



Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Navajo Youth Continue to Persevere, Move Forward

**BY ROSE GRAHAM
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR**

The Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance expresses its appreciation for students' patience as we continue to navigate through the challenges imposed by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

As director of the ONNSFA, a program within the Navajo Nation government, I am proud to report that the youth of the Navajo Nation continue to persevere and are moving forward with their educational endeavors despite seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Since early 2020, students and faculty in higher education have faced countless disruptions. When colleges and universities first responded to the pandemic and turned to remote instruction in March 2020, students were rushed off-campus.

In many cases, students returned to family homes within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation. Many realized they could not make an immediate move online because of the lack of reliable internet or electricity. Yet their schools

ABOVE Virtual ceremonies were held to honor students who earned the Chief Manuelito Scholarship in 2020 and 2021. **TOP L-R** Grey K. Tutt, Tea Scott, Tristan Arviso, Lauren Faith Etsitty, Mia Freeland **CENTER L-R** – Karis Black, Alexander Thomas, Lakeisha Antonio, Ethan Tacheene, Triston Charles **BOTTOM L-R**, Sicilee Silversmith, Melyse C. Begay-Harlan, Tyler Shoni Shurley, Chiara Holgate, Kimball Jared Begay. (Courtesy photos.)

expected them to keep to academic schedules as if nothing had changed.

Early in the pandemic, Chad Hamill, PhD, who was serving as the Vice President of Northern Arizona University's Office of Native American Initiatives, sought support to provide an adequate Wi-Fi signal for students throughout the Navajo Nation. He alerted the ONNSFA of the initiative and we gladly offered technical assistance.

Working with key staff from NAU and the University of Arizona, Dr. Hamill helped to establish Wi-Fi which could be accessed by students in Fort Defiance, Window Rock, Tuba City and Kykotsmovi, Ariz. Eventually, the project included partners such as Diné College and Navajo

See *NAVAJO YOUTH*, Page 14

Inside

2 Data & Statistics

2020-2021 Statistical Profile
Types of Student Funding

3 Student Progress

Degrees/Certificates Attained
Levels of Degrees Sought

8 NM Counseling Licensure

Law Regulating Counseling
Licensure Amended

13 Student Awards

Home Chapters of ONNSFA
Award Recipients

15 COVID-19 Survey

A snapshot of pandemic-related
issues impacting students.

16 Chief Manuelito Scholars

Virtual Celebrations Honor
High-Achieving Students

Apply online at:
www.onnsfa.org

Chinle Agency Office
(800) 919-9269

Crownpoint Agency Office
(866) 254-9913

Ft. Defiance Agency Office
(928) 871-7434

Shiprock Agency Office
(866) 223-6457

Tuba City Agency Office
(866) 839-8151

Central Office
(928) 871-7444

for information & updates:
facebook.com/ONNSFA

ONNSFA Statistical Profile

Calendar Year	2020	2021
No. of Students Requesting Awards: (Students are counted once whether they submit one or more applications during a calendar year.)	13,226	11,924
No. of Students Receiving Awards: (Students are counted once whether they receive one or more awards during the calendar year.)	6,646	5,548
Percentage of Students Funded: (The total number of students awarded from the total number of applicants. Applicants are counted once.)	50%	47%
No. of Students Denied:	6,580	6,376
Denial Ratio of ONNSFA Applicants:	50%	53%
Enrollment Status of Recipients:		
Undergraduate	84%	81%
Graduate	16%	19%
No. of Awards by Funding Source:		
Federal	4,153	3,339
Navajo Nation, Trust, Corporate	5,330	4,884
Total	9,483	8,223
Total Federal Fund Awards to:		
Need-Based Students	\$5,420,590	\$3,971,784
Chief Manuelito Scholars	\$7,060,338	5,802,750
Grand Total	\$12,480,928	\$9,774,534
Chief Manuelito Awards:		
Total No. of Student Awards	1,849	1,744
Total Expended From All Sources	\$9,726,335	\$9,428,340
Percentage From All Sources	37%	41%
Total Funding to:		
Undergraduate Students	20,284,639	17,617,742
Graduate Students	5,647,637	5,582,856
Grand Total	\$25,932,276	\$23,200,598
Average Award to:		
Undergraduate Students	\$3,631	\$3,924
Graduate Students	\$5,328	\$5,277
No. of Students Awarded:		
Undergraduate Students	5,586	4,490
Graduate Students	1,060	1,058

Apply online: www.onnsfa.org

Deadlines to apply:

2022-2023 Academic Year – June 25, 2022
2023 Spring/Winter Term - November 25, 2022

Financial Need-Based Awards

(up to \$2,500 per semester)

Need-based funding is provided to students who demonstrate financial need according to the Financial Need Analysis (FNA) form submitted on their behalf by the school of attendance. Students in this category are deemed not to have sufficient personal or family resources to meet a college's or university's cost of attendance (e.g. tuition, books and housing). Awards of up to \$2,500 per semester or \$5,000 per academic year are provided to students based upon their individual need assessment. Primary funding sources of need-based awards are PL 93-638 funds and Navajo Nation Funds.

No-Need-Based Awards

(\$500 per semester)

No-need-based funding is provided to students, who are deemed to have enough resources to meet the cost of attendance (e.g. tuition, books and housing) at a college or university of their choice.

Chief Manuelito Scholarships

(\$3,500 per semester)

Merit-based scholarships are provided students, who achieve a high grade point average and a commensurate ACT or SAT college test score. Students are required to complete courses in Navajo Language (1 unit) and Navajo Government (1/2 unit) prior to the application deadline to be considered for this scholarship. Full-time undergraduate students may also qualify for the Chief Manuelito scholarship under the 24/3 rule by completing 24 credit hours of college-level courses with a 3.0 GPA. The Chief Manuelito Scholarship is based upon the GPA of college-level courses. Students seeking an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) or Certificate are ineligible. The scholarship is not automatically renewed and students must re-apply each year for continued consideration.

Graduate Student Awards

(\$5,000 to \$10,000 per semester for 9-12 credit hours)

Grant awards are provided to Navajo students seeking graduate-level degrees.

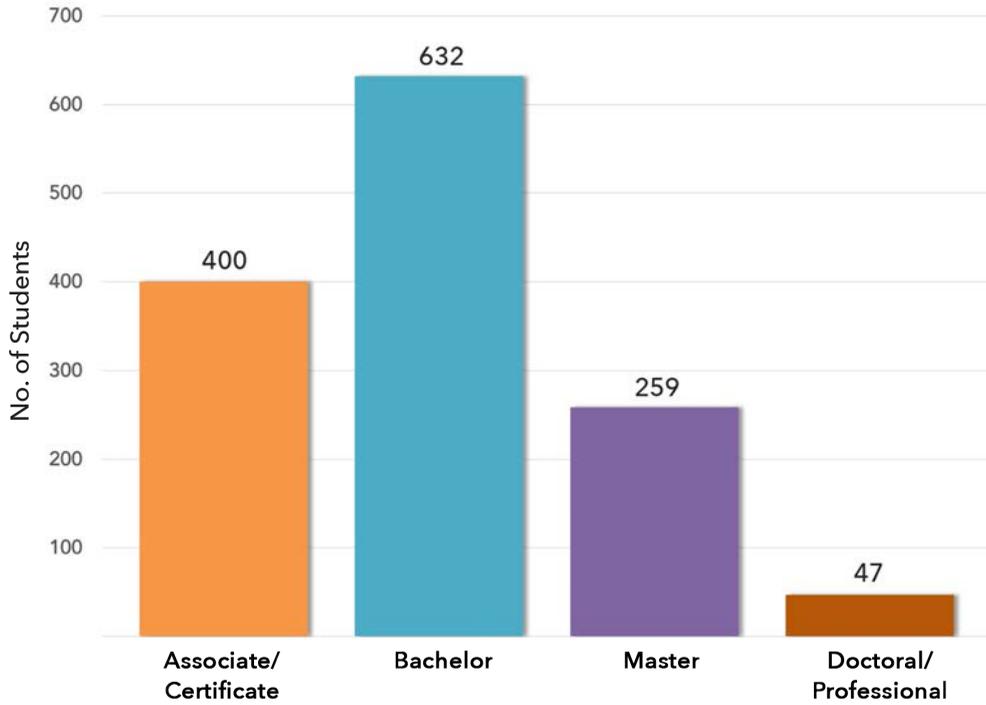
Part-Time Undergraduate and Graduate Awards

(\$500 to \$750 per semester depending on courses)

Funding is available for eligible part-time undergraduate and graduate students. Part-time application requirements and award amounts vary.

Degrees Attained/Pursued by ONNSFA Recipients

1,338 ONNSFA Award Recipients Attain College Degrees or Certificates



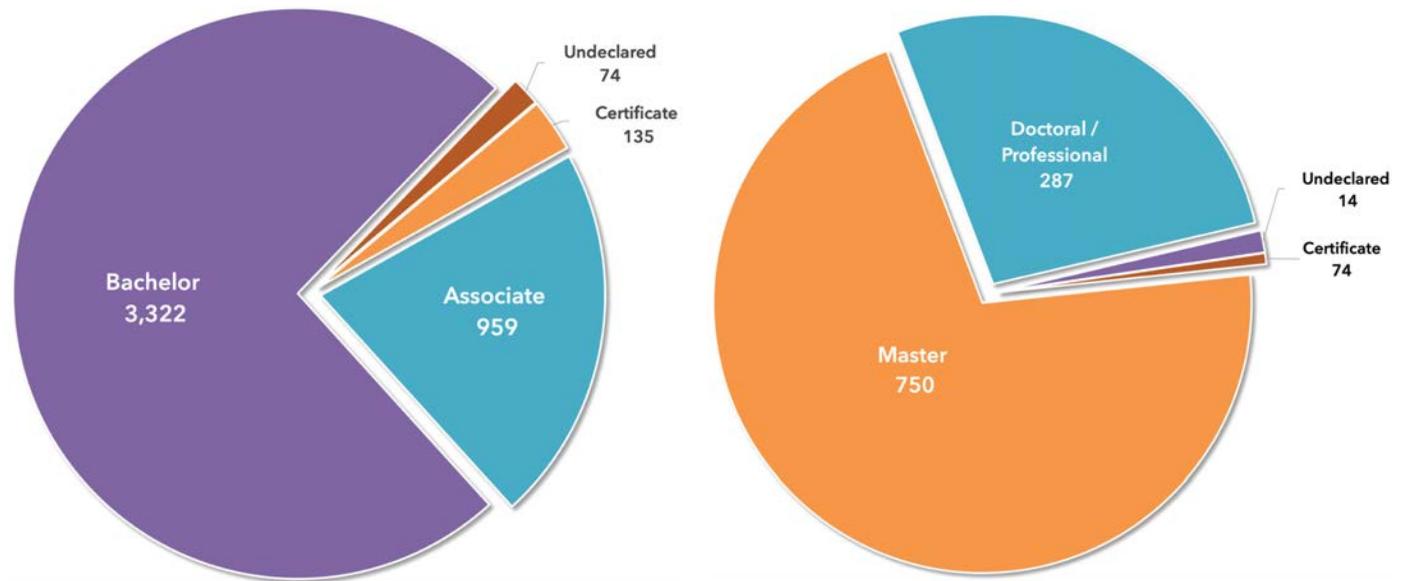
More than a thousand Navajo students persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic and earned a degree or certificate in Calendar Year 2021. It was a noteworthy feat for students as they were forced to pivot from in-person instruction to online classes. In the Spring of 2020, students were forced to deal with numerous changes. Many were hard hit by the pandemic and were forced to be creative to finish their degree programs by 2021.

Data collected from 196 schools, primarily in the Four-Corners area, showed that 1,338 students attained a degree or earned a certificate. Approximately 30 percent, or 400 students, earned an Associate or certificate. Another 47 percent earned a Bachelor's degree, 19 percent earned a Master's degree, and 4 percent earned a Doctoral or professional degree.

Degrees Sought by Class Levels - Undergraduate and Graduate

Eighty-one percent of students awarded by the ONNSFA in Calendar Year 2021 were attempting undergraduate degrees. A total of 4,490 or 74 percent of undergraduates were in a bachelor's degree program. Another 21 percent were in associate degree programs, and 2 percent sought certification.

Graduate students comprised about 19 percent of all students receiving ONNSFA awards. About 71 percent or 750 students were seeking Master's degrees. Another 27 percent or 287 students sought doctoral/professional degrees. Seven graduate students were seeking certification. Fourteen were undeclared.



