

# Native American Studies

College of Letters and Science



*NAS graduate student Amy Gore researches Native American culture and literature. Photo by Kelly Gorham, MSU News.*

## Undergraduate programs of study:

The department offers a non-teaching undergraduate minor. Designated undergraduate courses fulfill the diversity requirement under in the university's core curriculum.

## Graduate programs of study:

The department offers a Master of Arts degree.

The department also offers an **online graduate certificate** in Native American Studies.

## Faculty:

For a list of current faculty please see: [www.montana.edu/wwwnas/index.php?page=faculty](http://www.montana.edu/wwwnas/index.php?page=faculty)

For additional information, contact:

## Department of Native American Studies

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## NAS Academic Programs

The Department of Native American Studies (NAS) offers an undergraduate non-teaching minor and a Master of Arts through an interdisciplinary program of study in American Indian culture, history, policy, law, community affairs, education and other related areas. The academic programs provide concentrated study in Native American Studies, as well as opportunities for all MSU students, at both the undergraduate and graduate level, to gain a multicultural perspective in meeting the university's core curriculum requirements. The programs offer opportunities for individual and community research through independent study, internships and special topics courses.

### Minor in Native American Studies

The non-teaching minor in Native American Studies is designed to enhance the students' major area of study, offering an interdisciplinary academic program for Indians and non-Indians who wish to concentrate in the study of Native American life or who are preparing for careers in tribal affairs or other Indian-related professional employment.

### Master of Arts in Native American Studies

Students may choose a thesis or a non-thesis option. The thesis option is preparation for doctoral work in Native American Studies or a related field of study. The non-thesis option can prepare a student for a number of careers important to Native Americans including: government work at the tribal, state or federal level; education positions from K-12 all the way to the tribal college level; and business administration.

### Online Graduate Certificate in Native American Studies

The department also offers an online graduate certificate program. This program requires 12 semester credits, available through four online classes. Credits earned towards the graduate certificate may be transferred to the Master of Arts program.

*MSU's annual American Indian Council Pow Wow. Photo by Erin Raley, MSU News.*



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*John Old Elk, an undergraduate student in cell biology, is involved in research on the treatment of stroke victims. Photo by Kelly Gorham, MSU News.*

## What can I do with a degree in Native American Studies?

### Career areas:

- Cultural/historic preservation
- Museums and art galleries
- Social welfare
- Non profits
- Health service administration
- Arts organizations
- Government organizations
- Education/teaching
- Social work
- Advocacy work
- Lobbyist
- Film
- Tourism
- Marketing

### Types of employers:

- Museums
- Social service agencies
- Media organizations
- Environmental organizations
- Natural resource organizations
- Arts organizations
- Health care and related
- Government agencies
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Educational organizations
- Tribal governments
- National Park Service
- Indian Health Service
- Hospitals

## Opportunities for American Indian Students at MSU

Montana State University is located near a major traditional crossroads for Plains and Plateau Native nations, a meeting place where the varied nations congregated to trade, celebrate and negotiate. Today that tradition is continued through MSU's nationally recognized commitment to Native students, their education, communities and Native nations. At this important historical and contemporary crossroads of Native cultures, Native students today will find the most comprehensive Indian academic and student support programs and services in the Northwest region or perhaps in the nation.

### Focal Point for American Indian Issues

The Department of Native American Studies (NAS) is the focal point for most Indian students at MSU. It houses the American Indian student adviser's office and the American Indian Student Center. The department also provides a strong academic program in Native American Studies, academic and personal counseling, tutorial services, scholarships, emergency loans and other support for American Indian students. The department maintains close liaisons with other university programs and services, including TRiO Student Support Services, American Indian Research Opportunities, University Studies, and Student Affairs and Services.

### Phyllis Berger Memorial Scholarship

To honor and promote academic excellence among American Indians, NAS annually awards three \$1,000 scholarships. Awarded on the basis of academic achievement and leadership, the Phyllis Berger Memorial Scholarships are provided to support promising American Indian students at MSU. One scholarship is available to incoming students in each of these categories: first-year undergraduate student; transfer student from a tribally controlled community college; and first-year graduate student. The application deadline is the first Friday in March.

*Left photo: Josh Mori, a Native Hawaiian, recently graduated with a degree in philosophy and a minor in Native American Studies, and is currently a NAS masters degree student. Photo by Kelly Gorham, MSU News. Right photo: Lynette Stein-Chandler, who has a masters degree in Native American Studies, is director of the White Clay Immersion School on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in northern Montana. Photo by Jim Potter.*



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