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.

NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
The Department of Native American Studies offers an undergraduate non-teaching minor, a graduate certificate 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. These 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 student’s 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 professional paper option. The thesis option is preparation for doctoral work in Native American Studies or a related field of study. The professional paper 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.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES
The department also offers a graduate certificate program that is fully available online. 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.

Montana Wilson, a double major in economics and political science with a minor in Native American studies, was selected as a 2016 Udall Scholar and received a 2017 Gates Cambridge Scholarship.

Native student poster presentations at Native American Heritage Day.
Specialized Areas of Study/Minors
- Minor in Native American Studies

Graduate Programs
- Master of Arts in Native American Studies
- Graduate certificate

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

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

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

For additional information, contact:
Department of Native American Studies
Montana State University
2-179 Wilson Hall
P.O. Box 172340
Bozeman, MT 59717-2340
Tel: 406-994-3881
Fax: 406-994-3343
www.montana.edu/nativeamerican/NAS@montana.edu

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENTS AT MSU

FOCAL POINT FOR AMERICAN INDIAN ISSUES
The Department of Native American Studies 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, tutoring services, scholarships, emergency loans and other support for American Indian students. The department maintains close liaisons with other university programs and services, including the Office of Student Success, American Indian Research Opportunities, University Studies and the Diversity Awareness Office.

NATIVE PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS
Each fall, the Department of Native American Studies offers the Native Pathways to Success orientation program for incoming American Indian/Alaska Native freshman. The program supplements the MSU orientation program with information and tours geared towards Native students. Incoming freshman and their families tour campus and student housing arrangements, and learn about MSU career services, financial aid and budgeting tools, extracurricular activities and student groups. They are also provided with workshops focused on time management and study skills.

AMERICAN INDIAN COUNCIL
The American Indian Council (AIC) is for all Native students and their families, and assists new and continuing students with their adjustment to college life. The council promotes academic success through group support, advocacy and leadership. The AIC is unique in its use of cultural heritage to foster pride, integrity and achievement at the college level and beyond. The AIC provides critical support to promote perseverance and success for many Native American students at MSU. The AIC also sponsors and organizes the annual Montana State University American Indian Council Pow Wow, one of the largest pow wows in Montana.

SCHOLARSHIPS
The Department of Native American Studies is fortunate to have a modest amount of scholarship money available to Native American students enrolled at Montana State University. Interested students can learn more about available scholarships and application information by following the “Scholarships” link on our website.

Assistant professor Gail Small, an attorney who specializes in environmental and natural resource law, teaches a variety of courses for the department.