Native American Studies

Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Native American Studies
Minor in Indigenous Peoples, Natural Resource Use & the Environment
Minor in Native American Studies
Minor in Tribal Leadership

Department Chair
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Department of Native American Studies
Behavioral & Social Sciences 206
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The Program

Students completing this program will have demonstrated:

- knowledge of and the ability to communicate significant information regarding Native American cultures, histories, federal and tribal law and government, community development, language and tradition, stewardship, sovereignty, and other issues affecting life in Indian country, especially from a Native American perspective
- ability to research issues affecting life in Indian Country by using primary and secondary sources
- ability to explain the concept of tribal sovereignty, and understand the development and importance of modern tribal governments
- knowledge of Indigenous environmental relationships through an awareness of diverse Indigenous cultural and scientific perspectives, and the importance of protection of sacred and historical sites
- ability to recognize the scope of tribal sovereignty as it relates to tribal, federal, and international law [legislative and judicial], including the structure of federal/tribal relationships, indigenous autonomy, and self-governing behaviors.

Unique among the CSU campuses in its close proximity to eleven federally recognized tribes and the largest population of Native Americans in the state of California, HSU provides a rich environment for studying federal Indian law, tribal government and justice systems, natural resource management, linguistics and culture. The Department of Native American Studies is a stand-alone department, whose faculty are experts in the areas of arts, humanities, linguistics, social sciences, natural resources and federal Indian law.

The major in Native American Studies, particularly when combined with a minor in a specific field, is good preparation for graduate work in several social sciences, as well as for professional training in law, business, or social work. It also provides an excellent background for prospective teachers.

Other career opportunities: student services counselor, mental health worker, cultural resources specialist, tribal museum curator, Indian language teacher, and tribal administrator.

Preparation

High school students should take writing, literature and social science courses [history, psychology, sociology].
Community college students should take introductory courses in Native American Studies and courses that meet lower division general education requirements.

Requirements for the major

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below for the major, please see “The Bachelor’s Degree” section of the catalog, pp. 66-80.

Core Courses [31 units]

Lower Division (6 units)

NAS 104 [3] Introduction to Native American Studies

Upper Division (25 units)

NAS 301 [3] Native American Literature
NAS 325 [3] Native Tribes of California
NAS 340 [3] Language & Communication in Native American Communities
NAS 492 [3] Native American Studies Capstone Experience

After taking the required core courses, all students will select an additional 6 to 7 units of coursework. Students may pursue a “General” NAS degree and choose courses from any of the 4 elective areas, or choose an emphasis in which to specialize [Law & Government, Environment & Natural Resources, Language & Literature, Society & Culture]. If a student chooses an optional emphasis, the student must take two courses in that area.

Electives (6-7 units)

A student may choose an optional emphasis from the following electives by taking two of the courses listed under a category below.

Law & Government

NAS 468 [3] Tribal Justice Systems

Environment & Natural Resources

NAS 332 [3] Environmental Justice

Language & Literature

NAS 345 [3] Native Languages of North America

Society & Culture

NAS 320 [3] Native American Psychology
NAS 374 [3] Native American Health

Supplement/Substitute in Major If Offered

Upper division elective courses are recommended for those who would like to pursue interests in subjects or to engage in more in-depth study of an area not required as part of the NAS curriculum. Before enrolling in these elective courses, students will consult with their major advisor. These courses will be offered on an infrequent schedule.

NAS 361 [3] Tribal Sovereignty, Tribal Citizens
NAS 392 [3] Indigenous Identities in Film
NAS 480 [1-4] Special Topics [Topics vary and may be repeated]
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINORS

The three NAS minors require a total of 15-17 units each, as follows:

**Minor in Native American Studies**

Students take a total of 9 units of required core courses plus 6-8 units (two courses) from one of two emphasis categories below,

**Core Courses (9 units)**

NAS 104 (3) Introduction to Native American Studies
NAS 200 (3) Indigenous Peoples in US History
NAS 306 (3) Indigenous Peoples of the Americas

**Emphasis Categories (6-8 units)**

In addition to the core, students select two upper-division courses from one of the following emphasis categories:

**Culture & Community Emphasis**

NAS 301 (3) Native American Literature
NAS 325 (3) Native Tribes of California
NAS 374 (3) Native American Health

**Law & Policy Emphasis**

NAS 331 (3) Indigenous Natural Resource Management Practices
NAS 364 (4) Federal Indian Law I, or
NAS 365 (4) Federal Indian Law II
NAS 366 (4) Tribal Water Rights

**Minor in Tribal Leadership**

**Lower Division (6 units)**

NAS 104 (3) Introduction to Native American Studies
NAS 200 (3) Indigenous Peoples in US History

**Upper Division (10 units)**

NAS 360 (3) Tribal Justice Systems
NAS 362 (3) Tribal Governance & Leadership
NAS 364 (4) Federal Indian Law I, or
NAS 365 (4) Federal Indian Law II

**Minor in Indigenous Peoples, Natural Resource Use & the Environment**

**Lower Division (3 units)**

NAS 104 (3) Introduction to Native American Studies

**Upper Division (14 units)**

NAS 331 (3) Indigenous Natural Resource Management Practices
NAS 332 (3) Environmental Justice
NAS 364 (4) Federal Indian Law I, or
NAS 365 (4) Federal Indian Law II
NAS 366 (4) Tribal Water Rights