

Morris K. Udall and John S. McCain III Native American Graduate Fellowship in Tribal Policy

2026 Native American Graduate Fellowship Native Health Care Guidelines

In 2026, the Udall Foundation will award up to two Native American Graduate Fellowships to outstanding Native American and Alaska Native graduate students who are pursuing advanced degrees in health care fields and who have demonstrated a commitment to Native health care. Native American Graduate Fellows will receive a monetary award of \$25,000 for the 2026-2027 academic year.

Application Information

Applications may be requested from the Udall Foundation or downloaded at www.udall.gov. Completed applications may be emailed to the Native American Graduate Fellowship Program at fellowshipprogram@udall.gov.

Writers of recommendation letters may email signed PDFs directly to fellowshipprogram@udall.gov.

Applications must be emailed by 11:59 PM PDT on May 1, 2026. Applications that are not received by the given deadline will not be eligible. **Faxes will not be accepted.**

Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to apply:

- 1) Who are U.S. Citizens, Nationals, and Lawful Permanent Residents;
- 2) Who are enrolled members of one or more Federally Recognized Indian Tribes that are included in the [annual list of Indian Tribes](#) published by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 5131;
- 3) Who are current graduate students of accredited higher education institutions;
- 4) Who intend to pursue advanced degrees in health care; and
- 5) Who meet other appropriate eligibility requirements set by the Udall Foundation.

Advanced degrees in health care fields include, but are not limited to, health administration, health education, public health, medical practice, policy, research, or related degrees. Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to Native health care and serving Native American and/or Alaska Native communities.

Native American Graduate Fellows must have completed at least one semester of graduate-level coursework in a health care field and must be in good academic standing and enrolled at least half-time (as defined by their institution) for the 2026-2027 academic year. 2026 Native American Graduate Fellows must not graduate prior to May 2027. The Udall Foundation must

be notified of any changes in enrollment status or other significant changes impacting a Native American Graduate Fellow's ability to complete the Fellowship period.

Fellowship Awards

The 2026 Native American Graduate Fellows will receive a monetary award of \$25,000.

- Fellowship payments are made directly to Native American Graduate Fellows, not to educational institutions.
- Native American Graduate Fellowships may be used to fund academic expenses such as tuition and fees, professional development expenses such as field work and conference attendance, and cost of living expenses for the Fellowship year.

Additional requirements are provided in the Native American Graduate Fellowship program's statement of terms and conditions.

Selection Criteria

The Native American Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee will evaluate each application using the following criteria:

- Applicant's personal commitment to Native health care and engagement serving Native communities.
- Applicant's scholarly excellence, experience, and qualifications.
- Applicant's potential to make a significant contribution to the field of Native health care.
- Letters of recommendation.

The Selection Committee will be comprised of distinguished leaders and professionals working in various aspects of Native health care. Applicants who advance to the finalist stage will participate in a video interview with the Selection Committee. During the video interview, finalists will deliver a short presentation on a Native health care topic related to their interest.

2026 Important Dates:

The following dates are subject to change. Please monitor the [Morris K. Udall and John S. McCain III Native American Graduate Fellowship in Tribal Policy](#) section of the Udall Foundation website for any updates.

October 1, 2026	<i>The application is available at www.udall.gov</i>
May 1, 2026	<i>Native American Graduate Fellowship applications including Letters of recommendation, transcripts, and other supporting documents must be emailed by 11:59 PM PDT. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by the selection committee.</i>
June 18-26, 2026	<i>Native American Graduate Fellowship Selection Committee application review period and video interviews with finalists.</i>
July 1, 2026	<i>Udall Foundation notifies all applicants of the Native American Graduate Fellowship results.</i>
July 8, 2026	<i>Deadline for Udall Foundation receipt of Native American Graduate Fellowship Consent and Release form.</i>
July 16, 2026	<i>Deadline for Udall Foundation receipt of all Native American Graduate Fellowship forms.</i>
July 30, 2026	<i>Native American Graduate Fellows announced at www.udall.gov</i>
Aug. 2026 – Aug. 2027	<i>Native American Graduate Fellowship Period.</i>

To request an application, send an email to:

Udall Foundation
fellowshipprogram@udall.gov

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