Undergraduates	# of Students	%
Associate	959	21%
Bachelor	3,322	74%
Certificate	135	3%
Undeclared	74	2%
Total	4,490	100%

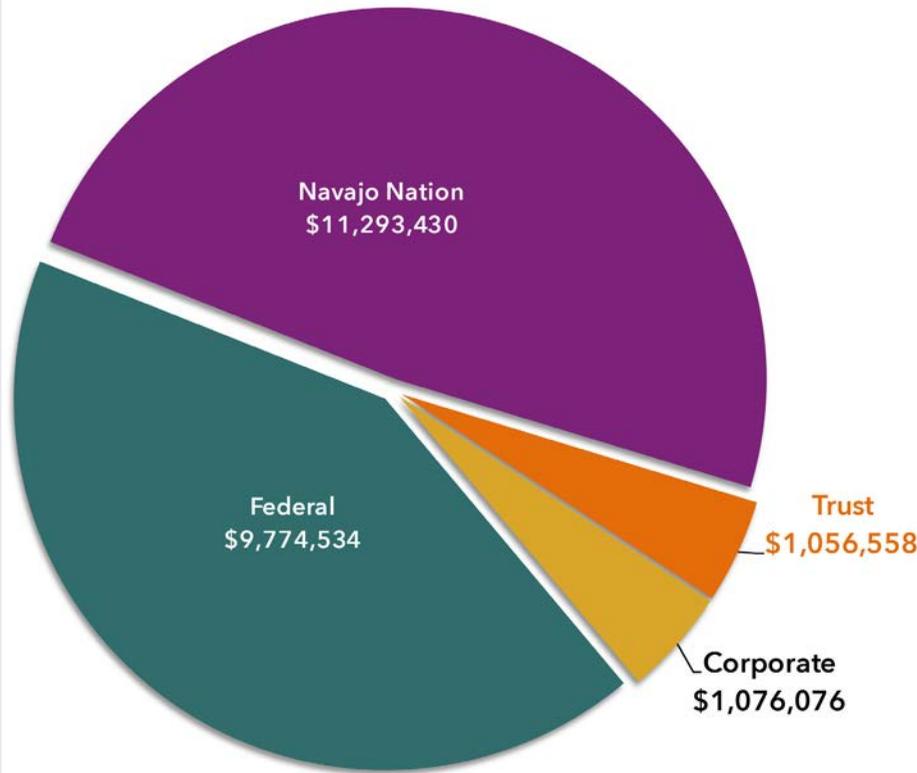
Graduates	# of Students	%
Doctoral	287	27%
Master	750	71%
Certificate	7	1%
Undeclared	14	1%
Total	1,058	100%

2021 Calendar Year Funding Sources

ONNSFA Awards \$23.2 Million in Financial Aid, Scholarships

From January 1 to December 31, 2021, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance awarded a total of \$23,200,598 in scholarships and financial aid.

The total number of students, who received awards from the four funding sources equated to 5,548. The total number of awards made from all funding sources amounted to 8,223. The chart to the right illustrates the proportion of each funding source to the total amount administered by the ONNSFA.



students enrolled in the Navajo Teacher Education program.

Federal Funds (BIA P.L. 93-638)

Total: \$9,774,534

No. of Awards: 3,339

Federal funds, provided through a P.L. 93-638 contract with the Navajo Region Bureau of Indian Affairs, comprised about 42 percent of the funds awarded by the Navajo Scholarship Office. Federal funds are used to award undergraduate students with financial need as determined by the student's Financial Need Analysis and also for merit-based awards to Chief Manuelito Scholars.

Navajo Nation General Funds

Total: \$11,293,430

No. of Awards: 4,086

Navajo Nation General Funds comprised about 48 percent of scholarship funds. These funds are used to provide awards to graduate students, undergraduates and

Trust Funds

Total: \$1,056,558

No. of Awards: 312

Interest revenue from trust funds comprised about 5 percent of funds awarded by ONNSFA in 2021. Policies for trust funds including the Graduate Trust Fund, the Navajo Engineering & Construction Authority Trust Fund, the Vocational Education Trust Fund and Tucson Electric Funds stipulate that "10 percent of the fund [market value] shall be used as scholarship and financial assistance." Interest revenue from these sources fluctuate from year-to-year based upon market value.

Corporate Funds

Total: \$1,076,076

No. of Awards: 486

Contributions from corporations comprised about 5 percent of the total funds awarded by ONNSFA in 2021. Leases with companies including Chevron Mining, Inc.,

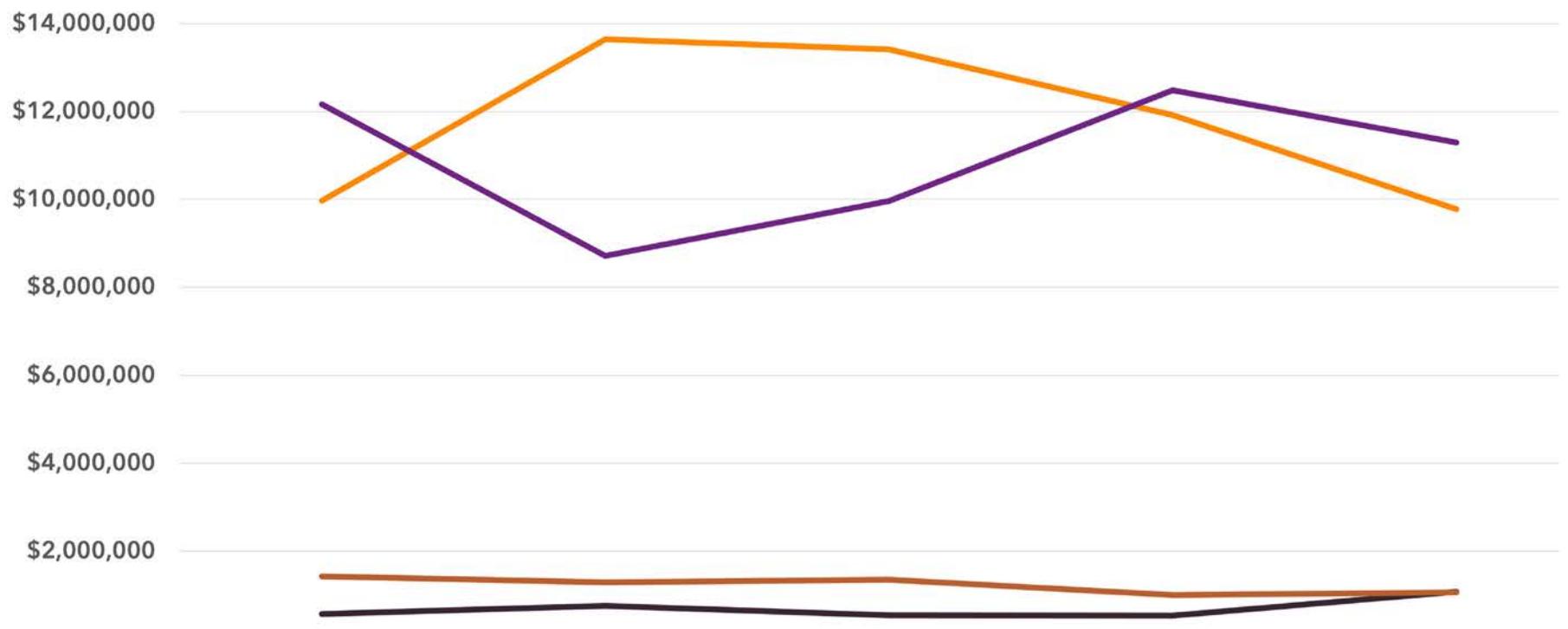
2021 Awards Breakdown	
Navajo Nation Funds	
Chief Manuelito Scholarships	\$2,698,092
Need-Based	\$1,500,814
Sales Tax Revenue	\$2,694,409
Vocational	\$1,187,240
Teacher Education	\$387,418
UA College of Medicine	\$88,965
No-Need	\$9,000
Navajo Nation Grant	\$2,567,066
Fielding University	\$155,000
Diné Bizaad College Fund	\$5,000
Exams	\$426
\$11,293,430	
Federal Funds	
Chief Manuelito Scholarships	\$5,802,750
Need-Based	\$3,962,534
Part-Time	\$9,250
\$9,774,534	
Trust Funds	
Arizona State University Law	\$156,319
University of NM Law	\$133,492
NECA Trust	\$100,500
Tucson Electric	\$44,250
Vocational	\$150,326
Navajo Nation Graduate Trust	\$471,671
\$1,056,558	
Corporate Funds	
Sussman	\$176,663
Chevron/P&M	\$283,000
Dominion Energy/4-corners	\$163,500
Diné Scholarship Annual Fund	\$105,083
Peabody Energy	\$347,830
\$1,076,076	
Total All Sources \$23,200,598	

and Dominion Energy include a provision that companies make a contribution to the scholarship fund. Contributions from private individuals to the Diné Scholarship Annual Fund are also included in this category.

Note: The total number of students awarded from all funding sources (5,548) differs from the total number of awards (8,223) as students may have received awards from a combination of funding sources and are counted in each source.

ONNSFA Funding

2017-2021 Funding By Calendar Years



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Federal	\$9,971,453 41%	\$13,647,552 56%	\$13,414,550 53%	\$11,917,270 46%	\$9,774,534 42%
Navajo Nation	\$12,168,071 50%	\$8,710,026 36%	\$9,964,989 39%	\$12,480,928 48%	\$11,293,430 48%
Corporate	\$565,327 2%	\$751,889 3%	\$542,606 2%	\$531,392 2%	\$1,076,076 5%
Trust	\$1,422,534 6%	\$1,288,322 5%	\$1,350,787 5%	\$1,002,686 4%	\$1,056,558 5%
Total	\$24,127,385	\$24,397,789	\$25,272,932	\$25,932,276	\$23,200,598

Navajo Nation Appropriations for Scholarships Surpass Federal Funding

In 2021, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance awarded about \$23.2 million to 5,548 students. A significant development to note is that Navajo Nation funds have surpassed federal funding amounts for two years in a row.

In 2019, federal funds provided the majority of funds (53 percent) awarded to students by the ONNSFA. Navajo Nation funds provided 39 percent.

In 2020 and 2021, the Navajo Nation's contributions to the scholarship fund increased to 48 percent of the total awarded to students. Navajo Nation funds comprised about 48 percent of all funds used for scholarships and financial assistance.

The increase is primarily due to legislation appropriating a portion of Navajo Nation Sales Tax revenues to scholarships and increases in appropriations from the Diné Higher Education Grant Fund.

Former Navajo Nation Council Delegate Dwight Witherspoon sponsored legislation in 2011, which increased the Navajo Sales Tax rate by one percent and redistributed the taxes to include the Office of the Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance and the economic development fund.

As sponsor of the legislation, Delegate Witherspoon made presentations throughout the Navajo Nation to gain support. Delegate Witherspoon's efforts have resulted in

millions of dollars for scholarships.

Another piece of legislation that continues to provide much-needed revenue for scholarships is CJY-41-12, which amended the Navajo Nation's appropriations to Diné College, Navajo Technical University, and the ONNSFA from \$7.2 million to \$11.2 million. The ONNSFA's portion increased from \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million.

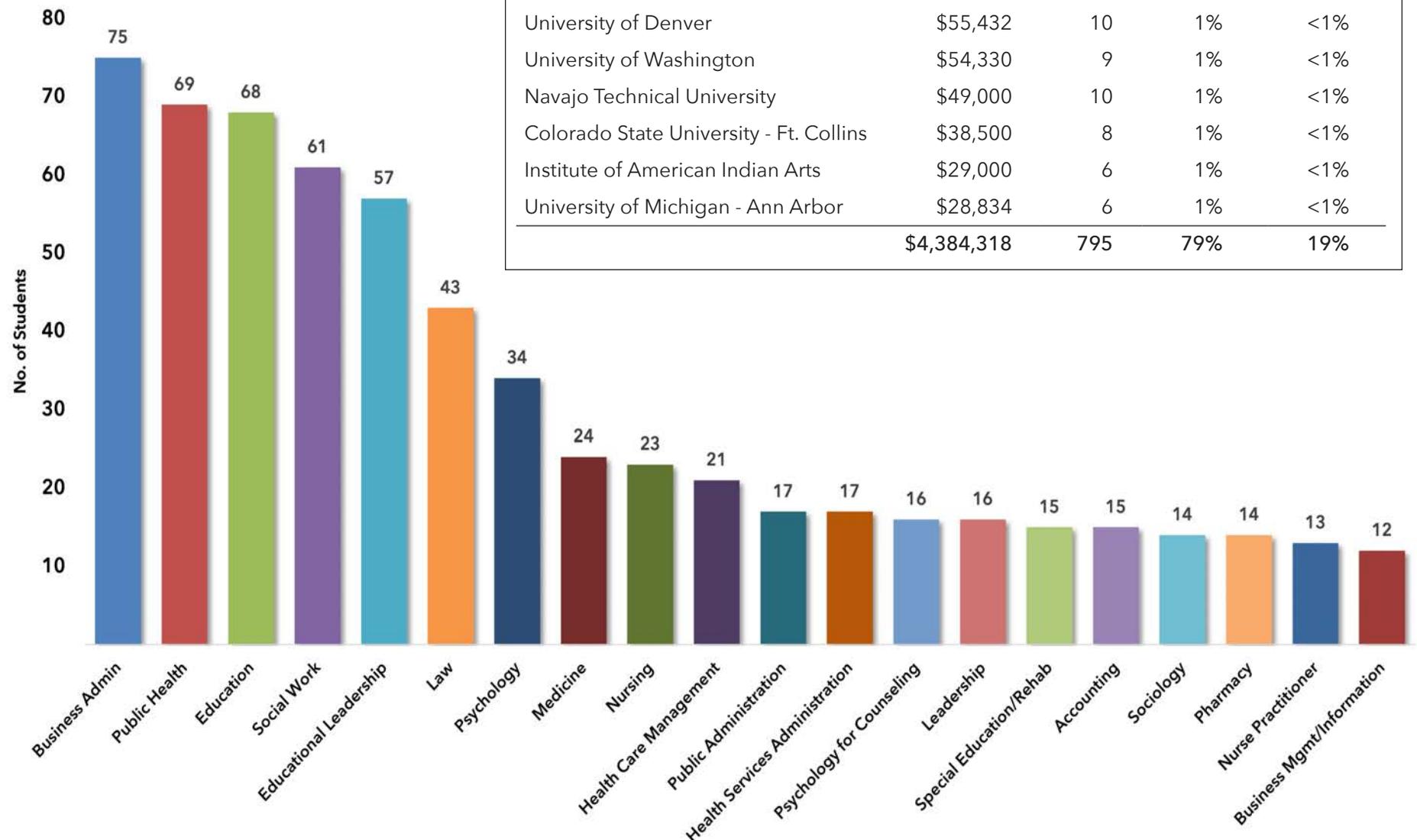
The rising costs of education make it difficult for Navajo students to earn a college degree. The ONNSFA is appreciative of Navajo Nation leadership's commitment to continually increase the amounts available for scholarships for the Nation's youth - a worthwhile investment.

