

Native American Programs at Southern Oregon University

Mission: To create access, foster recruitment, enable retention, prepare professionally, graduate competently, and employ Native American Indians in all facets of society through education.

The Native American Studies Program is connected to many other entities on and off campus in a way that reflects the true spirit of Southern Oregon University to be “a vital partner in the healthy development of its region and state in association with civic, national, and international engagements”. This connection combines with interdisciplinary academic endeavors, Native conceptions of community and interconnectedness for support and success of Native American, Alaska Native, and Indigenous International Exchange students within the Oregon University system.

The Native American Studies Program provides opportunities for students’ personal, intellectual, and retention based endeavors. It fosters and maintains vital

partnerships with Tribal, federal, and local agencies and communities through student senior capstone projects, faculty research, community events, and symposia such as the Konaway Nika Tillicum (All Our Relations) Native American Youth Summer Academy and the Native American Ecological Education Symposium.

As the only program in the Oregon University System, offering a 24-credit minor, a 36-credit Certificate, staffed by American Indian faculty, and one of less than 100 in the United States and Canada, the Native American Studies Program at SOU has developed a unique and distinctive niche in practical learning and academic endeavor. Courses are reviewed by N.A. faculty members, and the Native American Community Advisory Board. In addition to the Native American Community Advisory Board, the program has implemented a faculty advisory board to the academic program.

In addition to the continuous review of courses, students are also systematically pre-assessed upon entrance into the program regarding their knowledge and perceptions of Native people. At exit students are post-assessed in two major ways:

- 1) By completing an essay that describes their developed understanding of Native people (as a result of the program) and how this knowledge applies to the graduate professionally.
- 2) By adding an additional component to their capstones in which student must synthesize their knowledge of native people with the knowledge gained in their major area of study.

The program is designed so that students learn the history of native people chronologically, from pre-contact to contemporary times (200 level to 400 level courses). The students’ knowledge is pre-assessed in the 200 level course and post-assessed in the 400 level course through required exit essays and required synthesis capstone presentation.

Welcome! Come and join our community at Southern Oregon University’s Native American Programs. ✧

**Choose
Inspiration**

Pursue your passion for Native American studies at Southern Oregon University.

SOU is the only Oregon University System institution that offers a 24-credit minor and a 36-credit certificate.

Interdisciplinary coursework spans several SOU majors.

The Native American Studies program is regionally connected with five federally recognized tribes in Oregon, as well as four federally recognized tribes and eighteen rancherias in northern California.

SOU hosts the Konaway Nika Tillicum (All Our Relations) Native American Youth Summer Academy.

Classes include an intense focus on environmental issues.

Native American Studies is the institutional representative at the Oregon and National Indian Education Associations.

Contact David West at dwest@sou.edu or 541-552-6751.

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