

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

- NAS100 Native American Studies FYE (2 cr.)
- 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.)
- NAS404 Research and Engagement in NAS (4 cr.)
- NAS488 Native Amer. Community Svcs. (4 cr.)

Anishinaabemowin (Anishinaabe Language) (4 cr.)
NAS101 Anishinaabe Lang/Culture/Community(4 cr.) or
NAS207a Fall Seasonal Experience or
NAS207b Winter Seasonal Experience or
NAS207c Spring / Summer Seasonal Experience

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.)
- 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.)
- NAS102 Anishinaabe Lang, Culture and Community (4 cr.)
- NAS224 Native American Beadwork Styles (4 cr.)
- NAS240 Sacred Ground: Native Peoples and Mother Earth (4 cr.)
- NAS280 Storytelling by Native American Women (4 cr.)
- NAS288 Politics of Indian Gaming (4 cr.)
- NAS295 Special Topics in NAS (1-4 cr.)
- NAS320 American Indians: Identity and Media Images (4 cr.)
- NAS330 Native Cultures and the Dynamics of the Rel. Exp. (4 cr.)
- NAS340 Kinomaage: Earth Shows Us the Way (4 cr.)
- NAS414 First Nations Women (4 cr.)
- NAS422 American Indian Humor (2 cr.)
- NAS440 Awesiinh: Wild Animal Relations (4 cr.)
- NAS484 Native American Inclusion in the Classroom (2 cr.)
- NAS485 American Indian Education (3 cr.)
- NAS486 American Indian Educational Law and Leadership (3 cr.)
- NAS495 Special Topics in NAS (1-4 cr.)
- NAS498 Directed Study in NAS (1-4 cr.)

Find detailed course descriptions at 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

Center for Native American Studies
112 Whitman
906-227-1397
www.nmu.edu/cnas

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

For Job Search, Resume and Career Information:
Career Services
3302.3 C.B. Hedgcock
906-227-2800
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
www.bls.gov

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



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY**

The Academic & Career Advisement Center
2020



What to do with
a major in...

Native American Studies