Top Graduate Majors & Institutions

Students Attending 20 Institutions Receive 79% of Graduate Awards

In 2021, a total of \$5,582,856 was awarded to 1,058 graduate students attending 177 schools. Seventy-nine percent of all graduate funding went to 20 schools. Students attending Grand Canyon University received 15 percent of graduate funding.

Seventy-five graduates, or 7 percent of the total number of graduate students (1,058), chose to major in Business Administration. Another 6.5 percent majored in Public Health or Education. Other majors included Social Work, Educational Leadership, Law, Psychology, Medicine, Nursing, Health Care Management, Public Administration, Health Services Administration, and Psychology for Counseling.



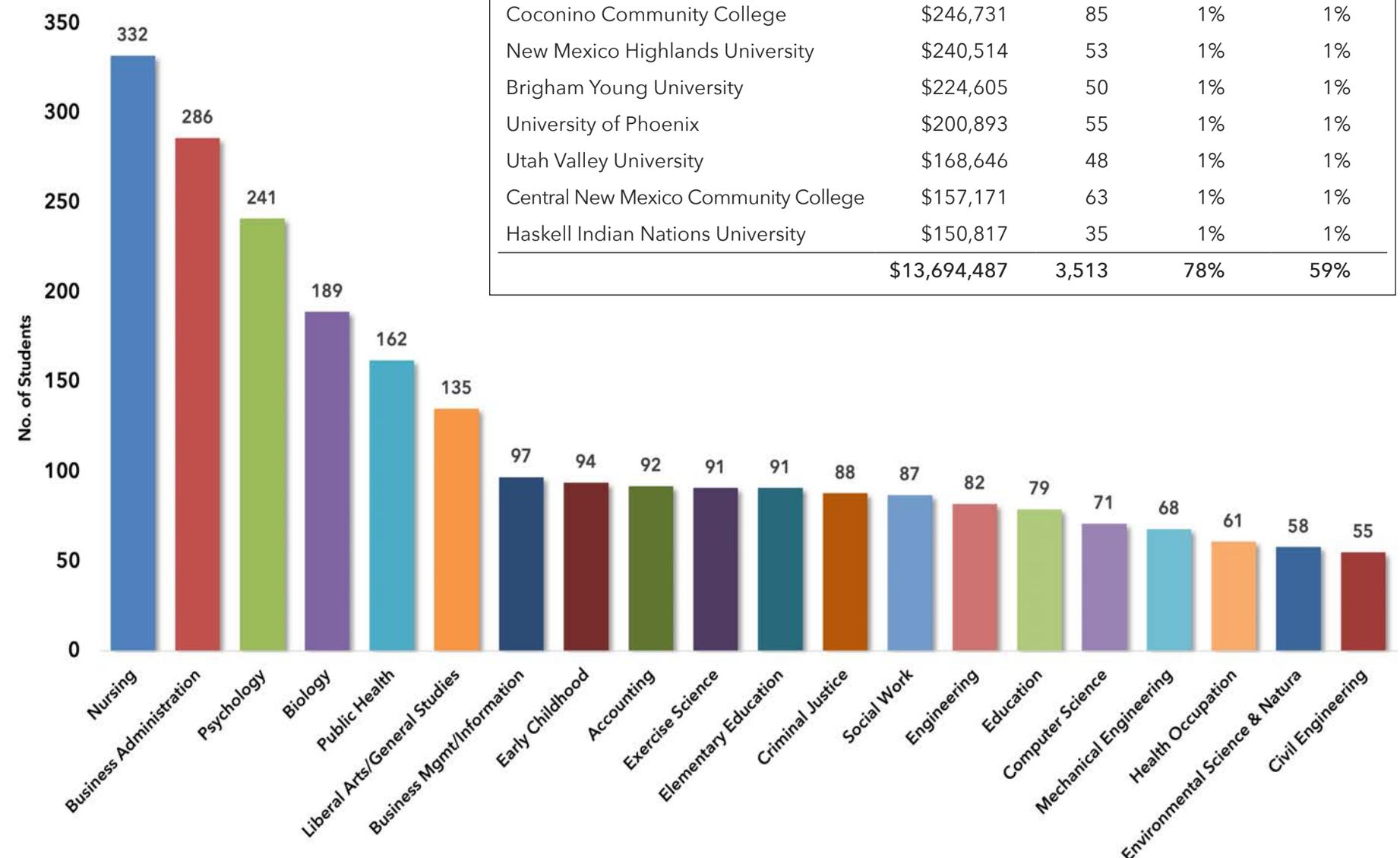
Institution	Total Awards to Graduates	No. of Students	% of Awards to Graduates	% of Total Funding
Grand Canyon University	\$861,966	158	15%	4%
University of New Mexico	\$572,317	103	10%	2%
Arizona State University	\$638,768	104	11%	3%
University of Arizona	\$483,723	71	9%	2%
Northern Arizona University	\$371,500	78	7%	2%
New Mexico Highlands University	\$360,500	71	6%	2%
University of Phoenix	\$224,000	48	4%	1%
Fielding Graduate University	\$173,000	19	3%	1%
University of AZ College of Medicine	\$93,919	10	2%	<1%
University of Utah	\$82,000	14	1%	<1%
University of Oklahoma	\$80,250	17	1%	<1%
New Mexico State University	\$71,529	18	1%	<1%
Fort Lewis College	\$58,250	21	1%	<1%
Western New Mexico University	\$57,500	14	1%	<1%
University of Denver	\$55,432	10	1%	<1%
University of Washington	\$54,330	9	1%	<1%
Navajo Technical University	\$49,000	10	1%	<1%
Colorado State University - Ft. Collins	\$38,500	8	1%	<1%
Institute of American Indian Arts	\$29,000	6	1%	<1%
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor	\$28,834	6	1%	<1%
Total	\$4,384,318	795	79%	19%

Top Undergraduate Majors & Institutions

Students at 20 Schools Receive 59% of All Undergraduate Awards

In 2021, the ONNSFA awarded \$13.6 million to 4,490 undergraduates attending 430 colleges and universities throughout the United States. A majority of students, or 78 percent, chose to attend schools in the Four-Corners area. Students attending Arizona State University received 8 percent of all ONNSFA funding.

A total of 332 undergraduates chose to major in Nursing, 286 in Business Administration, 241 in Psychology, 189 in Biology, Public Health, and 135 in Liberal Arts/General Studies. Less than 100 undergraduates chose to major in areas such as Business Management and Accounting.



Institution	Total Awards to Undergraduates	No. of Students	% of Awards Undergraduates	% of Total Funding
Arizona State University	\$1,949,474	459	11%	8%
University of New Mexico	\$1,640,244	380	9%	7%
Northern Arizona University	\$1,701,654	380	10%	7%
Fort Lewis College	\$1,619,882	410	9%	7%
Diné College	\$1,193,582	344	7%	5%
Navajo Technical University	\$818,780	259	5%	4%
University of Arizona	\$813,488	188	5%	4%
Grand Canyon University	\$617,489	161	4%	3%
Utah State University - Blanding	\$457,791	128	3%	2%
New Mexico State University	\$432,316	94	2%	2%
San Juan College	\$427,791	158	2%	2%
University of New Mexico - Gallup	\$382,296	114	2%	2%
University of Utah	\$250,323	49	1%	1%
Coconino Community College	\$246,731	85	1%	1%
New Mexico Highlands University	\$240,514	53	1%	1%
Brigham Young University	\$224,605	50	1%	1%
University of Phoenix	\$200,893	55	1%	1%
Utah Valley University	\$168,646	48	1%	1%
Central New Mexico Community College	\$157,171	63	1%	1%
Haskell Indian Nations University	\$150,817	35	1%	1%
	\$13,694,487	3,513	78%	59%

Amendments Update Types of Degrees Required for NM Counseling Licensure

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed HB-0178, a bill that removed a significant counseling and therapy licensure barrier for students who complete an Associate of Arts degree on April 7, 2021.

HB-0178, legislation amending the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act, and updated the type of degrees required for students seeking licensure as a Licensed Substance Abuse Associate (LSAA).

The bill, introduced by NM District 5 Rep. D. Wonda Johnson (D-McKinley and San Juan Counties), removed a significant counseling and therapy licensure barrier for students who complete an Associate of Arts.

Rep. Johnson took on the challenge of changing the law after hearing students testify about the challenges they faced in seeking LSAA licensure.

"As we continued to hear more testimony from our students, it was apparent; that this was an injustice for the students, who were denied their credentials and had to reapply. The appeal process took a long time because the board only met four times a year," Rep. Johnson said.

In 2017, Dr. Sylvia Andrew, Professor Emeritus at UNM-Gallup, alerted the ONNSFA of the issue that made it difficult for students completing an AA in Human Services to gain licensure as a Licensed Substance Abuse Associate (LSAA).

Even though students had completed required substance abuse courses, they had to take additional coursework as the NM Counseling and Therapy Practice Board did not include "Human Services" in "coun-



ABOVE Tyrone Kay was among students who initially sought changes in New Mexico's Counseling and Therapy Practice Act. **RIGHT** – New Mexico Representative D. Wonda Johnson introduced HB-178, which gained passage and opened the doors for students seeking LSAA licensure. *Courtesy photos*

seling-related degrees." Instead, the board defined degrees in "Human and Family Studies" as acceptable for licensure.

"The problem was that NONE of the 19 New Mexico colleges and universities that offered two-year associate degrees offered a degree in 'Human Studies.' Of the 19 two-year institutions, six offered an AA in 'Human Services.'" Dr. Andrew said. "Still, because this degree was not among the listed 'counseling-related degrees,' their applications were denied. Students ultimately prevailed, but the process was arduous and time-consuming."

In 2019, Dr. Andrew joined Dr. Bob Phillips, Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell, Professor Jennifer Cady from Central New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM, and Professor Jean Ellis-Sankari from UNM-Taos to find a solution. They determined the language in the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act needed to be amended to include "Human Services" as a counseling-related degree.

Tyrone Kay remembers when he first sought LSAA licensure after attaining an AA in Human Services from UNM-Gallup. "I submitted my paperwork and found out I was short," Mr. Kay said.

The New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Board required him to take an additional class before approving his application.

In 2019, he decided to help other students pursuing a career in counseling and joined the effort to amend the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act.

"It was motivating talking to the representatives to push the bill so future students could get approval to work in McKinley County and the State of New Mexico," Mr.

Kay said. He focused on "clearing the path and moving the mountain" to get the law changed. Since that time, Mr. Kay earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Dependency (Addiction) with a Psychology minor.

