



The University of Arizona
Master of Arts in American Indian Studies
PROGRAM OUTLINE

The American Indian Studies (AIS) graduate interdisciplinary program offers opportunities for advanced study at the Master's level. The Master of Arts consists of thirty units of course work and six units of thesis. A broad spectrum of American Indian Studies subject matter is presented. Students in the MA program have a choice between thesis or master's report to complete degree requirements. Concurrent study in the Juris Doctorate program at the College of Law and Master's in American Indian Studies is available.

ADMISSIONS:

A Bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited institution is required for admission to the Master of Arts program in American Indian Studies. The application procedure is a two-fold process with consideration by the department and by the UA Graduate College. Application materials are available from the department. **All applicants must provide directly to AIS: two sets of items 2-6; one set of items 7-9.** All application materials must be received or postmarked by **January 15th** for the following fall semester admissions:

1. **Apply** to the Graduate College on-line by following this link: http://grad.arizona.edu/Prospective_Students/Apply_Now/. **Please send \$50.00 application fee to Graduate college only.**
2. **Type or fill out legibly** the Graduate College Application Form by going to <http://grad.arizona.edu/documents/admforms/deg.pdf> and submit this completed form signed and dated to American Indian Studies.
3. A **Personal Statement** (3 to 5 pages) including your educational goals, professional plans, your interest in our M.A. program, and your background in American Indian Studies or with American Indian communities.
4. **Resume or Curriculum Vitae.**
5. **Two Writing Samples** (between 15 and 30 pages each) of original work that is academic, technical, professional or artistic in nature.
6. **One Critical Essay** (no more than 5 pages) which analyzes three American Indian Studies books or monographs of your choice.
7. **Official Transcripts** from all institutions attended (undergraduate and graduate).
8. **Three Letters of Recommendation**, each in a signed and sealed envelope, from faculty or supervisors who can attest to your achievements and academic potential.
9. **Pre-stamped/self-addressed blank postcard**

American Indian Studies accepts only a limited number of new students each year. Candidate selection is very competitive. The Admissions Committee will not consider incomplete application files. A minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average is required for admissions.

Application materials can be mailed to:

The University of Arizona
American Indian Studies

Harvill Building, Room 218
PO Box 210076
Tucson, AZ 85721-0076
(520) 621-7108
(520) 621-7952 fax

aisp@email.arizona.edu, For more program information please visit <http://aisp.web.arizona.edu>

ADVISING:

During the first semester of study students are required to meet with an assigned faculty advisor. Students may choose their own major advisor or maintain the assigned faculty member. Formal selection of a major advisor must take place by the end of the first year. General advice on selection of courses is available from the Director, Associate Director or Graduate Program Coordinator.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

AIS provides financial assistance for a limited number of students. Upon official admission into the program a student's file is *automatically* brought before the Financial Aid committee for consideration of funding. Financial aid awards are for one academic year; receiving an award does not guarantee or imply support for subsequent years. **All awards are based on merit.** As this is a very competitive process, students are encouraged to research alternative sources of funding.

PRECEPTORSHIP REQUIREMENT

During their first academic year, all first year MA and PhD students are required to attend the colloquium lecture series and professional skills workshops under the rubric of AIS 791, the Preceptorship. Although attendance is required, registering to receive one unit of credit through AIS 791 is optional. Attendance at these events will be assessed in the first year MA and PhD qualifying evaluation at the end of the student's first year in the program.

COMMITTEE SELECTION:

Students should select committee members no later than the end of the second semester of study and submit the required *MA Committee Selection Form* with signatures from each member. The committee should consist of three faculty members from the list of AIS interdisciplinary and affiliated faculty; at least two members of the committee must be AIS core faculty members. Permission for a special committee member who is not a member of AIS may be requested. The Graduate College and AIS have the form to request a special member of the committee. The major advisor is the chair of the committee.

HUMAN SUBJECTS:

The University of Arizona Human Subjects Committee must approve any research that involves human subjects, including personal interviews, questionnaires, video or audio taping, etc. The researcher must read Planning Ethically Responsible Research and pass a test based on Federal regulations with a score of 85% or better. Each researcher must then complete and submit a *Project Approval Form For Ethical Review of Activities Involving Human Subjects*, located in the Human Subjects Review Manual of Procedures. Students are reminded to allow ample time for this review process, as research cannot begin until approval is received. Many AIS students conduct research that also requires review and permission by relevant tribal government authorities. Promptly consult your advisor about this process, as it is time consuming. For Human Subjects manuals, information, and to buy the Planning Ethically Responsible Research book, please contact the Human Subjects Protection Program main office at 626-6721.

