

## DOCUMENT RESUME

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**TITLE** Indian Students in Minnesota's Private Colleges - Who They Are, Where They Come From, Where They're Going, What They Think of Their Experience in College.

**INSTITUTION** Minnesota Private Coll. Research Foundation, St. Paul.

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**IDENTIFIERS** \*Minnesota

**ABSTRACT**

The study is a survey of 128 American Indian students who are attending 12 of Minnesota's private colleges this year (1974). Questionnaires completed by 55% of the Indian students during January and February of 1974 told who they are, where they are in their higher education programs, what their major fields of study are, what problems loom large for them, and what recommendations they have for improving the Indian education programs the colleges are sponsoring. Survey data are presented in tabulated form. The students represent 15 different tribes from 12 different states. Chippewas are the most numerous, comprising 60% of the total. The majority of the respondents are 21 years of age, although the range was from 17 to 50. Women comprise 52% of the sample. Marital status data indicate that the majority of them are single. The most common degree objective is bachelor of arts. The major most selected is Indian studies, followed by nursing and social work. The source of financial support comes from tribal/BIA grants. (FF)

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Indian Students in

Minnesota's Private Colleges

Who They Are

Where They Come From

Where They're Going

What They Think of Their Experience in College

Minnesota Private College Research Foundation  
Indian Education Project

12 March 1974

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One hundred twenty eight Indian students are attending 12 of Minnesota's private colleges this year. Questionnaires completed by 55 per cent of them during January and February of 1974 provide a pretty good picture of who they are, where they come from, their ages, their degrees of Indian ancestry, where they are in their higher education programs, what their major fields of study are, what problems loom large for them, what recommendations they have for improving the Indian education programs the colleges are sponsoring.

This is what we have learned from the completed questionnaires:

Tribes represented

They represent 15 different tribes from 12 different states. Chippewas are the most numerous, comprising 60% of the total.

Degree of Indian ancestry

12% are pure, or to use the white man's terminology, full-blood Indians  
12% are between  $3/4$  and  $4/4$   
32% are between  $1/2$  and  $3/4$   
32% are between  $1/4$  and  $1/2$   
12% are less than  $1/4$

Ages

60% are 21 or younger.  
30% are between 22 and 30.  
The youngest is 17. The oldest is 50.

Sex

48% are men  
52% are women  
This looks good, except that the two sexes are not evenly distributed by college.

Marital Status

83% are single  
13% are married  
4% have been married

Where they come from

12 different states  
12 different reservations  
7 different cities  
30% are from reservation communities  
14% from rural, non-reservation towns  
46% from urban areas

Where are they in college?

41% are freshmen  
19% are sophomores  
17% are juniors  
14% are seniors  
1 is in graduate school  
5 are special students

What are their degree objectives?

53% are working for B.A. degrees.  
12% for B.S. degrees.  
6% for Bachelor of Fine Arts  
29% have not decided

Major courses of study

They are pursuing 31 different majors. 12 are studying for health service related professions or vocations.  
9 are Indian studies majors.  
7 are education and/or counseling majors.  
6 are preparing for social work.

Previous colleges attended

36% attended other colleges before entering the ones in which they are now enrolled.

Special assistance in preparing for college

17%

How did they learn about colleges they are now attending?

23% from a college recruiter  
17% from friends or relatives  
14% from a high school teacher or counselor  
11% from college promotional information

Where do they live now?

50% on campus  
50% off campus

Do the colleges they're attending offer counseling specifically for Indian students?

Yes -- 80%  
No -- 20%

College Indian programs/activities with maximum participation

Indian studies 60%  
Indian week 50%  
Local Indian activities/events 50%  
Indian club or Indian student association 46%

Major problems in college

Poor study habits 50%  
Lack of preparation in high school 40%  
Lack of financial support 40%  
Not enough Indians of opposite sex 40%

Experience greatest difficulty in meeting expenses for

Transportation  
Tuition/fees  
Social activities

Sources of financial support

Tribal/BIA grants 70%  
Part-time job/work study 57%  
College scholarships 60%  
State Indian scholarship grant 34%  
EOG 23%  
Loans 23%  
Family 20%

These percentages relate to number of students, not to amounts of financial assistance provided.

Importance of special activities to meet social needs of Indian students

Very important 77%  
Important 20%  
Slightly important) or not important ) 3%

What attracted them to the colleges they're attending?