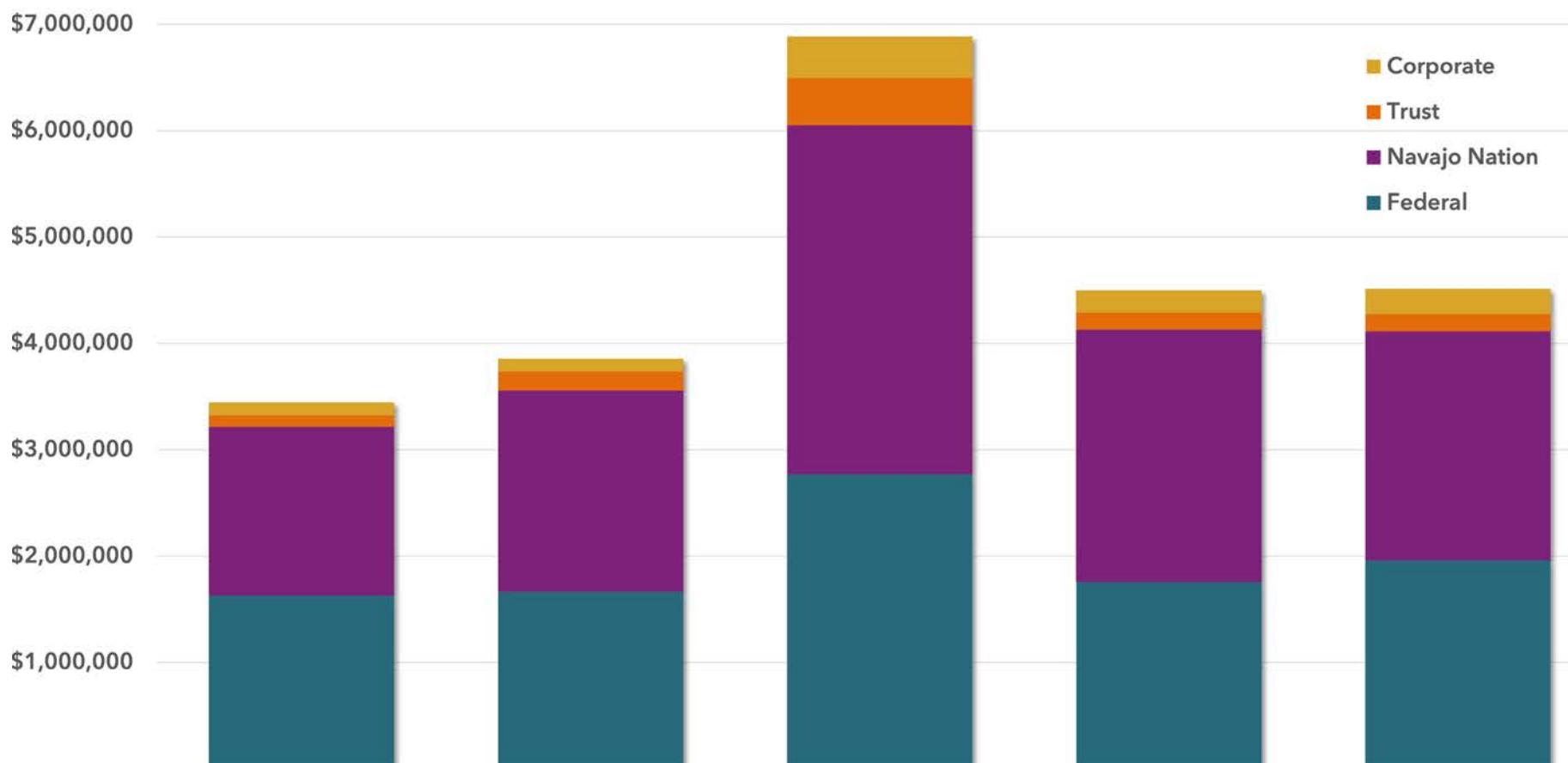
He is currently working on a Master's degree in Mental Health and is also a member of the National Association for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NAADAC). He provides contract work to McKinley and Cibola counties while working on his graduate program.

Rose Graham, Navajo Scholarship office director, said changes to New Mexico's laws regarding LSAA licensure are welcome. "The need for counselors throughout the Navajo Nation is great. It's been a real struggle for students to get through the licensure process."

In 2021, the ONNSFA funded 87 students, including five graduate students, seeking counseling-related degrees at the University of New Mexico, University of New Mexico-Gallup Branch, Central New Mexico Community College, New Mexico Highlands University, and Eastern New Mexico University.

Funding Activity by Agency in 2021

Total Award Amounts by Agency



	Chinle	Crownpoint	Fort Defiance	Shiprock	Tuba City
Federal	\$1,630,383	\$1,664,138	\$2,766,916	\$1,755,721	\$1,957,376
Navajo	1,584,242	1,891,940	3,285,209	2,375,064	2,156,975
Trust	109,416	180,461	442,451	162,730	161,500
Corporate	120,434	120,500	393,955	204,164	237,023
Total	\$3,444,475	\$3,857,039	\$6,888,531	\$4,497,679	\$4,512,874

Number of Awards by Agency

	Chinle	Crownpoint	Fort Defiance	Shiprock	Tuba City
Federal	560	564	961	601	653
Navajo	612	700	1,117	860	797
Trust	46	56	91	60	59
Corporate	51	60	166	104	105
Total	1,269	1,380	2,335	1,625	1,614

2021 ONNSFA Denials

Incomplete Applications, Missed Deadlines Trigger Denials

In Calendar Year 2021, a total of 11,924 students submitted applications to the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance (ONNSFA).

Approximately 47 percent or 5,548 applicants received an award. Another 53 percent, or 6,376 applicants, were denied.

Applicants were denied for several reasons, including:

Incomplete/Missing Documents/ Missed Deadlines

Eighty-eight percent (5,624 students) submitted incomplete applications or failed to provide all required documents by established deadlines.

Withdrawal/Failure to Repay Funds

Four percent or 216 applicants were denied due to outstanding debts to the ONNSFA arising from withdrawing from school without proper justification. All applicants with outstanding debts to the ONNSFA are disqualified.

Not Admitted Into Degree Program

A total of 205 or three percent of applicants were denied due to not gaining admission to a degree program. Graduate applicants are required to submit a regular Letter of Acceptance to the graduate program of study and a Regular Letter of Admission from the graduate university.

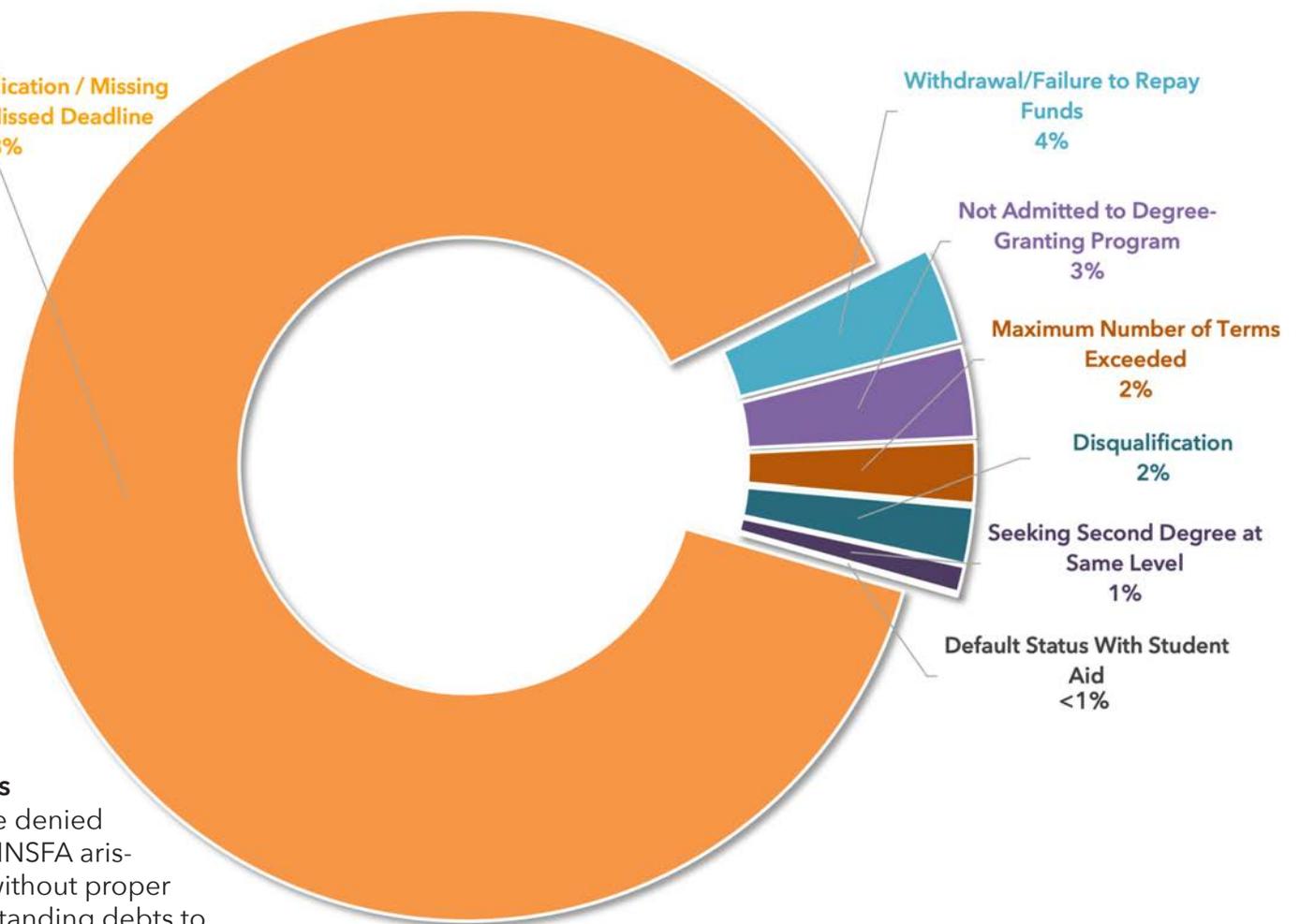
Maximum Number of Terms Exceeded

Two percent, or 137 applicants were denied due to exceeding the maximum number of terms which generally are:

- **Undergraduates:** Ten semesters or fifteen quarters;
- **Graduates:** Five semesters or seven quarters;
- **Two-Year Institutions:** Five academic terms or sixty-four semester credit hours, or an equivalent number of quarter or trimester credit hours.

Disqualification

Two percent or 128 applicants were denied due to violation of the ONNSFA's policies, including not maintaining the required grade point average, repeating courses, or falsifying information.



Seeking Second Degree at Same Level

One percent or 59 applicants were denied as they requested additional funds toward a second undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate degree at the same level.

Default Status With Student Aid

Seven applicants were denied due to default status. Students who default on a federal student loan are ineligible for additional federal student aid.

Other reasons applicants have been denied in past years:

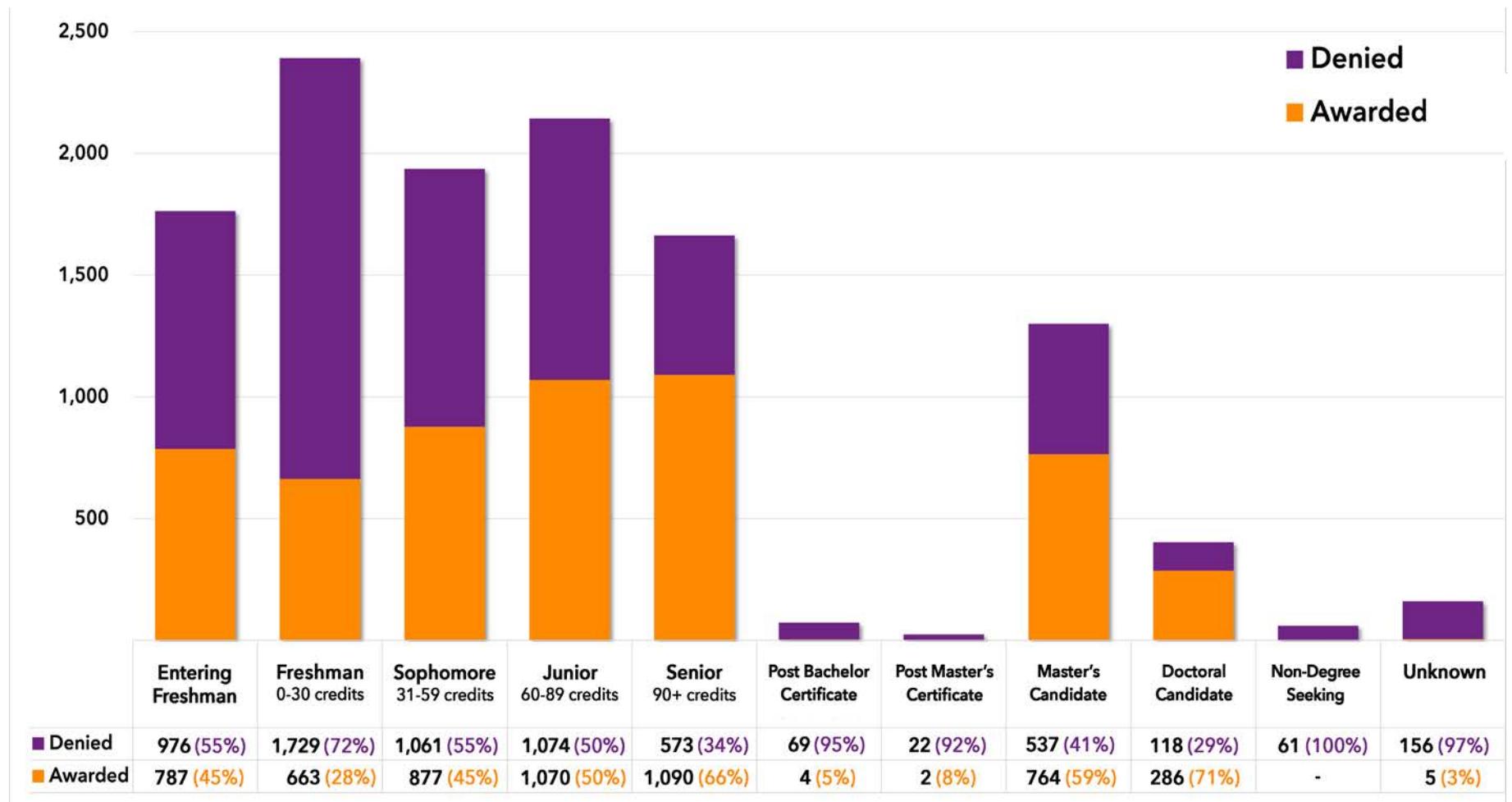
Institution Not Regionally Accredited

Applicants are denied as the institutions they sought to attend were not accredited by a regional accrediting association or the appropriate accrediting association for highly specialized majors.