PLAN OF STUDY:

A *Plan of Study* form is required by the Graduate College. The *Plan of Study* must be approved by the student's committee chair and submitted before the end of the second semester in residence.

TRANSFER CREDIT:

No more than 20% of the minimum number of units required for a master's degree can be transferred from other accredited institutions (e.g., if a Master's degree requires 30 units, then no more than 6 units can be transferred from another university). Such transfer credit can be applied to an advanced degree only upon satisfactory completion of deficiencies as prescribed by the head of the major department in which the student seeks a degree. Transfer of credit toward an advanced degree will not be made unless the grade earned was A or B, and unless it was awarded graduate credit at the institution where the work was completed. Grades of transfer work will not be used in computing the student's grade-point average. Credit for correspondence courses or extension work from other institutions will not be accepted for graduate credit (University of Arizona Graduate Catalog, 2005).

TIME TO DEGREE:

All requirements for the master's degree must be completed within 6 years. Time-to-degree begins with the earliest course to be applied toward the degree, including credits transferred from other institutions. Work more than 6 years old is not accepted toward degree requirements.

DEGREE OPTIONS:

Thesis Option Requirements

1. A *Human Subjects Form* if applicable, must be submitted and approved.
2. Twenty-one (21) units of required core courses from the various areas of study. In addition, nine (9) units of elective may be chosen within AIS, or an area outside AIS with the approval of the student's major professor. Six (6) hours of Thesis units are required. A total of thirty-six (36) units are required to complete the program.
3. A comprehensive oral examination must be satisfactorily completed prior to graduation (See Examination Process: Oral).
4. A thesis is defined as a piece of original and /or creative work based on original research that makes a contribution to American Indian Studies scholarship; or creative work such as poetry, prose, fiction or non-fiction writing; or creative work in other media.

The defining characteristic of a thesis is that it is based on original work, either creative or based on research – research entails data collection and data analysis. A research-based thesis is based on a research question(s); appropriate methodology is then designed to answer your question(s) by collecting the appropriate information; the information is then analyzed. Depending on the character of the research question(s), the appropriate methodology might be quantitative (e.g. statistical analysis of census data), or qualitative (e.g. based on interview or field research), or archival.

Proposals for Thesis Research must be discussed with and approved by your Faculty Committee.

Thesis Option: Requires submission of a written thesis, an oral defense of the thesis, and a general oral examination:

21	Core Course Units
9	Elective Units
6	Thesis Units (AIS 910)
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36	Total Units

Master's Report Option Requirements

1. Twenty-one (21) units of required core courses from the various areas of study; in addition, nine (9) units of electives may be chosen in AIS, or an area outside AIS with the approval of the student's major

professor, six (6) units of Master's Report and three (3) units of Internship. Thirty-six (36) hours are required to complete the program.

2. A comprehensive oral examination must be satisfactorily completed prior to graduation (See Examination Process: Oral).
3. Master's Reports require presentation of a substantial written report (40-60 pages) on a project performed as part of a faculty supervised clinical or internship project. This report shall be orally presented to the approved graduate committee. Examples of such a project might include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. A business plan developed for a tribally owned business or Indian entrepreneur.
 - b. A program evaluation for a tribal government or organization, such as a tribal court evaluation, or evaluation of an educational or outreach program.
 - c. Development of a mission statement and strategic plan for a tribal or other organization, such as a tribal economic development initiative; or curriculum plan and material for a tribal community college.
 - d. Amicus brief submitted to an appellate court in an Indian rights case.

Proposal for a Master's Report must be discussed with and approved by your Faculty Committee.

21	Core Course Units
9	Elective Units
6	Master's Report Units (AIS 909)
36	Total Units

The CORE COURSE Requirements for the MA in American Indian Studies Include:

_____	AIS 502	Dynamics of Indian Society	(3)
_____	AIS 577/596M/646/696F**	Literature	(3)
_____	AIS 584	Policy	(3)
_____	AIS 548	MA Research Methods	(3)
_____	AIS 210/489/597A or LING 102/500/612	Linguistic Requirement*	(3)
_____	AIS 565/677/678/679/696E**/697A	Education	(3)
_____	AIS 593	Internship	(3)
			(21)

Total Required Units of Core Courses:

***Linguistic Requirement:** Students who take AIS 210, AIS 489 or LING 102 must register for the course through Independent Study credit (AIS 599) and must make arrangements ahead of time with faculty member teaching these courses. Graduate students fulfilling their linguistic requirement by taking one of these undergraduate courses are required to complete additional work in the course.