Other Indian students  
Indian studies  
Indian faculty and/or staff  
High academic standards  
Good broad program of studies  
School's reputation as "outstanding"  
Good Indian coordinator/counselor  
Adequate financial assistance  
Indian club  
Emergency financial assistance  
Small college  
Good counseling

Importance of  
classes designed to  
meet needs of  
Indian students

Very important	70%
Important	24%
Slightly or not important	6%

Courses they  
want, or want  
improved

Indian studies  
Indian history  
Indian languages  
Indian culture  
Indian art  
Indian current social issues  
Indian studies in greater depth  
Indian studies taught by Indians  
Indian studies taught on full-term basis  
Special "catch-up" courses in subjects where high school preparation was inadequate  
"How to study" courses

Special efforts  
being made to  
deal with Indian  
student problems?

Yes	50%
No	17%
Don't know	33%

Does college need  
to improve working  
relationships with  
Indian students?

Yes	66%
No	20%
No response	14%

Areas in which  
improvement is  
most needed

- 1 - Increase Indian student enrollments.
- 2 - Develop greater awareness in general student body, faculty and staff that Indian culture, traditions, values are important.
- 3 - Provide more adequate financial assistance.
- 4 - Improve communications between students and staff.
- 5 - Greater understanding by Financial aid office of socio-economic, cultural situation of Indian students

More detailed tabulations follow

70 Indian student responses (Jan.-Feb. 1974) to questionnaires re themselves  
and their experience in ten of Minnesota's private colleges

DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

<u>1-By tribe</u>	<u>2-By degree of Indian ancestry</u>	<u>3-By age</u>	<u>4-By sex</u>	<u>5-By marital status</u>				
Apache	1 less than 1/4	8	17	1	Male	34	Single	58
Blackfeet	2 1/4 but less than 1/2	23	18	17	Female	<u>36</u>	Married	9
Cherokee	2 1/2 but less than 3/4	22	19	9			70	Separated
Cree	1 3/4 but less than 4/4	8	21	6			Divorced	<u>2</u>
Chippewa	41		22	7				
Choctaw	1		22	7				
Crow	2 4/4	8	23	2				70
Haida	1 not indicated		24	3				
Laguna	1	<u>1</u>	25	2				
Navajo	1	70	26	6				
Oneida	3		27	1				
Plinger	2		30	2				
Seneca	1		31	1				
Sioux	10		33	2				
Winnebago	<u>1</u>		35	2				
	70		50	<u>1</u>				
				70				

The number appearing before each tabulation refers to the question number on the questionnaire.

6 - Where they come from

State	Reservation	Res. totals	Rural, non-res.	Urban	Urban totals	Not indicated	State totals
1 - Alaska			1				1
2 - Arizona	Navajo - 1	1					1
3 - Illinois	Chicago			1	1		1
4 - Iowa	Waterloo			1	1		1
5 - Minnesota	(Fond du Lac - 1) (Leech Lake - 2) (Nett Lake - 1) (Red Lake - 4)	8	8	Duluth Mpls. St. Paul	8 15 5	3	47
6 - Montana	(Blackfeet - 2) (Crow - 2)	4		Billings	1		5
7 - New Mexico				Albuquerque	1		1
8 - No. Dakota	Standing Rock - 1	1					1
9 - Oklahoma			1				1
10 - Pennsylvania			1				1
11 - So. Dakota	Pine Ridge - 4	4					4
12 - Wisconsin	(Lac Court d'Oreilles - 1) (Lac du Flambeau - 1) (Oneida - 1)	3	3				6
		21	14		32	3	70





7 - Degree Objectives

Baccalaureate	3
B.A.	34
B.S.	8
B.F.A.	4
M.A.	3
Undecided	2
Not indicated	14
None	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

8 - Class Status

Freshman	29
Sophomore	13
Junior	12
Senior	10
Graduate	1
Special	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

9 -

Majors

Business Adm.	1	Physical Education	1
Pre-Med.	1	Special Education	1
Social work	6	Art	2
Nursing	7	Music	1
Lab. Tech.	1	English	5
Med. records adm.	1	History	4
Occup. therapy	2	American Indian History	1
Graphic design/Photog.	1	Biology	4
Fine arts/Painting	1	Political Science	1
Design	1	Psychology	3
Home Economics	1	Sociology	2
Art Education	1	Psychology/Sociology	1
Business Education	1	Philosophy	1
Counseling	1	Indian Studies	9
Elementary Education	1	Individual Designed	1
Secondary Education	1	Interdisciplinary	1
		Undecided	5
		<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