Received Other Aid

Applicants are denied due to receiving aid from other sources that meets or exceeds their financial need.

Awarded/Denied Students by Class Levels



47% of Applicants Receive Awards; 53% Denied in '21

The Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance received 10 percent fewer applications (11,924) in 2021 than the previous year (13,225). However, the denial rate increased to 53 percent from 50 percent in 2020.

The ONNSFA received the most applications (2,392) from students with Freshman status (0-30 credits). Approximately 72 percent of Freshman applicants (1,729) were denied. Another 28 percent (663) received awards. A total of 2,144 applicants in the Junior category (60-89 credits) submitted applications. Fifty percent of those applicants (1,074) were denied, and another 50 percent (1,070) received awards.

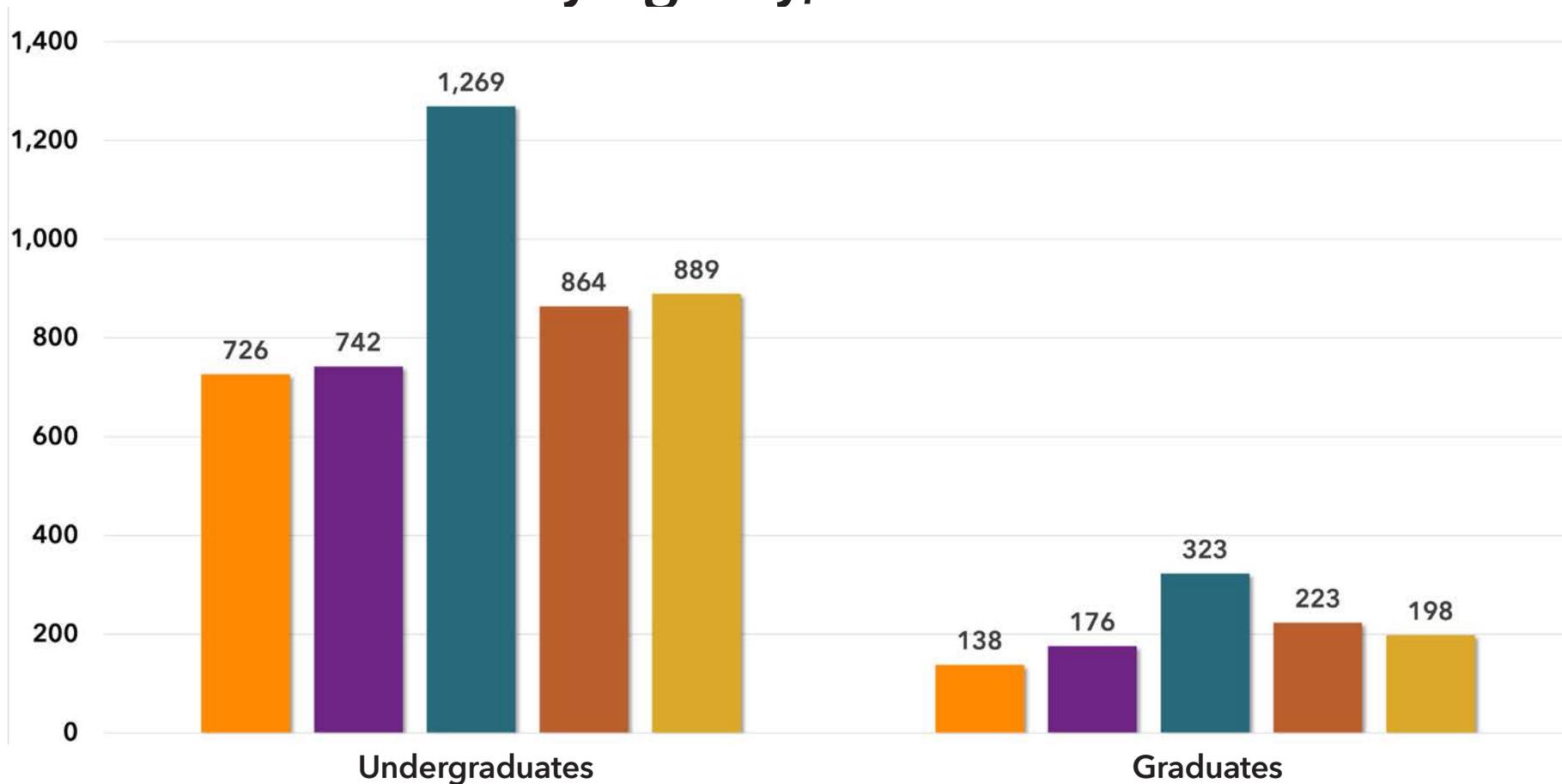
Year	Total Applicants	Awarded Students	Denials	% Awarded	% Denied	% Change (No. of Applicants)
2017	12,807	6,755	6,052	53%	47%	-
2018	13,207	6,676	6,531	51%	49%	3%
2019	13,269	6,598	6,671	50%	50%	.4%
2020	13,226	6,646	6,580	50%	50%	-.3%
2021	11,924	5,548	6,376	47%	53%	-10%

The third-highest number of applications (1,938) were submitted by students classified as Sophomores who had completed 31-59 credits. Of those, 55 percent or 1,061 were denied. Another 45 percent received awards. Entering Freshmen submitted a total of 1,763 applications. About 72 percent or 1,729 were denied, and another 28 percent or 663 received awards. A total of 1,663 students classified as Seniors (90+ credits) submitted applications. A total of 1,090 applicants (66 percent) received

awards. The remaining 573 applicants (34 percent) were denied. Applicants seeking Master's degrees numbered 1,301. Of those, 59 percent (764) received awards. The remaining 41 percent (537) were denied. About 71 percent or 286 applicants seeking Doctoral/Professional degrees received awards. The remaining 29 percent (118) were denied.

The reasons applications are denied are outlined on page 10.

Students Awarded by Agency/Class Level



Fort Defiance Agency Awards Most Number of Undergraduates, Graduates

In 2021, a total of 11,924 undergraduate and graduate students submitted applications for financial aid to the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance. Of those, 5,548 students received a total of 8,223 awards.

As illustrated in the graph above, the Fort Defiance Agency office made approximately 29 percent of all awards in 2021, with the most number of students at the undergraduate (1,269) and graduate levels (323).

Two agency offices - Shiprock and Tuba City - issued approximately 20 percent of the total number of awards each. The Shiprock Agency office issued 864 undergraduate and 223 graduate awards, totaling 1,625. The Tuba City Agency office issued 1,614 awards to 889 undergraduates and 198 graduates.

The Crownpoint Agency office issued approximately 17 percent of all awards to 742 undergraduates and 176 graduates totaling 1,380.

The Chinle Agency issued about 16 percent of all awards with 1,269 awards, with 726 provided to undergraduates and 138 to graduates for a total of 1,269 awards.

Navajo Nation funds, federal funds, corporate funds, and trust fund interest are used to make awards. Navajo Nation funds were the

Agency	# Undergraduates Awarded	# Graduates Awarded
Chinle	726	138
Crownpoint	742	176
Fort Defiance	1,269	323
Shiprock	864	223
Tuba City	889	198
	4,490	1,058

primary source for 50 percent of all awards at 4,086

Federal funds provided 41 percent of all awards at 3,339. Corporate funds funded 6 percent or 486 awards, and Trust fund interest funded 4 percent of all awards at 312.

The Fort Defiance Agency office issued the highest amount of funding from all sources totaling \$6,888,531.

The Shiprock Agency and Tuba City offices each issued approximately 19 percent of total funding, with Shiprock at \$4,497,679 and Tuba City at \$4,512,874.

The Crownpoint Agency office issued about 17 percent or \$3,857,039 and the Chinle Agency office issued about 15 percent or \$3,444,475 of total funding.

Student Awards (by Chapter)

Chapter Affiliation

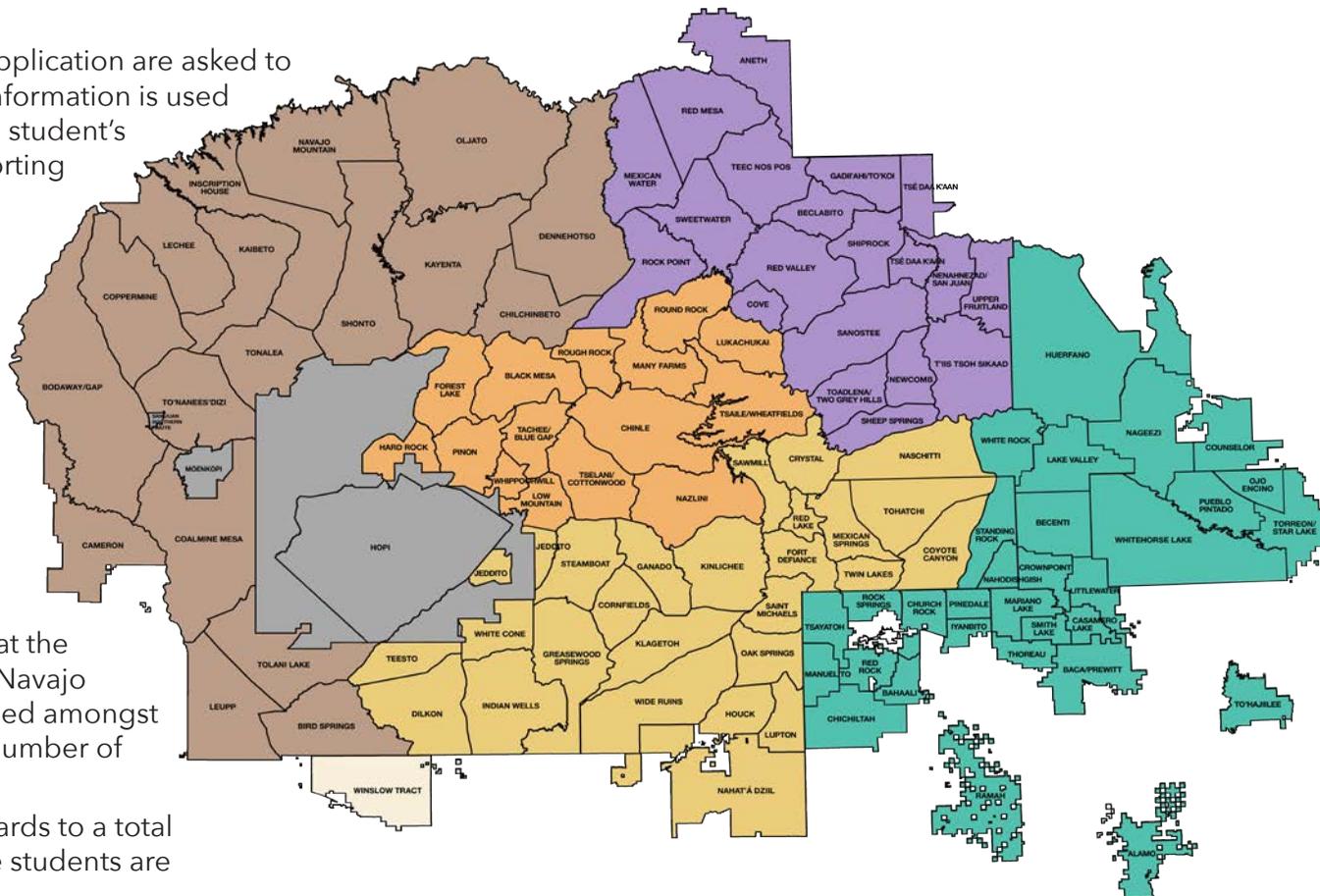
Students submitting an ONNSFA application are asked to state their chapter affiliation. This information is used to determine which agency office a student's file will be assigned to and for reporting purposes.

Choosing a Chapter

On occasion, students inquire about which of the Navajo Nation's 110 chapters they should state on the application. We encourage students to consider the chapter nearest to their residence or the chapter at which their parents are registered to vote.

