

# NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS

## College of Letters & Science

Native American Studies provides a multi-disciplinary introduction to the indigenous cultures of North, Central, and South America. It challenges students to consider issues of cultural diversity, sovereignty, and indigenous knowledge systems in preparation for living in a world of constantly increasing social and cultural complexity.

## The Program

Students electing a major in Native American Studies may complete Plan I, Plan II, or Plan III. Plan I enables students to concentrate chiefly upon the Native experience in North America (north of Mexico). Plan II encourages interested students to focus upon Meso-America with some course work integrating Meso-America with North America and South America. Plan III focuses upon South America with some course work integrating that region with areas to the north.

## Major Advisor & Advising

All new and prospective Native American Studies majors are encouraged to see the Student Affairs Officer individually, once per year, at minimum. See Native American Studies Advising (<https://nas.ucdavis.edu/contact-information/>).

## Career Alternatives

Native American Studies is excellent preparation for a scholarly career or professional career such as teaching, law, human services, health, tribal administration, social work, and inter-ethnic relations. Graduate schools and agencies in these and related areas are looking for students with broad interdisciplinary preparation and who possess knowledge and sensitivity relating to ethnic issues and cultural diversity.

## Study Off Campus

Majors have the option of spending one to three quarters elsewhere in the Americas or on or near a reservation as part of the fulfillment of the Area of Specialization. Each student's plan must be approved by the student's advisor and by the chairperson and may fulfill from 12 to 20 of the 28 units required for the emphasis. The courses or field internship taken elsewhere must be focused upon indigenous peoples or indigenous languages and the institution of study shall be located in an area with substantial indigenous population. Students must have upper division standing and, for Plan I, course 107 or the equivalent should have been completed; for Plan II, courses 107 and 133 should have been completed; and for Plan III, courses 107 and 120 should have been completed prior to departure. Several options may be used for receiving academic credit, including course 195. The department strongly encourages students to participate in the UC Education Abroad Program or Short-Term Programs Abroad.

## Graduate Study

The Department offers a program of study leading to M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Native American Studies, as well as a designated emphasis in Native American Studies for graduate students in approved programs. Further information regarding graduate study may be obtained at the Department office and at Graduate Studies.

## Graduates Advisor

Graduate Advisors (<https://nas.ucdavis.edu/graduate-advisor/>)

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Native American Studies Bachelor of Arts is 48.

Code	Title	Units
<b>Preparatory Subject Matter</b>		
<i>Choose two:</i>		<b>8</b>
NAS 001	Introduction to Native American Studies or NAS 002V PENDING APPROVAL	
NAS 005	Introduction to Native American Literature or NAS 005V	
NAS 010	Native American Experience	
NAS 012	Native American/Indigenous Film	
<i>Choose one:</i>		<b>4</b>
NAS 007	Indigenous & Minority Languages	
NAS 030	Homeland History	
NAS 032	Native American Music & Dance	
NAS 033	Introduction to Native American Art	
NAS 034	Native American Art Studio	
NAS 050	Colloquium in Native American & Indigenous Studies	
NAS 099	Special Study for Undergraduates	
<b>OR</b>		
One comparable lower division course from the following departments or programs:		
African American & African Studies (AAS) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/aas/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/aas/</a> )		
Anthropology (ANT) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/ant/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/ant/</a> )		
American Studies (AMS) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/ams/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/ams/</a> )		
Asian American Studies (ASA) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/asa/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/asa/</a> )		
Chicana/o Studies (CHI) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/chi/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/chi/</a> )		
Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies (GSW) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/gsw/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/gsw/</a> )		
History (HIS) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/his/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/his/</a> )		
Linguistics (LIN) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/lin/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/lin/</a> )		
Middle East and South Asia Studies (MSA) courses. ( <a href="https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/msa/">https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/courses-subject-code/msa/</a> )		
<b>OR</b>		
Another 4-unit lower division course selected in consultation with an advisor, guided by the student's interest and relevance to Native American Studies.		
Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal		<b>12</b>
<b>Depth Subject Matter</b>		

