



**SUBJECT:** Student Affairs

**POLICY:** 314.1 Eagle Feather Ceremony – Distribution of Eagle Feathers

**RELATED PROCEDURE:**

**EFFECTIVE:** November 2019    **REVISED:** January 2024    **REVIEWED:**

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### **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 graduating Native American students 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 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](#).

### **Resources**

[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](#)