



SUBJECT:	Student Affairs		
POLICY:	314.1 Eagle Feather Ceremony and the Distribution of Eagle Feathers		
PROCEDURE:			
EFFECTIVE:	November 2019	REVISED:	January 2024
REVIEWED:			

Introduction and Purpose

In many indigenous cultures, eagle feathers are given in times of great honor. Many tribes present their people with eagle feathers upon graduation to signify the achievement of this important educational journey and the honor the graduate brings to his or her family, community, and tribal nation. Great Falls College wishes to honor this significance for our students.

Policy

Great Falls College MSU may gift eligible Native American students graduating from Great Falls College MSU and eligible Native American Great Falls College employees graduating from any institution with one (1) eagle feather. To comply with federal regulations prohibiting transfer of eagle feathers to non-Native American people, proof of tribal enrollment or descendency must be provided. Graduating eligible students and employees must attend the scheduled Eagle Feather Ceremony to receive transfer of their feather.

Definitions

Native American: Great Falls College defines Native Americans according to the US Department of Education definition, found [here](#).

Reference

- [US Fish & Wildlife Service Fact Sheet, Possession of Eagle Feathers and Parts by Native Americans](#)
- [US Department of Education Title VII, Subpart 5, Section 6151](#)
- [Montana Code Annotated 2-1-315](#)