FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Loan-for-Service Aid?
All ITEP students receive an Arizona Teachers Academy (ATA) Loan-for-Service aid package. All tuition and mandatory expenses accrued during your time in ITEP will be tracked and logged within your own account during the two years of the training program. After completing the program, participants “payback” the loan through service in schools/programs serving Indigenous students. The service payback requirement is based on the length of time you received funding. This means that if you received two years of funding through ITEP, you will be expected to provide service at a school/program serving Indigenous students for two years. During the service payback, you do not have to pay back any actual money. This means that the salary you earn at your job will not be affected.

Keep in mind that all aid received through ATA is considered a loan that will need to be paid back in some way. Students who do not pay back the loan through service will be required to pay back in cash.

How Much Aid Will I Receive?

Arizona Teachers Academy (ATA) Funding
ATA will cover tuition and mandatory fees.

- Contact ATA Coordinator, Dr. Raul Gonzalez, coe-ata@email.arizona.edu
- ATA website, https://coe.arizona.edu/arizona-teachers-academy-application

Should I Apply for Other Financial Aid?
While ATA may cover some of your educational expenses, it will not cover everything. We encourage all students to submit their FAFSA and apply for federal, tribal, and other aid.

How Much Time Will I Spend on Campus and Doing Field Experience?
Courses and field experience will vary among the 4 semesters; however, general information is provided below:

- Courses will be held at a local Elementary School in Tucson (Monday-Thursday)
- A unique reflective seminar session, entitled “Indigenzing Pedagogies: Teachers as Nation Builders” is required.
- Field Experience will be at a partner school (e.g., Tohono O’odham schools, Tucson Unified School District, Baboquivari Unified School District, Gila River Indian Community Schools, Sacaton Public Schools). Hours vary each semester.
- Student Teaching will be either at a partner school or any school that serves a high population of Native students.