



NAVAJO TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY: Priorities for the 119th Congress

(February 2025)

Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) provide rigorous postsecondary education and research opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives, and other rural community residents. TCUs offer higher education that is uniquely Tribal, founded on Native languages, culture, and philosophy, with strong student support systems and community engagement. Unfortunately, federal education completion metrics must consider the unique nature of TCUs and our students. Federal completion rates focus on first-time, full-time students. Success at TCUs is defined holistically, and most students attend part-time or are transfer students—our shared vision: Strong Sovereign Nations Through Excellence in TRIBAL Higher Education.

Navajo Technical University: AT A GLANCE

- **Enrollment Trends:** Spring 2024 - 1,338 & Fall 2024 -1,710
- **Affordable Tuition:** Undergraduate - \$75.00 Credit Hour (w/CIB*)
Graduate - \$276.00 Credit Hour (w/CIB*)
- **Student to Faculty Ratio:** 9:1
- **Persistence Rate:** (Fall to Spring) 80%
- **Highest Level of Degree/Program Available:** Doctor of Philosophy in Diné Culture and Language Sustainability

* = Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB)



Navajo Technical University (NTU) supports the students with different resources that help sustain our enrollment, persistence, and retention of our students. Our resources go full circle from admissions to graduation. NTU assists students with gas, food, daycare, utility payments, and minor vehicle repairs so students can continue to go to school. Partnership with other entities helps us combat food and housing insecurities. Students can access traditional counseling, ceremonies, and telehealth services through Timelycare. Timelycare keeps our students mentally, physically, and emotionally stable. Like an early alert program, our Skyhawk for Success program reaches students to eliminate any barriers and assist first-year students with laptops. Skyhawk Strong provides extra tutoring services during midterm and final exams along with online and in-house tutoring through our Nitsáhákees Bee'anoosééł Student Success Center. Nettutor, cultural presentations, partnerships with companies for internships, the career expo, the career carnival, and the Student Senate's activities help students stay engaged and foster a sense of belonging.

Navajo Technical University: Strengthening Our Workforce

TCUs are laying a strong foundation for Tribal and regional economic growth. NTU has established the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAM) and the Veterinary Clinic (VC) to prepare students for meaningful employment and economic opportunities within the Navajo Nation. Through CAM's partnerships with private sector businesses, universities, and institutions, such as Sandia National Laboratories, NTU engages students in cutting-edge fields like engineering, environmental science, chemistry, and biology. Through the VC and its associated academic program, students connect Navajo cultural traditions of livestock husbandry by gaining hands-on experience in a fully operational VC, providing real-world skills in animal care and business operations.



Navajo Technical University Driving Economic Development

NTU launched liná LLC, a holding company designed to address funding gaps between research labs and venture capital, which aims to generate high-skill, high-wage jobs for Navajo students and strengthen the Navajo Nation's economy. liná's first significant endeavor is the Navajo Advanced Manufacturing Enterprise (NAME), which leverages partnerships with Sandia National Laboratories, Arizona State University, federal agencies, and private firms to tackle gaps in the national additive metal-based powder marketplace. NAME integrates NTU's Center for Digital Technologies, workforce education initiatives, advanced manufacturing research, and AI development. Consequently, graduate students are provided the opportunity to utilize cutting-edge technology to complete their capstone projects. This complements NTU's innovative approach to capstone projects, where interdisciplinary student teams collaborate with private businesses or the university's development efforts to create unique, problem-solving products. These projects exemplify NTU's capacity to foster practical, community-focused solutions.

TOTAL ALUMNI IMPACT

\$2.3 BILLION

ADDED INCOME

28,778

JOBS

Job equivalents indicate jobs created by TCUs, both full- and part-time. They are based on industry-specific jobs to sales ratios. The \$2.3 billion alumni impact supports 28,778 jobs nationwide. (EMSI & AIHEC, 2015)

2025 Federal Legislative Priority

Repealing the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994 University Research Partnership Requirement

NTU has focused its academic mission and research agenda to address the intersection of science, social, and cultural issues facing the Navajo Nation. Under the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994, Tribal Colleges and Universities (hereinafter "1994 Institutions") must partner with other state Land Grant institutions, research institutions, or USDA facilities. Over the last 30 years, the 1994 Institutions have built the capacity and facilities to conduct world-class research. All have sponsored programs and grant offices to oversee research grants, Institutional Review Boards, and qualified Principal Investigators. This requirement has served its purpose. NTU requests Congress to repeal this requirement so the 1994 Institutions can exercise their judgment and expertise in conducting research and work to solve Tribal, regional, national, and global agriculture, land, and environmental challenges.

Navajo Technical University: Building Our Future

TCUs are focused on building new partnerships, advancing educational excellence, and creating economic opportunities for Tribal and regional communities. NTU began with foundational trade programs such as electrical technician, welding, construction, plumbing, and automotive technician, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities through apprenticeships with the Navajo Housing Authority and the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority. Our programs consistently combine theory with practical applications, allowing students to engage in lab-based projects or community-oriented initiatives. This approach continually equips students with valuable skills while directly benefiting their communities.



Navajo Technical University's Registered Nurse Program

NTU's administration, faculty, and staff have worked tirelessly to reopen the Nursing Program—a critical step toward addressing the healthcare needs of our communities. Nurses play a vital role in our Nation's healthcare system, yet Native Americans represent only 0.4% of registered nurses. NTU's commitment to this program highlights the university's mission to serve the community and address the pressing need for healthcare professionals. As one of the few tribal colleges offering a Nursing program, NTU takes pride in providing this essential and unique opportunity.