Students, who become registered voters on the Navajo Nation, have an opportunity to elect leadership at the chapter and national levels. Many Navajo Nation services and funds are divided amongst the 110 chapters based upon the number of registered voters and population.

In 2021, the ONNSFA provided awards to a total of 5,548 students. The chapters the students are affiliated with are:



Ft. Defiance Agency 1,508 Students

- Cornfields - 36
- Coyote Canyon - 64
- Crystal - 50
- Dilkon - 49
- Ft. Defiance - 316
- Ganado - 77
- Greasewood Springs - 43
- Houck - 38
- Indian Wells - 33
- Jeddito - 39
- Kinlichee - 61
- Klagetoh - 28
- Low Mountain - 30
- Lupton - 19
- Mexican Springs - 31
- Nahata Dziil - 24
- Naschitti - 50
- Oak-Pine Springs - 33
- Red Lake - 35
- Sawmill - 46
- St. Michaels - 140
- Steamboat - 41
- Teestoh - 49
- Tohatchi - 59

(Ft. Defiance Agency)

- Twin Lakes - 55
- White Cone - 33
- Wide Ruins - 29

Crownpoint Agency 1,003 Students

- Alamo - 17
- Baca/Haystack - 24
- Bahaali - 43
- Becenti - 28
- Casamero Lake - 22
- Chichiltah - 33
- Church Rock - 94
- Counselor - 15
- Crownpoint - 159
- Huerfano - 44
- Iyanbito - 31
- Lake Valley - 9
- Littlewater - 16
- Manuelito - 30
- Mariano Lake - 21
- Nageezi - 33
- Nahodishgish - 19
- Ojo Encino - 20
- Pinedale - 22

(Crownpoint Agency)

- Pueblo Pintado - 17
- Ramah - 29
- Red Rock - 43
- Rock Springs - 47
- Smith Lake - 22
- Standing Rock - 19
- Thoreau - 41
- Tohajiilee - 29
- Torreon/Star Lake - 25
- Tsayatoh - 33
- White Rock - 12
- Whitehorse Lake - 6

Shiprock Agency 1,063 Students

- Aneth - 89
- Beclabito - 25
- Cove - 28
- Gad í'ahí - 23
- Mexican Water - 22
- Nenahnezad - 62
- Newcomb - 16
- Red Mesa - 51
- Red Valley - 18
- Rock Point - 85

(Shiprock Agency)

- San Juan - 26
- Sanostee - 33
- Sheepsprings - 24
- Shiprock - 350
- Sweetwater - 27
- Teec Nos Pos - 38
- T'iis Tsoh Sikaad - 23
- Tsé Daa K'aan - 31
- Toadlena/
Two Grey Hills - 16
- Upper Fruitland - 76

Tuba City Agency 1,110 Students

- Birdsprings - 18
- Bodaway/Gap - 34
- Cameron - 40
- Chilchinbeto - 37
- Coalmine Canyon - 28
- Coppermine - 41
- Dennehotso - 31
- Inscription House - 30
- Kaibeto - 38
- Kayenta - 129
- Lechee - 69

(Tuba City Agency)

- Leupp - 49
- Navajo Mountain - 36
- Oljato - 76
- Shonto - 55
- Tolani Lake - 23
- Tonalea - 33
- Tó naneesdizí- 343

Chinle Agency 833 Students

- Black Mesa - 14
- Chinle - 304
- Forest Lake - 20
- Hard Rock - 2
- Lukachukai - 58
- Many Farms - 67
- Nazlini - 31
- Piñon - 70
- Rough Rock - 35
- Round Rock - 46
- Tachee/Blue Gap - 40
- Tsaile/Wheatfields - 65
- Tselani/Cottonwood - 55
- Whippoorwill Springs - 26
- Unknown - 31

NAVAJO YOUTH, Continued from Page 1

Tribal Utility Authority. Students in Chinle, Dilkon, Leupp, Holbrook and Shiprock could access public Wi-Fi. The team effort brought a measure of relief to students and affirmed NAU's commitment to ensuring Native American students did not fall behind.

For the ONNSFA program, we were challenged to figure out how to incorporate remote workplaces and maintain services for students. President Jonathan Nez determined ONNSFA staff be essential employees, and offices continued operating at limited capacity depending on directives in Public Health Emergency Orders throughout most of 2020 and 2021.

Also, temporary changes to the ONNSFA's policies and procedures were approved in 2020 to help students address the sudden shifts in instruction and changes in grade systems. The Chief Manuelito Scholarship Award ceremonies were moved to virtual celebrations.

More than 11,000 of our Navajo millennials are now preparing for their future in all areas of work at the undergraduate, vocational, and graduate levels. Students and the ONNSFA staff continue to shift to new ways of using technology through various online platforms and find positive ways to reshape teaching and learning.

Navajo Nation Future Physicians

In 2016, the Navajo Nation entered into an agreement with the University of Arizona Colleges of Medicine in Tucson and Phoenix to establish the Navajo Nation Future Physicians' Scholarship Fund to help more Navajo students pursue careers as physicians.

We received the exciting news that two students - Thomasina Blackwater and Aaron Bia - who benefited from the fund graduated with medical degrees in 2021. Ms. Blackwater grew up in Kirtland, NM. Dr. Bia is originally from Canyon de Chelly, Arizona.

Dr. Blackwater is now completing a family medicine residency physical-training program at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Dr. Bia is completing a family medicine resi-



ABOVE Thomasina Blackwater and Aaron Bia, recipients of awards from the Navajo Nation Future Physicians' Fund, graduated with medical degrees in 2021.

dency at University of Utah Health.

We hope more students can benefit from the scholarship fund. It provides financial aid to cover students' tuition and academic support for up to seven Navajo scholars per year to help them earn a medical degree from the UA College of Medicine - Tucson or the UA College of Medicine-Phoenix.

Navajo medical students who receive support from the Navajo Nation Future Physicians' Scholarship Fund, and earn their medical degrees, will be required to serve the Navajo people for a minimum of five years upon completing their post-MD medical residency programs.

COVID-19 Survey

We launched a COVID-19 Survey to determine how the pandemic impacted Navajo students. More than 57 percent of the 1,279 students who responded reported they experienced significant income loss. Students said they lost work-study jobs and internships. In addition, they lost access to technology available at their schools. Survey results were provided to Navajo leaders to help guide policy decisions.

HB-0178

I am also proud to report that the ONNSFA supported an initiative to amend the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Act. NM Gov. Michelle-Lujan Grisham

signed HB-0178, legislation that amends the act and updates the type of degrees required for students seeking licensure as a Licensed Substance Abuse Associate (LSAA). ONNSFA Policy Advisor Daryl Begay navigated the legislative process to have the law changed.

Forward Funding

We also continued our efforts to get legislation to authorize Forward Funding of the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) Higher Education Grant Program, which provides federal funds for scholarships to Indian tribes. Authorizing Forward

Funding would greatly benefit undergraduates as federal funding for scholarships would be provided two years in advance to tribes. Currently, federal appropriations are subject to delay for myriad reasons, such as short-term continuing budget resolutions or government shutdowns. When financial aid provided through federal funding is late, ONNSFA awards to students are delayed. Students then have to figure out whether they can continue, drop classes, disenroll or take on student loan debt. We know that financial aid and scholarships are critical to ensuring students stay in college and attain a degree.

The Forward Funding initiative has already gained a lot of support from other tribal governments, colleges, and universities in the Four-Corners area and state legislatures of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado. We will provide more information and ask for public support as federal legislation is introduced to Congress.

The ONNSFA is committed to seeking more opportunities for Navajo students. It is inspiring to see our children manage so many different areas of study and to think that we can build a strong nation with a vibrant economy and a sound health care system, including an excellent K-12 school environment for the next generation. Navajo youth are at the forefront.

Students Cite Income Loss, Technology as Primary Challenges of Pandemic

In late 2020, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance conducted a survey to determine how the global COVID-19 pandemic impacted Navajo college students.

The results provided a snapshot of challenges facing Navajo college students when campuses were shuttered and classes were moved online.

"Students were confronted by the same issues experienced by others on the Navajo Nation including housing, mental health, traditional healing needs, public safety, and technology needs," said Rose Graham, ONNSFA director. "Our office provided a report to Navajo Nation leadership so they could know what our students are facing."

The online survey ran from Aug. 21, 2020, through Sept. 7, 2020. A total of 1,292 Navajo students responded, providing unverified, self-reported data. Seventy-nine percent or 1,026 respondents reported they were attending college when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Ninety-six percent or 1,242 respondents reported they are currently attending college.

Challenges Student Faced

More than 57 percent reported they experienced significant income loss. Students reported losing work-study jobs and internships. Several students shared that their parents and/or spouses also lost jobs, making it extremely difficult to make ends meet. Thirty-six percent of respondents reported they could not pay mortgage, rent, or utilities. Students also said they were challenged to meet transportation costs and did not have enough food. Other challenges students faced included dropping one or more classes due to financial or other reasons.

One student shared about the loss of income during the pandemic: "Due to COVID-19, I lost my internship at NAU in Spring 2020 and had to move back to my parent's



Navajo college students responding to an ONNSFA survey shared how the global COVID-19 pandemic disrupted their studies, forced them to make new living arrangements and left them facing financial and technological challenges that put their education in jeopardy.

house on the Navajo Nation. I could not afford my monthly rent near campus. The internship was my main source of income as I depended on it to help pay for tuition and books, also rent, food, and gas for my vehicle. Currently, I am still out of a job and struggling to make ends meet."

Another provided the following narrative: "My entire family caught the virus in April. I was half way done with my third class for my master's degree. The sickness took a toll on my health and mind. There was a time when I was so sick, literally falling asleep on my work, and felt like quitting, but I did it. I passed the class with my first B, and as a result, I lost my perfect 4.0 GPA.

As I began the next class, I lost my grandma, uncle, and my eldest brother. It was so hard; my family literally had funerals for them just a week apart from each other – the pain and grief of losing relatives greatly affected my mental health. I lost interest, focus, and motivation for school. Despite it all, I'm still hanging on and just finished my fifth class. Four more classes and I will have my MBA."

Respondents also reported significant technology challenges, including lack of access to a printer and reliable internet access. Other challenges included lack of required software and lack of reliable access to a

device to connect to the internet.

"I do not own a laptop or PC; I utilized the university's resources. When classes transferred to remote learning, I had to borrow a PC. After two weeks, my school went remote. Rent, utilities, and food became a priority, and then my education took a backseat. It is a stressful situation but learning to adapt as I go."

"I had very good grades before the pandemic. The main thing that messed me up was the technology side. For my film class, I got a low grade because the campus was closed, and I did not have a laptop."

How can the Navajo Nation help you?

Approximately 98 percent responded, "Financial aid, grants, or additional funds." Followed by "Equipment, WiFi or technology," "Food, housing, and resources," and "Mental health counseling and support."

One student said, "Ever since this pandemic happened, everything was scattered, and I barely had enough money to pay for housing in Colorado..."

Another responded, "As a college graduate student who is single with no children, there is no reliable housing provided for young adults within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation. There needs to be housing provided for young adults. My household is very toxic with an alcoholic father and a mother who lives in a home with two families. Home is not safe, nor is there room. The Navajo Nation must provide housing for those who wish to return home."

Ms. Graham thanked students for providing a glimpse of the challenges they faced and are still working through. She acknowledged students' frustration regarding the partial Navajo Nation government shutdown and access to scholarship office staff and services. "Offices are now open. We will continue to work at improving services and access for our students." Ms. Graham said.

Chief Manuelito Scholars Honored in Virtual Awards Ceremonies

The COVID-19 pandemic created challenges in launching awards ceremonies for students who earned the Chief Manuelito Scholarship in 2020 and 2021.

As the pandemic lingered with spikes of infections and concerns about risks of mass gathering events rose, the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship and Financial Assistance chose to host virtual awards ceremonies.

The 2020 ceremony was produced and aired on March 3, 2021. The 2021 ceremony aired on Nov. 26, 2021.

Past annual in-person celebrations attracted more than 500 students and guests and filled meeting rooms to capacity. The virtual award ceremonies aired last year were viewed by thousands – 18,000+ views for the first and 15,000+ views for the second.



ABOVE Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and First Lady Phefelia Nez congratulated 2021 Chief Manuelito Scholarship recipients for persevering through the pandemic and earning the prestigious Chief Manuelito Scholarship, the Navajo Nation's highest academic honor.

Each ceremony featured distinguished guest speakers, including Dr. Jennifer Denetdale, who spoke about the legacy of Chief Manuelito, Dr. Dave Wilson, director of the Tribal Health Research Office at the National

Institutes of Health, and Shandiin Herrera, a co-founder of *Yee Ha'ólíní Doo*, the Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund. President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, and Vice President Myron Lizer

addressed students at each event. Students who submitted their photos and biographical information were introduced in Navajo individually during the broadcasts.