**** Seminar Courses:** In order for a Special Topics Seminar (AIS 696A-696G) to be counted as a core course requirement, the course syllabus must be reviewed and approved by the AIS Curriculum Committee. An offering instructor must submit a syllabus to the AIS Curriculum Committee in the semester before the seminar course is scheduled to be taught.

Committee:

The Qualifying Evaluation is administered by a standing committee, the Qualifying Evaluation Committee, which is within the auspices of AIS and consists of three members. The Director of AIS appoints the committee members. Two members must be core faculty and the third member can be either core or affiliate.

EXAMINATION PROCESS:

ORAL:

The comprehensive oral examination for the thesis has two parts: (1) examination of the student's understanding of the broad interdisciplinary nature of American Indian Studies, the student is responsible for materials from completed course work and from the reading list; and (2) examination of the student's understanding of the thesis presented as fulfilling the degree requirements. A copy of the thesis written in near final form must be submitted to the student's graduate committee three weeks prior to scheduling the defense. It is the responsibility of each student to see that his/her committee members are contacted and that the examination is properly scheduled. The content of the oral examination is the responsibility of the major professor in consultation with the other two committee members. Conduct of the examination is dictated by departmental policy. AIS requires the examination be at least two hours in length. Normally, the examination does not exceed two hours. The student is responsible for meeting with committee members to discuss the examination process. All committee members must be present, evaluate, and vote on the examination. Two negative votes constitute failure, and the candidate must wait one semester (not including summer) to reschedule the examination. A candidate may take the examination only twice. Questions regarding this process can be directed to the Director or the Graduate Program Coordinator.

DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION OF DEGREE REQUIREMENTS:

The thesis defense or master's report and oral examination must be completed no later than April 15^h of the Spring semester or November 15th of the Fall semester (or closest business day if date falls on weekend or holiday)

Please note: Requirements are subject to change and exceptions to these requirements require department approval.

American Indian Studies Comprehensive Course Descriptions

502. Dynamics of Indian Societies (3) (Identical with ANTH 502) Historic overview of philosophies, institutions, and characteristics of Indian societies, and indigenous constructions of historic knowledge.

513. Ethnology of Southwest (3) (Identical with ANTH 513, which is home).

515. American Indians and the Urban Experience (3) (Identical with ANTH 515) This class explores a series of topics and themes focused on Native Peoples and urban settings, including migration, urbanization and the creation of cities and urban communities. The class will emphasis: literature; U.S. policy; and theoretical and practical implications.

516. Contemporary Indian America (3) (Identical with ANTH 516, which is home).

518. Southwest Land and Society (3) (Identical with ANTH 518, which is home).

521. Ethnology North America (3) (Identical with ANTH 521, which is home).

524. Studies in Southwest Literature (3) (Identical with ENGL 524, which is home).

525. Native Economic Development (3) (Identical with LAW 525, which is home).

545A. Structures of Non-Western Language (3-3) (Identical with LING 545A, which is home).

548. MA Research Methods (3) This integrative course is designed to help students become professional and ethical researchers who produce the highest quality scholarship. The identification of significant research problems and the choice of appropriate and rigorous methodologies and techniques will be discussed. Students will gain experience in formulating a research problem that is theoretically important to American Indian Studies, well focused, and can be done in a reasonable amount of time. Special attention will be given to formulating a realistic Master's thesis project.

549a-549b. Folklore (3-3) (Identical with ENGL 549a-549b, which is home).

565. Tribal Colleges (3) This course provides an introduction to the tribal colleges, which includes a discussion of their history, mission, governance, organization, finance, curriculum, and current challenges. It also includes student characteristics and support services, faculty characteristics, support services, roles, responsibilities and evaluation, and an introduction to assessment of learning in the tribal college.

576. Creative Writing for Native American Communities (3) For members of Native American communities and individuals working within such communities who are interested in producing new and authentic works in various genre including biography, autobiography, poetry, essay, and translation and interpretation of collected tribal texts. Writing in the language will be strongly encouraged.

577. Studies in American Indian Literature (3) (Identical with ENGL 577, which is home).

580. Native American Warfare (3) This course will examine the social, cultural, and economic considerations of Native American warfare, including discourse on the nature of human aggression, methods and motives for war. Biological evidence will be discussed.

582. Hopi Language in Culture (3) (Identical with ANTH 582, which is home).

584. Development of Federal Indian Policy (3) (Identical with POL 584).

589. Areal Survey of Native North American Languages (3) (Identical with ANTH 589, which is home).

590. Indian Religions and Spirituality (3) (Identical with RELI 590) Examines the positive (curing, harmony with the natural world, etc.) aspects of Indian religions. Indian medicine men may participate in the course at various junctures. Graduate-level requirements include an additional research paper based on past research and personal experience with related topic.

