Department of Native American Studies

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Montana State University has an American Indian enrollment of approximately 560 students. There is an active American Indian Student Council (AIC) as well as chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and the Society of American Indian Graduate Students (SAIGS). NAS houses the Native American Student Center and the American Indian and Alaska Native Student Support Services office, with staff providing Native students with academic advising, counseling, and mentoring. The Student Center offers tutorial assistance, telephone and fax access, and a computer lab.

Admission

Candidates are not required to complete the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test, but may do so if they feel it will strengthen their applications. The closing date for receipt of completed applications for admission is April 15 for Summer, July 15 for Fall, and November 15 for Spring, although we encourage an earlier submission.

A bachelor’s degree or equivalent from an accredited institution is required for admission to the master’s program in Native American Studies. The Graduate School recommends that prospective applicants send a letter of interest to the Native American Studies Department in order to ascertain the suitability of the program for the applicant.

Each applicant must submit the following during the online application process (http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/apply.html):

1. Application to MSU-Bozeman (link above): application process includes a non-refundable $60 application fee.
2. Official transcripts from all institutions attended: applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.00 for the last two years of undergraduate study. If the applicant received their degree from MSU; transcripts are not necessary.
3. A 2-5 page statement of purpose and goals: this paper includes the applicant’s experience and knowledge of historical and contemporary American Indian issues, work background, and how the M.A. in NAS will help the applicant reach long range goals.
4. Two academic writing samples (demonstrating the applicant’s research and writing capabilities).
5. Three letters of recommendation: each recommender will address the applicant’s potential as a graduate student. The letters, preferably from previous faculty, must be signed and sealed in envelopes or emailed by the faculty member (once prompted during the online process).
6. A current curriculum vita or resumé.
7. The Graduate Record Exam (GRE): optional for those who feel it may strengthen their application.
8. International Students Only: Mandatory TOEFL score of 550; applicants for whom English is not their first language.

Limited slots are available, and admissions are competitive.

Deadlines

For applicants also applying for teaching assistantships, the deadline is March 1 for the following academic year. For international students, the deadline is June 15 for Fall and November 1 for Spring semester. For all other applicants, the deadline is July 15 for Fall and November 15 for Spring semester.

Applicants must be formally accepted by The Graduate School with departmental endorsement from Native American Studies.

Financial Assistance

Graduate Teaching Assistantships, awarded on a competitive basis, are available in NAS to formally admitted graduate students. The GTA includes a 6 credit tuition waiver and stipend. Selected graduate students will teach a section of Introduction to Native American Studies and/or other NAS courses. A prerequisite for application is the successful completion of NASX 530 Federal Indian Law and Policy. See the Graduate Assistantships section on the department website for detailed information on appointment criteria.

Graduate classes in Native American Studies

The following upper division and graduate level courses are offered in Native American Studies:

- NASX 405 Gndr Iss In Native Amer Stdies 3
- NASX 415 Native Food Systems 3
- NASX 430 American Indian Education 3
- NASX 440 Montana Indian Literature 3
- NASX 450 History of American Indians 3
- NASX 476 Amer Indian Policy and Law 3
- NASX 490R Undergraduate Research 1-6
- NASX 490Z Undergraduate Research 1-6
- NASX 491 Special Topics 1-4
- NASX 492 Independent Study 1-3
- NASX 494 Seminar 1
- NASX 498 Internship/Cooperative Educ 2-12
- NASX 505 Proseminar Native Amer Studies 3
- NASX 515 Native Food Systems 3
- NASX 520 Fem/Gender Theories IN NAS 3
- NASX 521 Tribal Govt: Yesterday & Today 3
- NASX 523 Am Indians/Minority in High Ed 3
- NASX 524 Contemp Iss in Am Indian Std 3
- NASX 525 Indigen Phil/Sacred Ecologies 3
- NASX 530 Federal Law and Indian Policy 3
- NASX 540 Theoretical Positions in NAS 3
- NASX 541 Critical Approach to NAS Mthd 3
- NASX 550 Native Am: Dispelling the Myth 3
- NASX 551 American Indian Art Survey 3
- NASX 552 Indigenous Nations of Montana 3
- NASX 553 Indigenous Lit and the West 3
- NASX 560 Native American Lit Tradition 3
- NASX 575 Professional Paper 1-6
- NASX 589 Graduate Consultation 1-3
- NASX 590 Master’s Thesis 1-10
- NASX 591 Special Topics 1-4
- NASX 592 Independent Study 1-3
- NASX 594 Seminar 1-4
- NASX 598 Internship 1-6
Further Information
For further information regarding the program, contact Native American Studies at (406) 994-3881 or e-mail Francesca Pine at francesca.pine@montana.edu. In addition, applicants may refer questions to The Graduate School or find the graduate catalog and policies on-line (http://www.montana.edu/gradschool/policy). All applicants are expected to be familiar with the degree requirements of both the department and The Graduate School. Also see the MSU University home page (http://www.montana.edu) or the home page for Native American Studies (http://www.montana.edu/wwwnas).

Graduate Programs
- M.A. in Native American Studies (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/letters-science/native-american-studies/ma-native-american-studies)
- Online certificate in Native American Studies (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/letters-science/native-american-studies/online-certificate-native-american-studies)