The Chief Manuelito Scholarship was established in 1980 to provide scholarships to high-achieving Navajo high school graduates. They are awarded based on ACT/SAT scores and final high school grade point average.

Details about the scholarship may be accessed here: <https://onnsfa.org/chief-manuelito>. The virtual ceremonies may be viewed at <https://onnsfa.org/video>.

Special thanks to sponsors of the virtual ceremonies, including the Department of Diné Education, Diné Collge, NTUA Choice Wireless, Navajo Petroleum, and Navajo Nation Shopping Centers.

A Message from the Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President to Chief Manuelito Scholars

On behalf of the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, we congratulate the 133 recipients of the prestigious 2021 Chief Manuelito Scholarship! Words cannot express how proud and happy we are for each of you, your parents, your grandparents, your teachers, and everyone who supported you along the way.

Not only have you persevered, but you have overcome many challenges and managed to earn your high school diploma in the midst of a global pandemic. We know that the last year and a half has been very tough. You may have lost out on time spent with your fellow classmates, teachers, teammates, and others, but you overcame so much to be where you are today.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us. We are certain that all of you have been impacted in one way or another. The toll that it has taken on you and your loved ones – physically, mentally, and spiritually – cannot be measured, but all of you should be proud that you remained strong and resilient to get where you are today.

The same strength and resilience of our ancestors remains within each of you to this day, and will help you to continue moving forward on a good path in life. Many of you have grandparents who have shown you their tough love, the teachings that have been passed

down for generations. *T'áá Hwó Ají Téego*, or self-reliance and self-determination, is one teaching that can be applied to many situations that you will encounter in life. *T'áá Hwó Ají Téego* is what our elders always tell us, that we have the ability within ourselves to accomplish what we set out to do.

Whether you're dealing with adversity or maybe it's setting goals for yourself like working toward your bachelor's degree, master's degree, or beyond, the teaching known as *T'áá Hwó Ají Téego* can help you every step of the way. Yes, there will be hardships and setbacks, but you don't give up. Our ancestors long ago never gave up. They persevered, and because of them, we are here today.

Always remember that we do not accomplish things alone. We have to recognize and thank our parents, our grandparents, teachers, coaches, and everyone who supported us and helped us. As you move forward in life, it won't be easy, but remember the teachings of our elders and the importance of prayer. The power of prayer can take you far in life, but you also have to work hard and focus on the positive things in life. To all of you, we congratulate you on your great achievement, and we want you to know that you will always be in our prayers for continued success. *Ahe'hee'*

2020 Chief Manuelito Scholars

Alexis B. Atcity; Skyridge High School, Brigham Young University

Aiyana L. Austin; Bloomfield High School, Stanford University

Kelly S. Becenti; Tuba City High School, Northern Arizona University

Amber E. Begay; Farmington High School, University of Denver

Elijah Adam Begay; Newcomb High School, Northern Arizona University

Kimball Jared Begay; Mountain View High School, Brigham Young University

Erin Begaye; Middle College High School, Northern Arizona University

Niesha Z. Benallie; San Juan College High School, New Mexico Highlands University

Nathan H. Benally; Newcomb High School, Fort Lewis College

Natalie Bigman; Marcos De Niza High School, Fort Lewis College

Marissa Bowens; Grayson High School, Brigham Young University Hawaii

Aric M. Bradley; Tuba City High School, Northern Arizona University

Colin Patrick Brown; Middle College High School, Northern Arizona University

Naat'anii S. Castillo; McClintock High School, Northwestern University-Evanston

Triston J. Charles; Piedra Vista High School, Colorado Mesa University

Cameron E. Charleston; Shiprock High School, Northland College

Di'Zhon S. Chase; Miyamura High School, Columbia University-New York

Jayda K'mya Chee; Tuba City High School, Glendale Community College

Kiley Nicole Chischilly; Window Rock High School, Arizona State University

Maya Grace Clark; West High School, New York University

Ayden M.C. Clytus; Skyline High School, Arizona State University

Coule J. Dale; Farmington High School, Capital University

Brooke Marie Damon; Flagstaff High School, Northern Arizona University

Madysen L. Deale; Farmington High School, Stanford University

Julian Brent Deering; Flagstaff High School, Arizona State University

Laciana E. Desjardins; Mesquite High School, Louisiana State University

Grace Ellen Dewyer; Cactus High School, Duke University

Paige Ashley Dugi; Shadow Mountain High School, Northern Arizona University

Brianna D. Etsitty; Marcos De Niza High School, Arizona State University

Jaylin Ray Farrell; Greyhills Academy High School, Northern Arizona University

Mia D. Freeland; Albuquerque High School, University of Redlands

Victor Gallegos; Page High School, Stanford University

Amaya B. Garnenez; Piedra Vista High School, Cornell University

Valerie K. Gee; Page High School, Coconino Community College

ShanDiin Yazhi Cheyenne Gerena; Page High School, Fort Lewis College

Manina J.C. Gopher; Crownpoint High School, New Mexico State University

Ryan J. Grevsmuehl; Reedy High School, University of Arizona

John J. Haddad; College of Southern Nevada High School, University of Arizona

Ionna Rain Hansen; Middle College High School, University of New Mexico Gallup

Kaslyn Hansen; American Fork High School, Brigham Young University

Sky A. Harper; Navajo Preparatory School, Drexel University

Miauxochitl K. Haskie; Navajo Preparatory School, Brown University

Johanna L.E. Hawley; Monument Valley High School-AZ, Northern Arizona University

Gracie Ann Henderson; Tuba City High School, South Mountain Community College

Cody T. Henry; Rehoboth Christian School, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Terrell Hoover; Ironwood High School, Grand Canyon University

Loryn E. Hortsmann; Fremont High School, Brigham Young University

Caitlin A. James; Gallup High School, University of New Mexico-Gallup

Kaia V. Jay; Whitehorse High School, University of Utah

Keana S. Jimmy; Chinle High School, Diné College

Jason R. Joe; Navajo Preparatory School, New Mexico State University

Taylor A. John; Kirtland Central High School, University of Arizona

Jaaziah C. Johnson; Sandia High School, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Jordyn Rae Johnson; Winslow High School, Willamette University

Nia Johnson; Albuquerque Academy, Dartmouth College

Aaliyah M. Juanico; Farmington High School, Fort Lewis College

Kaitlyn G. Lane; Northland Preparatory Academy, Arizona State University

Krystal A. Laughing; Gallup High School, University of New Mexico

Kamia S. Leano; Navajo Preparatory School, University of Portland

Junior R. Lee; Winslow High School, Arizona State University

Drueh Emanuel Lii'bilNaghahi; Navajo Preparatory School, Northern Arizona University

Janel Leonna Lomasney; Gallup High School, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Tristan Long; Winslow High School, Northern Arizona University

Leah C. Lopez; Coconino High School, Arizona State University

Shondeen D. Lucero; Liberty High School, Brigham Young University

Filisi U. Magua; Navajo Preparatory School, Fort Lewis College

Mikayla Manygoats; Basha High School, University of Arizona

Cameron R. Martin; Xavier College Prep, Dartmouth College

Santoya S. Martinez; Middle College High School, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Kyleigh McCabe; American Leadership Academy, Scottsdale Community College

Kaylin McLiverty; Navajo Preparatory School, Northern Arizona University

Colby G. McNabb; Ganado High School, Northern Arizona University

Rebekah J. McNiell; Middle College High School, Northern Arizona University

Trinity A. Monroe; Many Farms High School, Arizona State University

Treasure S. Morgan; Miyamura High School, Colorado State University-Ft Collins

Paige M. Nakai; Farmington High School, Dartmouth College

Alyssa Alexandria Nez; Navajo Preparatory School, Purdue University

Shannon Kailyn Nez; Westwood High School, Arizona State University

Camryn Sunni Nockideneh; Page High School, Wenatchee Valley College

Jobrienne S. Nockideneh; Page High School, Northern Arizona University

Lennae K. Nockideneh; Ames Academy Math Eng Science, Montana State University-Bozeman

Dakota L. Notah; Middle College High School, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Monique A. Parrish; Page High School, Northern Arizona University

Caroline A. Pete; McClintock High School, Arizona State University

Arian L. Pino; Grants High School, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Valdemar K. Poyer; Gallup High School, University of New Mexico-Albuquerque

Koi Quiver; Buckeye Union High School, Northern Arizona University

Maxwell J. Ramirez; Bosque School, Colorado State University-Ft Collins

Cameron J. Robinson; Monument Valley High School-AZ, Fort Lewis College

Phillip Ben Rodgers; Tohatchi High School, University of New Mexico Gallup

Mira Lynae Salt; Piedra Vista High School, Fort Lewis College

Kimmery Sangster; Flagstaff High School, University of Arizona

Chauntae Ravae Scott; Tohatchi High School, University of New Mexico - Gallup

Tea Scott; Whitehorse High School, University of Utah

Myeisha Shorty; Monument Valley High School-AZ, Coconino Community College

Ariel Michaela Simpson; Navajo Pine High School, Fort Lewis College

Katelyn S. Smith; Vista Del Lago High School, Brigham Young University

Kuehne Marie Smith; Centennial High School, Glendale Community College

Siena Stevens; Northern Nash Senior High School, University of North Carolina-Gree

Benjamin Bryce Swanson; Monterey High School, University of Maine-Orono

Ethan D. Tacheene; Many Farms High School, Arizona State University

Sheyenne Bahozhni Taylor; Navajo Preparatory School, Northern Arizona University

Alexander D. Thomas; Albuquerque Academy, Arizona State University

Kane-Rob D. Thomas; Red Mesa High School, Northern Arizona University

Mikayla S. Tsedah; Red Mesa High School, Northern Arizona University

Nabahe Tsingine; Kirtland Central High School, Fort Lewis College

Madysen Tutt; Williams Field High School, Northern Arizona University - Honors College

Shelby N. Walter; Navajo Preparatory School, Fort Lewis College

Zachary J. Wargo; Gallup High School, Arizona State University

Darion Wauneka; Window Rock High School, Northern Arizona University

William G. Wayne; Monument Valley High School-AZ, Paradise Valley Community College

Amber Marie Wesley; Greyhills Academy High School, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Mandi N. Wheeler; Navajo Preparatory School, Northern Arizona University

Addy L. Yazzie; Newcomb High School, Southern Utah University

Colby Dyami Yazzie; St. Michael High School, Cornell University

Kylee S. Yazzie; Coconino High School, Arizona State University

Preston A. Yazzie; Snowflake High School, Arizona State University

Karrilyn Yellowhair; Monument Valley High School-UT, Brigham Young University

2021 Chief Manuelito Scholars

Lakeisha Elaine Antonio; Kirtland Central High School, Northern Arizona University

Tristan Arviso, Madison Highland Prep, Arizona State University

Gabrielle Ashley; Middle College High School, Arizona State University

Noelle Bagola; Piedra Vista High School, Cornell University

Kaitlin Marie Becenti; Miyamura High School, University of Southern California

Lindsey A. Becenti; Winslow High School, University of Arizona

April Begay; Gallup High School, Northern Arizona University

Dashanti Begay, Middle College High School, University of New Mexico- Gallup

Magdalena Begay. La Junta Jr/ Sr High School, Colorado State University-Pueblo

Mikaye Begay, Mountain View High School, Brigham Young University

Melyse C. Begay-Harlan, Crownpoint High School, University of New Mexico

Marqus Begaye, San Juan College High School, University of New Mexico

Aubrianna Belinte, Holbrook High School, Sagu-American Indian College

Najhzhoni Rain Ben, Shiprock High School, University of New Mexico

Khaeyana R. Benally, Monument Valley High School-AZ, Arizona State University

Ashley Billie; Miyamura High School, University of New Mexico

Justin Bitsilly; Shiprock High School, University of New Mexico

Cheyah Terese Bitsui, Home School, Northwest Nazarene University

Karis Black, Coconino High School, Northern Arizona University

Dylan Boyd, Monument Valley High School-AZ, Northern Arizona University

Layla Boye, Red Mountain High School, Mesa Community College

Carissa Butler, Smithville High School, Grace College and Seminary

Curistyn Marie Charley, Farmington High School, San Juan College

Kiera Charley, Navajo Preparatory School, Arizona State University

Taylor Charley, Flagstaff High School, University of Arizona

Martin Charley, Jr., Kirtland Central High School, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology

Syler B. Chee, Arizona Agribusiness Equine Center - South Mountain, Arizona State University

Twoise B. Chee, Arizona Agribusiness Equine Center - South Mountain, Arizona State University

