



Grow Our OWN 2017-2021

What is the Pala Band of Mission Indians “Grow Our Own” Project?

Through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Indian Education, Pala Band of Mission Indians is able to award American Indians/Alaska Natives with the opportunity to earn a California preliminary K-12 teaching credential or a California principal certification. Six teacher candidates will be selected; six principal candidates will be selected.

The project covers tuition at California State University San Marcos (100%), fees, and materials and provides a \$500/month stipend for full time students. Additionally, the program provides a year of induction support upon completion of training and job placement.

American Indians/Alaska Natives selected to participate can earn a K-12 teaching credentials or principal certification.

Is there a service Agreement?

Yes. In exchange for the tuition and support, participants must be employed at a 1:1 ratio for each month in the program in a school serving American Indian/Alaska Native students. If a participant receives support for twelve months, the participant is obligated to work for twelve months. If the participant fails to meet the service agreement, the total amount of funds is converted to a loan that must be repaid to the Department of Education. Therefore, it is imperative that participants are committed to educating American Indian/Alaska Native children.

Who is eligible to apply?

Participants must be admitted to California State University San Marcos in pursuit of a preliminary teaching credential or principal certification, must agree to the month-to-month service commitment, and must be able to document that they meet any one of the following requirements of the U.S. Department of Education’s definition of “Indian.”

1. Be a member of an Indian tribe or band, as membership is defined by the Indian tribe or band, including any tribe or band terminated since 1940, and any tribe or band recognized by the State in which the tribe or band resides.
2. Be a descendant of a parent or grandparent who meets the requirements described in item 1.
3. Be considered by the Secretary of the Interior to be an Indian for any purpose.
4. Be an Eskimo, Aleut or other Alaska Native.
5. Be a member of an organized Indian group that received a grant under the Indian Education Act of 1988 as it was in effect on October 19, 1994.

What is the timeline?

There are six competitive spaces for the teacher credential and six competitive spaces for principal certification.

- November 2017-March 2018: Apply to CSUSM's preliminary K-12 teaching credential or certification program
- January 2018: Applications to the Grow Our Own program will be accepted for the project by the Advisory Board.
- Enrollment at CSUSM can begin upon acceptance to the university's program.
- Upon completion of credentials, participants will receive induction support for one year.

How do I apply?

The application process involves applying for admission to the certification or credential program at California State University San Marcos AND filing an application for admission to the "Grow Our Own" program as a participant at Pala Band of Mission Indians. This application process requires a short statement of intent to work in Indian County, transcripts that show you have earned a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, and documentation that you have passed the California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST). Participants will need to certify that they meet the definition of Indian provided by the US Department of Education for the purposes of this program.

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions about the program or are interested in applying, please contact:

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Additional information will be available through the Pala Band of Mission Indians website (www.palatribe.com) and the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty website (www.csusm.edu/cicsc)