

# Native American Studies

The Center for Native American Studies offers a holistic curriculum rooted in Native American themes that--

- 1) challenges students to think critically and communicate effectively about Indigenous issues with emphasis on Great Lakes Indigenous perspectives;
- 2) stimulates further respectful inquiry about Indigenous people; and
- 3) provides active learning and service learning opportunities that strengthen student engagement, interaction, and reciprocity with Indigenous communities.

NAS course content is the comprehensive study of Native nations, tribal citizens and their cultural relationship with their ancestral homelands, or lack thereof due to multiple societal impacts including assimilation, colonization, and termination.

## Skills and Competencies

NAS offers in-depth content on the historical and modern-day issues affecting Native nations today including subjects tied to the legal-political relationship between Native nations and the U.S. federal government. NAS majors will engage in useful skills and meaningful topics that develop and hone several professional traits.

- Analysis and Critical Thinking
- Community Engagement and Reciprocity
- Economic, Environmental, Racial, and Social Justice
- Grant-writing and Program Planning
- Identity Awareness and Cultural Humility
- Tribal Nation Capacity Building and Self-Determination
- Verbal and Written Communication Skills

## Course Work

This degree includes the following courses as part of the program requirements, and specific major requirements along with general education courses and graduation requirements.

### Core Courses

- NAS204 Native American Experience (4 cr.)
- NAS212 Michigan/Wisconsin Tribal Relations (4 cr.)
- NAS310 Tribal Law and Government (4 cr.)
- NAS315 History of Indian Boarding School Ed. (4 cr.)

### Anishinaabemowin (Anishinaabe Language) (4 cr.)

- NAS101 Anishinaabe Lang/Culture/Community(4 cr.) or
- NAS207 Beautiful Walks on Turtle Island: Seasonal Experience Anishinaabe Language (4 cr.)

### Capstone (both theoretical and applied)

- NAS404 Research and Engagement in Native American Studies (4 cr.)
- NAS488 Beautiful Walks on Turtle Island: Seasonal Experience Anishinaabe Language (4 cr.)

### Electives (12 cr.)

- AD200 Native American Art/Architecture (4 cr.)
- AN320 Native Peoples of North America (4 cr.)
- AN330 Indians of the Western Great Lakes (4 cr.)
- CJ460 Native American Justice (4 cr.)
- EN311Z\* World Literature in English (4 cr.)
- EN314 Traditional Oral Literatures (4 cr.)
- EN316 Native American Novels and Poetry (4 cr.)
- EN317 Native American Drama/Nonfic/SS (4 cr.)
- HS233 Native American History (4 cr.)
- EN410\* Genres of Writing (1-4 cr.)
- EN430\* Majors Authors (3-4 cr.)
- HS233 Native American History (4 cr.)
- MU325\* World Music (4 cr.)
- NAS230 Decolonizing with Indigenous Foods (4 cr.)

All courses with NAS prefix not already included in required courses

\*Course with variable content. Credit only applies when there is primarily Native American subject matter.

### Minor (16 cr.)

Choose any minor except the following; the Native American Studies minor or the Native American Community Services minor.

Find detailed course descriptions at [www.nmu.edu/bulletin](http://www.nmu.edu/bulletin).

## Career Development

Dive into your education and classes and begin the resume-building process early.

The Center for Native American Studies will assist you with tribal community engagement opportunities.

The Academic and Career Advisement Center can assist you with career planning.

## Additional Considerations

Native American Studies offers these distinct academic programs: the Native American Studies Minor [24 credits], the Native American Community Services Minor [24 credits], the Native American Community Services associate degree [60 credits], and an undergraduate certification in American Indian Education (AIE) [12 credits]. The AIE certification is the only nationally recognized academic program endorsed by the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly.

NAS courses are designed for all NMU students. Several courses meet general education and graduation requirements. Students majoring in Criminal Justice, Education, Environmental Studies and Sustainability, History, Political Science, and Social Work will find NAS courses useful.

A majority of NAS core courses and some NAS electives are available online. The ZOOM online video platform is helpful for those students who prefer face-to-face instruction.

Front Cover Photo: Students from NAS 310 Tribal Law and Government class visit the Keeweenaw Bay Indian Community's Department of Natural Resources.

## Job Outlook

Jobs in need of the skills and competencies that are acquired are varied both in terms of specialty and salary. Starting salaries are contingent upon geographic location and individual work experience. Examples of potential careers are listed on this brochure.

# Potential Careers

NMU's Native American Studies program will prepare you for employment in the following careers:

- Anishinaabe Language Instructor  
(Specific Courses required)
- Community Organizer
- Cross-Cultural Communications Specialist
- Diversity Coordinator
- Am. Indian Family Services Specialist
- Governmental Agencies
- Non-profit Organizations
- Tribal Conservation Officer
- Tribal Department of Natural Resources
- Tribal Education Director
- Tribal Elder Coordinator
- Tribal Youth Coordinator
- Youth-Focused Organizations

There are 567 federally-recognized tribal nations in the United States. Each tribe has their own infrastructure and seek employees who are familiar with the history that has affected and is still influencing Native America today.

# Additional Resources and Information

For Career Planning and Opportunities:  
Academic & Career Advisement Center  
3302.1 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2971  
[www.nmu.edu/acac](http://www.nmu.edu/acac)

Center for Native American Studies  
112 Whitman  
906-227-1397  
[www.nmu.edu/cnas](http://www.nmu.edu/cnas)

Multicultural Education and Resource Center (MERC)  
3001 C.B. Hedgcock  
(906)227-1554  
[mer@nmu.edu](mailto:mer@nmu.edu)

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:  
Career Services  
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock  
906-227-2800  
[www.nmu.edu/careers](http://www.nmu.edu/careers)

NMU Student Organizations associated with NAS Major  
Native American Language and Culture Club  
Native American Student Association

Internet Resource Links:  
[www.careers.org](http://www.careers.org)  
[www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov)

National/ Regional Organizations- Career Information:  
[www.bia.gov](http://www.bia.gov) -Bureau of Indian Affairs  
[www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org) -Great Lakes Inter-tribal Council Inc.  
[www.glifwc.org](http://www.glifwc.org) -Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission  
[www.catchingthedream.org](http://www.catchingthedream.org) -Native American Leadership in Education  
[www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org) -National Congress of American Indians



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center  
2022



What to do with  
a major in...

# Native American Studies