Grace Cleveland, Millennium High School, Chapman University

Marcus Cling, South Sevier High School, Utah Valley University

Aislinn Conner, Desert Vista High School, Columbia University

Robyn Curtis, San Juan College High School, University of New Mexico

Nizhonie Denetsosie-Gomez, ASU Prep Digital, Dartmouth College

Nena Dorame, Albuquerque High School, Stanford University

Mikala Driscoll, San Simon High School, New Mexico State University

Lucas Edgewater, Ganado High School, Central Arizona College

Drealle Iina Estrada, Chinle High School, Creighton University

Lila Estudillo, Heritage Academy, University of Arizona

Aliyah Louise-Bekis Etsitty, Flagstaff High School, Arizona State University

Lauren Faith Etsitty, Xavier College Preparatory, Lehigh University

Pete William Garcia IV, Rehoboth Christian School, Northern Arizona University

Vanessa N. Gene, Winslow High School, Arizona State University

Eli Gramzinski, Chandler High School, Northern Arizona University

Jocelyn Ha, Casteel High School, Grand Canyon University

Alisa Mikelle Harrison, Pine View High, Utah State University

Brienne Elle Harvey, Northland Preparatory Academy, Coconino Community College

Makua Harvey, Piedra Vista High School, University of Portland

Ethan Trey Hemstreet, Sandra Day O'Connor High School, Embry Riddle Aero University-Prescott

Tori Presley Hemstreet, Greyhills Academy High School, Arizona State University

Jade Henry; Farmington High School, New Mexico State University

Kaela Henry; Flagstaff High School, Arizona State University

Chiara Holgate, St. Michael Indian School, Northern Arizona University

Hailey Celine Holiday, Monument Valley High School-AZ, Northern Arizona University

Jonah Whitethorne Holiday, Page High School, Arizona State University

Namioka Rain Honie, Chinle High School, Northern Arizona University

Maya Ibarra, Dobson High School, Arizona State University

Spencer Jackson, Maple Mountain High School, Southern Utah University

Sasha Joe, Monument Valley High School-AZ, University of Arizona

Aiona Johnson, Navajo Preparatory School, Pima Community College

Joshua Brian Johnson, Piedra Vista High School, New Mexico State University

Andre Joseph, Ganado High School, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute

DaVarrlye Kee, Wingate High School, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology

Amani Lebbon, Sandra Day O'Connor High School, Fort Lewis College

Heather Ashlynn Lee, Holly Springs High School, University of Oklahoma

Kassidy Autumn Lee, Whitehorse High School, University of Utah

Nicolas E. Littleman, Chinle High School, University of Arizona

Dustin Littletree, Kirtland Central High School, San Juan College

Keyla A. Lopez, Gallup High School, University of New Mexico-Gallup

Todd Jalen Lowsayatee, Jr., Thoreau High School, Fort Lewis College

Soonwey Lucero, Liberty High School, Brigham Young University

Alyssa Malone, Chinle High School, Arizona State University

Azelia Caitlin Manygoats, Pinon High School, Arizona State University

Nynabah Marshall, Kirtland Central High School, Fort Lewis College

Mason Gregory McDonald, Lubbock-Cooper High School, Texas Technical University

Kyle McLiverty, Navajo Preparatory School, Northern Arizona University

Terrell Mesteth, Chinle High School, University of Southern California

Isabelle Meza, South Summit High School, Brown University

Melani Louise Mitchell, Westwood High School, University of Arizona

Skyley Mitchell, Monument Valley High School-AZ, Stanford University

Ryan Daniel Montañez, Navajo Preparatory School, Northern Arizona University

Aja L. Nez, Crownpoint High School, University of New Mexico

Cameron Nez, Kanab High School, University of Utah

Carla Nez, Monument Valley High School-AZ, Stanford University

Gavin Nockideneh, Page High School, Northern Arizona University

Hannah Nockideneh, Holbrook High School, Arizona State University

Shiyazh Pete, Shiprock High School, New Mexico State University

Madison Polacca, Hamilton High School, Arizona State University

Gabriela K. Poteat, Timpanogos High School, Utah Valley University

Brandy Ray, Navajo Preparatory School, Southwestern Oregon Community College

Neve Redhair, Page High School, Stanford University

Camryn Redmond, Saint Paul High School, University of California-Los Angeles

Peshlakai Roan, Valley High School, University of Arizona

Sharadee Nicole-Martin Sands, Holbrook High School, Southwestern Oregon Community College

Adriana Sheppard, Monument Valley High School-AZ, Park University

Terrell K.G. Shirley, Mountain Pointe High School, Arizona State University

Tyler Shoni Shurley, Williams Field High School, Arizona State University

Sicilee N. Silversmith, Ganado High School, University of New Mexico

Elizabeth Sydney Smith, Cabarrus Kannapolis Early College High School, University of North Carolina-Charlotte

Rance Mason Sopko, La Cueva High School, University of Miami

Rhiannon Spencer, Monument Valley High School-AZ, Grand Canyon University

Kaitlyn Swingler, Barry Goldwater High School, Northern Arizona University

Baahii Baahózhó Tallman, South Anchorage High School, Arizona State University

Tysho S. Tano, Millennium High School, Ottawa University-Phoenix

Jessica M. Triplett, Rehoboth Christian School, University of Arizona

Haleigh Trujillo, Farmington High School, Fort Lewis College

Darian T. Tsosie, Tohatchi High School, University of New Mexico

Tianna Tsosie, New Mexico Military Institute, University of Texas at Austin

Grey K. Tutt, Rehoboth Christian School, University of Arizona

Gabriella Venegas, Washington High School, University of Arizona

Canossa Raichon Victor, Piedra Vista High School, St. Joseph College

Chandler T. Watson, Hamilton High School, Arizona State University

Alyssa Williams, Flagstaff High School, Laguna College of Art & Design

Daniel Williams, San Juan High School, University of Southern California

Anthony Yazzie, Miyamura High School, University of Arizona

Isaac M. Yazzie, Navajo Preparatory School, San Juan College

Kaedan Denet Yazzie, St. Michael Indian School, University of New Mexico

Trevas Yazzie, Window Rock High School, Arizona State University



Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs, continued from Page 20

listed, view the accreditation information on your school's website. Check with your agency office if you are attending a school for highly specialized majors.

Q: I earned a GED and cannot find GED under the High School Code on the application.

GED information can be found under "What City is the School In?" under "G."

Q: What chapter do I enter on the application?

There are 110 chapters on the Navajo Nation. Students are encouraged to consider the chapter nearest to their residence or the chapter at which their parents are registered to vote.

Q: I don't have an extra Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) to submit for my file. What can I do?

Fill out the Request for Official Certificate of Indian Blood, located on the ONNSFA website under for document tab. Submit the form to your agency office or directly to the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records to have an official CIB submitted on your behalf.

Q: I need a Financial Need Analysis (FNA) form. Where do I get one?

The FNA form may be downloaded from the ONNSFA website. Click DOCUMENTS and select FORMS and print the FNA form. Applicants must fill out the student information and submit the form to your Financial Aid Office for processing.

Q: Does ONNSFA accept electronic transcripts?

Yes, the ONNSFA accepts official electronic transcripts (e-transcripts) that are digitally certified and delivered by a school's authorized delivery agent, such as Parchment or the National Student Clearinghouse. Transcripts emailed to ONNSFA by any other means are considered "unofficial" and will not be used to determine a student's eligibility for financial assistance or scholarships. Instruct your school's authorized delivery agent to send official E-transcripts to your agency office at one of the email

addresses listed at: <https://onnsfa.org/agency-offices>

Q: I ordered my transcript electronically a few weeks ago. Why hasn't it been opened?

E-transcripts are routinely downloaded. Double-check the email address you entered for the electronic transcript. Make sure it is 100% accurate, or we will not receive it. Appropriate email addresses are listed here: <https://onnsfa.org/agency-offices>

Q: What file format should I use when uploading a document?

A PDF file is preferred when uploading or emailing a document. Screenshots, .jpeg, or word documents can become corrupted.

Q: I don't see a list of missing documents for the current term.

Applicants must change the term information in the "Current Filter Settings" box to view missing documents for the current academic year.

Q: I submitted my documents online. Why hasn't the document status on my student account changed?

The document status on your student account will be updated 2-4 business days after you submit documents.

Q: How do I change or correct information on the application I submitted?

Email your ONNSFA agency and state the changes needed. You can indicate changes such as a change in school, enrollment (Full-time to Part-time), change in mailing address, change of major, etc.

Q: I owe my school a bill for tuition from a prior semester. Can ONNSFA pay off my bill?

No. The ONNSFA cannot pay off a student's tuition from a prior semester. Students are responsible for all expenses at their respective institutions. Students need to monitor their ONNSFA student accounts regarding their award or denial letters.

Q: My school has the Navajo Nation scholarship award listed on my finan-

cial aid letter. Does that mean I received an ONNSFA award?

No. Some schools will list an estimated Navajo Nation scholarship award amount after filling out the FNA to prevent a student from being dropped from their classes. It does not mean that ONNSFA has awarded the student. Applicants should wait for their actual award or denial letter from ONNSFA to be posted to their ONNSFA student account.

Q: I submitted all my required documents, but I haven't received an award notification. My tuition is due soon, what should I do?

Contact your school's Financial Aid Office and review payment options to avoid deadlines and drop dates. Payments are the responsibility of each student.

Q: I received a denial notice. Is there anything I can do now?

There is an appeal process. Fill out the ONNSFA Appeal Form which may be downloaded here: bit.ly/ONNSFA_Appeal. Follow the directions on the form. Written appeals need to be filed or postmarked within 20 working days after the postmarked date of the award/denial letter. [ONNSFA Policies and Procedures, Article 15 (a)].

Q: Are my parents or guardians able to access my file at the ONNSFA?

No. Due to privacy laws, the ONNSFA will only release student information to the student applicant.

Q: I applied last year. Do I need to fill out another application?

Yes. Students must reapply each academic year to keep their ONNSFA file active. Remember to check your student account frequently prior to deadlines to check the list of missing/required documents. The deadlines to submit applications and required documents are:

2022/2023 Academic Year
Deadline: June 25 at 5 pm (MST)

Spring/Winter 2023
Deadline: Nov. 25 at 5 pm (MST)



Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance

ONNSFA APPLICATION PROCESS

1 PREPARE

Before you apply, gather your paperwork for cross-referencing.



- University/Institution you will attend.
- Social Security Number
- Census Number

2 APPLY ONLINE

Go to www.onnsfa.org to fill out and submit your application.



Deadlines:
Fall - June 25
Spring - Nov. 25

3 CREATE AN ACCOUNT

After submitting your application, wait 4-5 business days to "create an account," and gain access to your ONNSFA Student Account. Create your own username and password to log in.



4 CHECK YOUR DOCUMENTS

Log in to your ONNSFA Student Account to view your missing documents page.



Checklists and forms may be found on www.onnsfa.org under the "Documents" tab.

5 REVIEW

Log in regularly to check your document status.



Submit corrections to documents marked with problems.

Once an award/denial decision is made, a letter will generate online.

CONTACT US

Chinle Agency Office

1-800-919-9269 | onnsfachinle@navajo-nsn.gov

Crownpoint Agency Office

1-866-254-9913 | onnsfacrownpointnm@navajo-nsn.gov

Ft. Defiance Agency Office

1-928-871-7434 | onnsfacentral@navajo-nsn.gov

Shiprock Agency Office

1-866-223-6457 | onnsfashiprock@navajo-nsn.gov

Tuba City Agency Office

1-866-839-8151 | onnsfatubacity@navajo-nsn.gov



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I apply for funding from the Office of Navajo Nation Scholarship & Financial Assistance (ONNSFA)?

Go to www.onnsfa.org. Scroll down to the "ONNSFA Student Portal" and click "Apply Online." Click "Apply Online" and select the "Full-time" or "Part-Time" application.

Q. I can't log into my account to apply.

There is no need to create or log into a student account to apply. The online application is accessible at www.onnsfa.org.

Q. Who can apply to ONNSFA?

The ONNSFA serves enrolled members of the Navajo Nation. Check with the tribe where you are enrolled to see what is offered there.

Q. I submitted an online application. Do I need to do anything else?

Yes, several documents are required. Print the Full-time or Part-time Checklist to use

as a guide. The checklists are at www.onnsfa.org. Click the drop-down list of the "Documents" tab under "Forms" and select the appropriate checklist.

Q. I submitted my online application, but I can't create an account.

First-time applicants are advised to wait for 2 -4 business days after submitting their application to create an account. This will allow ONNSFA time to process your application and create an online file.

Q. I don't remember the username or password to my student account.

Visit www.onnsfa.org. Select "Check My Document Status." When the ONNSFA Student Account page comes up, click the "Forgotten Password" tab. Enter the email address you used on your application and your ONNSFA ID number or date of birth. (The email address must match the address ONNSFA has on file.) Click "Submit."

Instructions to reset your password will be sent to the email address ONNSFA has on record. You must reset your password within one hour.

Q. I am attending Navajo Technical University in Chinle, Ariz. Why is it not included in the list provided on the online application?

Applicants attending a satellite or branch campus should look for the City and State where the Main Campus is located.

Q. My school is not listed on the online application.

The institutions listed in the ONNSFA application are regionally accredited. Applicants must be officially and fully admitted to a post-secondary institution accredited by one of the regional accrediting associations listed on the Full-Time or Part-Time checklist. must If your institution is not

See FAQs, Page 19