<i>Theory &amp; Methods</i>		4-8	NAS 118	Native American Politics	
At least one is required, but both encouraged.			NAS 119	Introduction to Federal Indian Law	
NAS 146	Orientation to Research in Native American Studies		NAS 121	Corporate Colonialism	
NAS 190	Advanced Seminar on Sovereignty & Autonomy		NAS 123	Native Foods & Farming of the Americas	
			or NAS 123V	Native Foods & Farming of the Americas	
<i>Language</i>			NAS 125	Performance & Culture Among Native Americans	
Choose one:			NAS 130A	Native American Ethno-Historical Development	
NAS 107	Learning Native American Languages		NAS 130B	Native American Ethno-Historical Development	
NAS 108	Indigenous Languages of California		NAS 130C	Native American Ethno-Historical Development	
NAS 109	Native American Language Spotlight		NAS 132	Native American History in California	
NAS 110A	Quechua Language & Society: Beginning Level 1		NAS 134	Race, Culture, & Nation	
NAS 110B	Quechua Language & Society: Beginning Level 2		NAS 135	Gender Construction in Native Societies	
<b>OR</b>			NAS 157	Native American Religion & Philosophy	
Substitute a field experience credit (NAS 192) for independent language learning.			NAS 161	California Indian Environmental Policy I	
<i>Hemispheric Perspectives</i>			NAS 180	Native American Women	
Choose one:			NAS 181	Native American Poetry	
NAS 120	Ethnopolitics of South American Indians		or NAS 181V	Native American Poetry	
NAS 133B	Ethnohistory of Native Peoples of Mexico & Central America 1500 to 2000		or NAS 181C	DISCONTINUED FOR SPRING 2025 **	
NAS 171	Indigenous Mesoamerica		NAS 182	Native American Fiction	
NAS 175V	Hemispheric Indigenous Connections		or NAS 181A	DISCONTINUED FOR SPRING 2025 **	
NAS 184	Contemporary Indigenous Literature of Mexico		NAS 183	Native American Non-Fiction	
NAS 191	Topics in Native American Studies		or NAS 181B	DISCONTINUED FOR WINTER 2026 **	
<i>Experiential Learning</i>			NAS 188	Special Topics in Native American Literary Studies	
Combine as needed for a minimum of 4 units, up to 12 units:			NAS 191	Topics in Native American Studies	
NAS 093	Powwow Internship		<b>Honors Courses</b>		0-8
NAS 120	Ethnopolitics of South American Indians		NAS 194HA	Special Studies for Honors Students	
NAS 122	Native American Community Development		or NAS 194HB	Special Studies for Honors Students	
NAS 124	Indigenous Justice Laboratory		NAS 196	Senior Project in Native American Studies	
NAS 133	Ethnohistory of Native People of Mexico & Central America		<i>Related Upper Division Courses</i>		
NAS 165	Keepers of the Flame: Native American Cultural Burning & Land Stewardship in California		By petition, the undergraduate advisor can approve up to three other relevant upper division courses of interest from other departments, particularly those from the recommended departments listed for the lower division elective, but open to any interdisciplinary interests of the student. Also with the approval of an undergraduate advisor, up to four courses (16+ units if semester-length) can be taken via UC Online from other UC campuses in this subject area. An unlimited number of online/"v" virtual courses taught by UC Davis NAS faculty can count towards the major. Virtual versions of any NAS classes developed in the future at UC Davis may be substituted.		
NAS 185	Native American Literature in Performance		<b>Depth Subject Matter Subtotal</b>		
NAS 192	Apprenticeship & Internship		36-56		
NAS 193	Leadership Training in Native American & Indigenous Organizations		<b>Total Units</b>		
NAS 198	Directed Group Study		48-68		
NAS 199	Special Study for Advanced Undergraduates				
<i>Upper Division Courses</i>					
Students take a variety of upper division courses in Native American Studies. Virtual & hybrid versions of all these courses any of these classes may be automatically be substituted for these requirements.					
HMR 160	Human Rights & Indigenous Peoples				
NAS 101	Contemporary Native American Art				
NAS 115	Native Americans in the Contemporary World				

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.