Destiny White Clay-Bear Claw

My name is Destiny White Clay-Bear Claw, wife to Harlen Bear Claw and mother to Hadley, Heith and Harlee. I am a member of the Crow Nation and currently reside on the Crow Reservation. My sister, Tiffany White Clay, and brother, Micah White Clay, are both graduates of Montana State University. My parents, Vernon and Jolene White Clay III, are very proud BOBCAT parents. Go Cats!

I feel that the online program was designed just for me! Flexibility and accessibility are the program’s best qualities. As a full-time employee, wife and mother of three children, I love that I can create my own schedule and complete my coursework on my own time. But the professors are really what make the program. Although all work was done online, the close relationship with my advisor and professors created an environment that made me feel as though I was part of the Montana State University family. My brother and sister are both Montana State University graduates so it is a family tradition to become a BOBCAT!

I faced challenges as a mother, wife and a full-time employee but my professors remained understanding and encouraging. During my last semester, I was admitted to the hospital for a week and my professors were very supportive and worked with me so that I could finish all my work. I really appreciated their support.

I plan to pursue the Native American Studies Master’s program with Montana State University. After eight years of employment, I have the opportunity to stay at home with my two-year-old and six-month-old and enjoy every minute of motherhood.

Contact:

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM
Montana State University
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www.montana.edu/liberalstudies/online

Montana State University 125 Years
What can I do with a Liberal Studies Degree?
Because the Liberal Studies major provides education in many different subject areas, it is appealing to employers looking for staff with a bachelor’s degree. It shows that graduates of the program have a flexible interdisciplinary approach to their learning.
A degree in Liberal Studies also prepares students for graduate work in a variety of disciplines. Graduates have gone on to graduate school in law, anthropology, and library science. At Montana State University, we have online graduate programs for students who want to continue their education online in programs such as Native American Studies and Addiction Counseling.

Do I have to leave home, and how often would I need to visit campus?
The Liberal Studies online program is a fully online degree completion program. All the classes are provided online and advising can be done over the phone, via email, or using video conferencing. There is no requirement to come to campus, but you are always welcome to visit!

Is there financial aid available for Native Students?
There are many financial resources available to Native students, such as scholarships, waivers, grants, loans, and work study. Two tuition waivers are available exclusively for Native American students: the Montana American Indian Waiver (Resident) and the Tribal Homeland Scholarship Waiver (Non-Resident).
To get started, contact Financial Aid via email: fnaid@montana.edu or phone: (406) 994-2845

Native American Studies and the Return to Learn Program Partnership - Students are supported through a multitude of academic support structures to help them succeed academically and to graduate.
Return to Learn Scholarships are available for up to $2,000. To find out more and apply online, please visit www.montana.edu/returntolearn

What kind of online support is available to students or potential Liberal Studies online students?
We provide hands-on daily support to you. Our advisors are ready to answer any of your questions and walk you through every step of your journey to degree completion. Other services include, an online orientation, online tutoring, and a dedicated online librarian.

What other requirements are there to graduate?
You will need to complete your Core requirements. Core classes are available online. In addition, you will need to complete 45 credits in the Liberal Studies program and a capstone project in your final semester.

How many classes do I need to take?
Do I need to take classes every semester?
There is no set number of classes you need to take every semester. You can take as many or as few classes as you like to fit with your other life commitments and your learning style.

Online classes are offered every semester but you do not need to take classes every semester. Many distance students take the summer semester off and return in the fall.

Will it specify that my degree is an “online” degree on my diploma?
Your diploma is the same as if you earned it on campus. The classes and curriculum are the same for the online program and the on-campus program. In fact, you will often take online classes alongside campus students.

Will I be able to walk in MSU’s graduation?
Yes! And we will be there to celebrate this great accomplishment with you and your family.

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Currently more than 100 American Indian or Alaskan Native students are enrolled in MSU’s Liberal Studies program, including students from the following tribes:
Assiniboine
Blackfeet
Chippewa
Cree
Crow
Northern Cheyenne
Salish
Sioux

What is Liberal Studies anyway?
Liberal Studies is a flexible, rigorous and multidisciplinary major that allows students to explore the natural sciences, humanities, social sciences, and the arts. The Liberal Studies student learns how to ask the big questions, think critically, and contribute in a meaningful way to society.

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Is my tribal language count for the language requirement?
Absolutely! You need two semesters of a language and your tribal language will count for this.

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