Montana State University-Bozeman is one of a small handful of universities in the United States to offer a Masters degree in Native American Studies that is both housed within a dedicated department of Native American Studies, and located in a university and wider community with a large, active Native population. This vibrant synergy presents students with a rare opportunity to interact on a daily basis with full-time Native American Studies faculty here at MSU, as well as become involved in the Native community.

Research interests of the MSU Native American Studies faculty encompass wide-ranging interdisciplinary topics in the field of Native American Studies, including studies of theory, methodology, history, anthropology, film, native food systems, federal Indian law and policy, environmental law, art, mascots and racism, contemporary issues, gender studies, Montana and US Native literature, tribal government, tribal higher education, geography, and native science, to name but a few. Students and faculty form interdisciplinary research connections with many other departments on campus, such as American Studies, History, Film, English, Earth Sciences, Education, and Land Resources & Environmental Studies.

MSU-Bozeman is geographically located at the heart of Montana’s seven tribal colleges. This proximity to the seven reservations in Montana, home to twelve tribes is unique, and presents an unparalleled opportunity in the United States to craft an original graduate research project in collaboration with the sovereign indigenous nations of Montana. The MSU student body includes more than 500 Native students and a very active American Indian Student Council, providing a lively inclusive environment.

NAS graduate students participate with the department and the American Indian Council to host events such as Native Heritage Day, internationally renowned guest speakers, the annual MSU Pow-Wow, and conferences on topics ranging from tribal histories to Native literature, to environmental issues.

DEGREES OFFERED

- M.A. in Native American Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Native American Studies

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Bozeman is cradled in the beautiful Gallatin Valley, ringed by mountains that offer world class winter and summer sports, and a community that is vibrant year-round. Bozeman has a convenient international airport, and is ninety minutes away from Yellowstone National Park.

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ADMISSION

Background, either academic or professional, in Native American Studies or a related field is preferred however it is not a prerequisite for admission. An average GPA of “B” or above is required. Due to sequencing of classwork, Fall admission is strongly recommended.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The two-year curriculum consists of a minimum of thirty-one semester credit hours of study, completed through either the Thesis Option, or Professional Paper/project Option. To graduate, a student must complete the course of study in good academic standing and produce the thesis or professional project. Candidates for the MA take interdisciplinary courses that include classes in Native American Studies and related fields that support their research. This degree will provide Native American Studies scholars with the pedagogical foundation to either pursue doctoral studies, or substantially contribute to their professional field.

The Graduate Certificate is satisfied with four classes, available fully online. The certificate provides academic and professional enhancement for those who work with Native communities.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Four Graduate teaching assistantships are available through competitive application each year.