10 - Previous Colleges -  
Years Attended

1 yr.	12
2 yrs.	6
3 yrs.	5
4 yrs.	1
7 yrs.	1
None	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

11 - Special Assistance in preparing  
for college

Upward Bound	4
Project Breakthrough	1
ABC	2
Prep. School	2
NAM	1
High school counselor	1
Summer school	1
None	58
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

12 - Colleges responses received from

College of St. Catherine	4
College of St. Scholastica	24
College of St. Teresa	5
College of St. Thomas	5
Concordia College (Moorhead)	7
Concordia College (St. Paul)	1
Gustavus Adolphus College	1
Hamline University	1
Macalester College	12
Mpls. College of Art & Design	4
Saint Olaf College	8

Total 70

14 - College residence

On campus	35
Off campus	35
Total	70

13 - How did you become familiar with with the college you're attending?

College recruiter	16
Present/former students	8
Friends/relatives	12
Priest	1
College promotional info.	8
United Scholarship Service	1
Project Breakthrough	2
School reputation	2
Indian studies reputation	2
High school tchr/cslr.	9
Near home	2
College sponsored college career day	1
Related federal employment	1
Not indicated	5

15 - College offer counseling specifically for Indians?

Yes	56
No	13
No response	1
Total	70

16 - College Indian programs in which you have participated

Indian studies	40
Indian counselor service	12
Tutoring	11
Indian club	32
Local Indian activities/ events	35
Indian Week	37
Pow-wows	2
Indian Awareness Program	2
Minority cultural exchange week	1
NIEA convention	2
None	8

What do you believe to be  
17 - your problems in college?

Lack of preparation in high school	27
Poor study habits	36
Homesickness	13
Too few friends	13
Lack of financial support	28
Home problems	14
Not enough Indian of opposite sex	26
Not enough Indians!	1

Difficulty in meeting various college expenses

18 - (Rank ordered - 1=most difficult; 6=least difficult)

	Most Difficult					Least Difficult
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Social activities	15	11	9	5	18	
Room and board	7	14	7	11	11	
Transportation	18	12	17	9	6	
Books and supplies	7	11	19	15	5	
Tuition and fees	16	2	5	9	14	
Personal needs						12

19 - Sources of financial support

State Grant	11
State Indian scholarship Grant	24
EOG	16
College scholarship	40
Church scholarship	1
Tribal/BIA Grant	50
Part-time job	21
Work-study	20
Family	13
NDSL	12
Federally Insured Loan	3
College loan	1
Vocational Rehabilitation	1
Social Security	3

21 - Aspects of college program which attract Indian students

Indian studies  
 Other Indian students  
 Indian faculty staff  
 High academic standards  
 School's reputation as "Outstanding"  
 Good Indian coordinator/counselor  
 Small college  
 Good counseling  
 Adequate financial assistance  
 Indian student association  
 Emergency financial assistance  
 Personal interest in Indian students

20 - Importance Special Indian Activities to Meet Social Needs of Indian students

Very important	45
Important	16
Slightly important	6
Not important	<u>3</u>
Total	70

22 - Importance of classes designed to meet needs of Indian students

Very important	48
Important	17
Slightly important	2
Not important	<u>3</u>
Total	70

22-A- Courses that would be desirable

Indian studies  
 Indian history  
 Indian languages  
 Indian culture  
 Indian studies taught on full-term basis  
 Indian studies taught in greater depth  
 Special (remedial) English  
 How to study

23 - Special efforts to deal with Indian student problems?

Yes	36
No	12
Don't know	<u>22</u>
Total	70

24 - College needs to improve working relationships with Indian students?

Yes	46
No	14
No response	<u>10</u>
Total	70

25 - Special concerns not being met

Too few Indians in student body  
Inadequate financial assistance

23-A - Describe efforts

Indian coordinators, counselors helpful

24-A - Areas in which improvement is most needed

Increase Indian student enrollments

Greater awareness in general student body/staff that Indian culture, traditions, values are important

More adequate financial assistance

Greater understanding by Financial Aid office

More serious commitment, attention by college to Indian education program

Improve communications between students and staff