meet the minimum requirements for one quarter/semester/module or phase. If substantial progress is not made during the next semester/quarter, the students' funding may be suspended.
- Once the student funding is suspended, the student will not be considered for future funding until the student, through other funding sources, meets the academic (GPA) and/or credit requirements.

DISCONTINUANCE OF AWARD

The CDO Office may discontinue an award if the student:

- **Fails to comply with the provisions**
- **Fails to disclose information that substantially affects his/her financial situation**
- **Fails to disclose academic status changes**
- **Transfers to another institution without proper approval**

By signing this agreement, I shall accept and abide by the conditions stipulated in the terms above and will be bound by the responsibilities and consequences thereof to comply and maintain my eligibility requirements with the Colorado River Indian Tribes/CDO Higher Education Program.

SIGNATURE

DATE

