Montana State University’s online graduate certificate in Native American Studies is the only program of its type in the world. Students from all backgrounds and professions will gain a deeper insight into the American Indians of Montana, the region and the nation through courses on current and historical aspects of Native American art, law, culture and contemporary issues.

From locations throughout the world, students can share experiences, ideas and personal cultures to create an exciting and interactive learning environment. Credits earned may be transferred to Montana State University’s master’s degree program in Native American Studies (some, but not all, of the master’s program courses are offered online).

**Prerequisites**

- Bachelor’s degree
- Admission as a graduate student to Montana State University

The program has a rolling application for admissions, and students may submit materials at any time.

**For more information on admission to the graduate certificate or the NAS master’s degree, contact:**

Native American Studies Department  
www.montana.edu/nativeamerican/  
(406) 994-3881

“Not only did this help me professionally, it has worked its way into my classroom. Students are and will benefit from what I have learned here.”

Native American Studies Department  
www.montana.edu/nativeamerican/

Cover photo courtesy of MSU American Indian Council

A 12-credit online graduate-level program for students of varied backgrounds who are interested in Native American art, literature, history, law and culture.
Coursework

[Following are examples of past courses. New courses are being developed, and courses vary by semester]

**American Indian Art Survey.** Explore the functions and purposes of the unique arts of North American indigenous peoples by culture area, in both the past and the present, within the overlapping contexts of culture area politics, cosmology, religion and spirituality, and gender.

**Federal Indian Law and Policy.** Trace the history of Indian law from the Constitution to present day, including treaties, termination, assimilation, self determination, criminal prosecution, water rights, health services, development of natural resources and tribal businesses.

**Indian Education for All: A Model for Culturally Responsive Pedagogy in Practice.** This course is designed for teachers and covers the goals and evolution of IEFA within a multicultural education framework, including how educators are best prepared to implement this transformative educational policy.

**Indigenous Literature and the West.** Explore Native American and First Nations literature and its relation to the American and Canadian West. Supplemental readings from classic American literature, historical non-fiction and film will be used to challenge or reflect upon what we mean when we refer to the "West" both as a place and an evolving idea.

**Indigenous Nations of Montana.** Explore Montana’s contemporary Indigenous Nations and Montana’s Paleolithic prehistory and post-contact history. Examine traditional culture and history of each tribe, with a strong focus on contemporary life and issues pertinent to each tribe, including legal and social relationships and issues between Montana’s sovereign tribes and the State of Montana.

**Native America: Dispelling the Myths.** Through readings and videos, online conversations and creative projects, we will wrestle with the series of assumptions—“myths”—commonly held by non-Indians and sometimes Indians alike while learning the most basic elements of American Indian—which is to say American—history.

**Native Food Systems.** With examples from across North America, students investigate relationships between Native American food, culture, knowledge and ecology, including environmental stewardship techniques and agricultural innovations that provide plants and animals for sustenance; learn about the worldviews and values that guide these practices; and discuss the impacts of changing political landscapes on the health and food culture of Native peoples.

Faculty

Faculty for the online graduate certificate in Native American Studies come from within Montana State University and from other prestigious institutions, and include representatives from American Indian tribes and various professional backgrounds. All are dedicated, like the Department of Native American Studies, to excellence in teaching, research and service, and are committed to delivering an outstanding online education and supporting student success.

About Montana State University

Montana State University is a world-class research university dedicated to encouraging exploration and inspiring creativity. MSU’s Department of Native American Studies is accredited by WINHEC (World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium), becoming the first mainstream non-indigenous controlled institution in the world ever to receive the designation. The Department provides and advances quality education for and about American Indians of Montana, the region, and the nation. The Department, through its research and other creative efforts, actively pursues interdisciplinary scholarship in the field of Native American Studies.