Introduction to the Major

The Native American Studies program exists to broaden the understanding of students interested in the history, culture, and contemporary situations of Native Americans in the United States. Our program considers broadly the relationship of indigeneity and settler colonialism, foregrounding the historical contexts and constraints through which indigenous individuals and polities have expressed and continue to express themselves.

The Native American Studies major and minor are offered by the Department of Ethnic Studies, which also offers a major and minor in Ethnic Studies as well as a minor in Race and the Law.

Advising

Students can contact the major advisors to schedule appointments or ask questions by emailing Laura Jimenez-Olvera at lauraj@berkeley.edu or Dewey St. Germaine at deweystg@berkeley.edu.

Advising Hours

Monday - Friday, 9:30-11:30am, 1:30-4pm

The Major Curriculum

The Native American Studies curriculum has been structured to provide courses that deal with both historical and cultural analysis of Native American cultures and contemporary legal and social institutions that affect Native American life. The program not only stresses sound academic preparation in the classroom but also allows students the flexibility to take part in community-oriented education through fieldwork or studies directed towards community situations and problems.

Amplify Your Major

- Check out resources from Native American Student Development (NASD)
- Enrich your studies with a summer minor in Race and the Law
- Get involved with the Indigenous and Native Coalition
- Complete a senior honors thesis in the major.

“During a time when Indigenous land rights, voting rights, art and culture, and the effects of climate change are making headlines, Native American Studies provides the tools to understand our past and present and to work for a better future.”

- Shari Huhndorf, Professor
Design Your Journey

**First Year**
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
- Familiarize yourself with major and college requirements.
- Enroll in a Freshman Seminar like Native American Studies 90, L& S 1, or a student-run DeCal course.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
- Visit the Ethnic Studies Library in Stephens Hall and explore the Native American Studies Collection.

**Second Year**
- Enroll in Native American Studies 20A and 20B if you haven’t done so yet.
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
- Enroll in methods courses ETH STD 101A or ETH STD 110.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad.

**Third Year**
- Attend Native American Studies Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Check out events sponsored by the Multicultural Community Center.
- Plan a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Work with a community organization in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Get involved with campus issues as a student-run DeCal course.

**Fourth Year**
- Attend Calapaloosa student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Work with a community organization in an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Get involved with campus issues as a NASD intern.
- Visit Berkeley Career Engagement Libra and the Career Counseling Library.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter internship.
- Visit the Ethnic Studies website for career ideas after graduating.

**Connect and Build Community**
- Get 1:1 mentoring with Berkeley Connect in Ethnic Studies and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGIS 98: College Success in L&S.
- Enroll in ETH STD 11AC: Introduction to Ethnic American Cultures.
- Familiarize yourself with major guidelines for study abroad.
- Enroll in Native American Studies 20A and 20B if you haven’t done so yet.

**Discover Your Passions**
- Attend a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Learn about the American Indian Cultural Center.
- Check out resources from Native American Student Development (NASD).
- Listen to the Indigenous United podcast.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
- Continue with a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Learn about the Joseph A. Myers Center for Research on Native American Issues.
- Assist faculty in their research through UCAP.
- Enrich your studies with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor like Race and the Law.
- Experience life at another UC or college on a visitor and exchange program.
- Work with archaeological data and community partners as part of the BACA Project.
- Study and intern in Washington, D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capitol.

**Engage Locally and Globally**
- Attend the Calapaloosa student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad.
- Attend Native American Studies Program events.
- Consider becoming a Golden Bear Orientation Leader and welcome new students to UC Berkeley.
- Check out events sponsored by the Multicultural Community Center.
- Focus on upper division requirements and electives.
- Enroll in methods courses ETH STD 101A or ETH STD 110B.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.
- Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.

**Reflect and Plan Your Future**
- Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
- Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
- Attend career and graduate school fairs like the “Nonprofit, Education, and Public Service Career Fair.”
- Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.

**What Can I Do With My Major?**
- Students in the Native American Studies Program gain skills that prepare them for careers in a variety of fields, including teaching, counseling, law, journalism, marketing, community and housing development, radio and television, health and medicine, community and union organizing, and social work, as well as positions in federal, state, and local governments and those at the city and county levels.
- Jobs and Employers
  - Academics: Professor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor Emeritus
  - Government: Federal, State, Local, and International
  - Nonprofit Organizations: Executive Director, Program Director, Development Director
  - Business: Sales Manager, Marketing Manager, HR Manager
  - Law: Corporate Counsel, Litigator, Government Attorney
  - Social Work: Case Worker, Supervisor, Director

**Graduate Programs**
- Law, J.D.
- Medicine, MD
- Public Administration, Masters
- Public Health, Masters
- Public Policy, Masters
- Social Work, Masters

**Examples gathered from the Ethnic Studies Department and LinkedIn.**