



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## **Representative Brandon Prichard**

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## **COMMITTEES:**

Human Services  
Agriculture

### **House Bill 1531 House Education Committee Representative Heinert, Chairman February 8, 2023**

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Rep. Brandon Prichard and I represent District 8 which covers all of Emmons County, rural and suburban portions of Burleigh County, and Wilton which is in McLean County. I am here to testify in support HB 1531 which would preempt public institutions of higher education from waiving tuition, books, housing, application fees, and any other cost associated with receiving an education based on an applicant's race, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity, or sexual preference. This language is located in the amendment I have attached to the testimony. Originally, I planned to only make this bill apply to the application process. However, to achieve the intended goal of reducing race-, sexual orientation-, and sexual preference-based discrimination, the bill needs to include tuition and other subsidies the public university system provides to students. I have attached the amendment to my testimony.

Attached in the appendices are four examples of scholarships that subsidize the education of students based upon arbitrary factors such as the color of their skin and sexual preferences. These scholarships directly contradict a system of merit and replace the education system with a hierarchy of social preferences. In Appendix A, I have attached a description of NDSU's Cultural Diversity Waiver which provides free tuition for students based upon race, ethnicity, and national origin. Similar scholarships are outlined in Appendix B and C from UND and MSU. In Appendix D, a partial tuition scholarship at UND titled the "Pride Scholarship" is provided based upon sexual identity.

I encourage the House Education Committee to support a system of education based upon merit instead of a hierarchy of social preferences. I respectfully ask for the committee to support HB 1531 by giving the bill a "Do Pass" recommendation.

## Appendix A – NDSU Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
 
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# Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver

## Admission

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[EXPLORE NDSU](#) +

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[HOW TO APPLY](#) +

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[VISIT NDSU](#)

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[SCHOLARSHIPS, COST AND FINANCIAL AID](#) X

- [Cost of Attendance](#)
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- [Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver](#)
- [Net Price Calculator](#)

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[ADMITTED STUDENT CHECKLIST](#)

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[INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS](#)

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[TRANSFER APPLICANTS](#) +

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[COUNSELOR AND ADVISOR RESOURCES](#) +

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[MEET OUR STAFF](#)

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[PARENTS AND FAMILIES](#)

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[UNDERGRADUATE ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS](#)

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[HIGH SCHOOL VISITS](#)

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## Overview

North Dakota State University is pleased to offer the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver, an award intended to assist students with their educational costs. If you are an incoming first year or transfer student who identifies with one or more of the following groups, you are encouraged to apply:

- Native American/American Indian
- Alaska Native
- African American/Black
- Asian
- Hawaiian Native/Other Pacific Islander
- Hispanic/Latino
- Middle Eastern
- Multiracial/Multiethnic (from the above categories)

## Eligibility

To be considered for the Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver, you must:

- Identify with one or more of the groups listed above
- Be admitted to NDSU by April 1, 2023 and meet one of the following:
  - New undergraduate first-year student with a 2.75 or higher cumulative high school GPA
  - New undergraduate transfer student with a 2.0 or higher cumulative college GPA

Among the students identified as culturally diverse, priority is given to:

- Students with high financial need (based on results of the completed 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) as of February 1, 2023)
- Enrolled members or direct descendants of a Native American/American Indian tribe or Alaska Native village
- First-generation college students
- Students who are single parents
- North Dakota residents

## Appendix B – UND Cultural Scholarship

### Cultural Diversity Scholarship

The University of North Dakota recognizes the educational benefit of a diverse student population and has developed a policy to recruit, assist and retain enrolled members of federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives and Villages, American Indian graduates of tribally-controlled community colleges in North Dakota, and other under-represented groups and economically disadvantaged students.

[Open All](#)

#### Eligibility

In order to be eligible for this scholarship, you must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Member of a historically underrepresented population (African American/Black, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Latino/a/x, Hispanic American or Multiracial).
2. Incoming freshman with a high school GPA of 3.00 or higher, OR transfer student from a tribal college with 24 or more college credits, AND a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher.
3. Enrolled as an on-campus student at UND.
4. Be a United States citizen.
5. Demonstrate financial need through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

#### Funding

- Effective Fall 2022, undergraduate students are eligible for up to \$2,750 per semester, or \$5,500 per academic year. In some cases, partial scholarships may be awarded.
- Scholarships will be awarded up to but not exceeding the cost of UND in-state tuition.
- Scholarships do not include flight fees, application fees, books, room, board, or other costs of attendance.
- Please note that online tuition cannot be waived through this program.

## Appendix C – Minot State Cultural Tuition Waiver

### Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver

The Cultural Diversity Tuition Waiver promotes diversity on campus through assistance to historically under-represented individuals and economically disadvantaged students.

#### Eligibility Criteria:

- Undergraduate new freshmen with a high school GPA of 2.25 or greater and transfer students with a cumulative GPA of 2.25 or greater and *pursuing a first bachelor's degree*. Eligibility will be based on the ethnicity as listed on the MSU Admission Application.
- US Citizen
- Minot State General Scholarship Application required for admitted students by February 15, 2019

#### Renewal Criteria:

- Enrollment in 12 or more credits for fall and spring semesters.
- Receive a passing grade in 24 or more credits for the fall and spring semesters.
- Earn a 2.25 or greater semester GPA and 2.25 or higher cumulative GPA.

#### Terms and Conditions:

- The award applies only to the tuition charged for on-campus and off-campus face-to-face courses.
- Students who withdraw forfeit their award.
- If all or a portion of your tuition is paid by a 3rd party agency, this award may be reduced or canceled.
- The award is non-refundable.
- Available to US residents only.
  - ND residents - 50% tuition waiver
  - Contiguous residents - 25% tuition waiver
    - *Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota*
  - WUE residents - 10% tuition waiver
    - *Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming*
  - Non-resident - 10% tuition waiver
- A student may receive only one academic tuition waiver award per year. Students eligible for more than one award will receive the greater of the academic awards being offered.
- The maximum amount a student can receive from institutional funds cannot exceed the tuition, fees and books, and room and board (if living on campus). Institutional funds include any award program and endowed scholarships

## Appendix D – UND Pride Scholarship

### Pride Scholarship

The Pride Scholarship is awarded to one or more incoming freshman students who are a part of the LGBTQ+ community or students who are ally of the community. If no incoming students apply, the scholarship may be awarded to a current UND student who meets the same criteria.

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**Award**

\$1,100.00

**Scopes**

Office of Student Finance

**Deadline**

02/01/2023

**Supplemental Questions**

1. Please provide an example of how you have demonstrated a commitment to the LGBTQ+ community.

23.0378.01002

Sixty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1531**

Introduced by

Representatives Prichard, Dyk, Heilman, Rios, Schatz, Timmons, VanWinkle

Senator Paulson

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to prohibiting institutions of higher education from waiving ~~application-~~  
3 ~~fees~~educational costs based on certain characteristics of the applicant.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15-10 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 ~~Application fee~~**Educational costs waiver - Prohibition.**

8 An institution of higher education under the control of the state board of higher education  
9 may not waive costs associated with receiving an education, including all or part of the cost of  
10 tuition, book fees, housing, or an application fee for admission to the institution based on an  
11 applicant's race, ethnicity, national origin, ~~or diversity~~gender identity, or sexual preference.