591. Preceptorship (1-6) Specialized work on an individual basis, consisting of instruction and practice in actual service in a department, program, or discipline. Teaching formats may include seminars, in-depth studies, laboratory work and patient study.

593. Internship (1-6) Specialized work on an individual basis, consisting of instruction and practice in actual service in a technical, business, or government establishment.

595. Colloquium

A. American Indian Studies (3)

596. Seminar

- H. American Indian Law and Policy (3) (Identical with POL 596H).
- M. Studies in the Oral Tradition (3) (Identical with ENGL 596M, which is home).
- V. Issues in Native American Art (3) (Identical with ARH 596V, which is home).

597A Descriptive Linguistics for Native American Languages (4) (Identical with LING 597A, which is home).

599. Independent Study (1-6) Qualified students working on an individual basis with professors who have agreed to supervise such work.

600. Nation Building (3) This course will explore critical nation-building issues confronting indigenous peoples in North America, with a primary focus on Native peoples in the United States. The course will examine multi-dimensional settings that confront Native societies and their social, cultural, political, educational, and economic leaders. The issues to be analyzed include: economic development, politics, culture and identity; and leadership and institution-building. Issues, concepts, and theories examined in the course will provide a basis for examining current Native institutions of self-government; assessing policies of federal, First Nation/tribal, and state/provincial governments; analyzing how to enhance the foundational capacities for effective governance and for strategic attacks on education, economic, and community development problems of Native nations; and augmenting leadership skills, knowledge, and abilities for nation-building. Course participants will link concepts of politics, economics, and culture, with nation-building and leadership through readings, discussions, short assignments, mid-term exam, and a final exam.

602. Interdisciplinary Research: Theory and Methods (3) Survey of important theoretical perspectives and their associated qualitative methodologies in American Indian Studies. Overview of selected disciplinary frameworks of inquiry, discussions of case studies, and student exercises in choosing and implementing appropriate qualitative research methods.

631A-631B. Federal Indian Law I-II (3) (Identical with LAWS 631A-631B, which is home).

646. Ancient and Contemporary Voices (3) (Identical with ENGL 646) The connections between ancient and contemporary native literature of North and South America.

660. Ecology, Demography, and Disease (3) Linked issues of environmental change, demographic change, epidemic/endemic diseases, and health in the Americas after 1492.

677. History of American Indian Education (3) (Identical with LRC 677) Educational philosophies, policies, and practices of native people, European missions, and federal schools. Historic overview of Indian education to early 1900s.

678. Contemporary American Indian Education and Research (3) (Identical with LRC 678) Contemporary American Indian/Alaskan native education in two parts: (1) the current state of native education and its effectiveness in meeting the needs of native students; (2) current research in the area of American Indian/Alaskan native education and its implications for future research.

679. American Indian Higher Education (3) (Identical with H ED 679) Development of higher education for American Indians/Alaskan natives from the earliest efforts to contemporary times. Issues and their implications for the education of American Indian in institutions and agencies of higher education. Emphasis on tribally controlled colleges and universities, and the development of American Indian Studies programs in higher education institutions.

691. Preceptorship (3) Specialized work on an individual basis, consisting of instruction and practice in actual service in a department, program, or discipline. Teaching formats may include seminars, in-depth studies, laboratory work and patient study.

693. Internship (1-6) Specialized work on an individual basis, consisting of instruction and practice in actual service in a technical, business, or government establishment.

694. Practicum (1-6) The practical application, on an individual basis, of previously studied theory and the collection of data for future theoretical interpretation.

695. Colloquium

A. Special topics in American Indian Studies (3-6)

696. Seminar

A. American Indian Policy (3)

C. Societies and Cultures (3)

D. Tribal Law Clinic (4) (Identical with LAW 696D, which is home).

E. American Indian Education (3)

F. Languages and Literature (3) (Identical with ENGL 596F).

697. Workshop

A. College Teaching Methods (3)

B. Globalization and Preservation of Culture (1-3) (Identical with LAWS 697B, which is home).

697C. Research Design for American Indian Communities (3) Designed to help students become professional and ethical researchers who produce the highest quality scholarship. The identification of significant research problems and the choice of appropriate and rigorous methodologies and techniques will be discussed. Students will gain experience formulating a research problem that is theoretically important.

699. Independent Study (1-6) Qualified students working on an individual basis with professors who have agreed to supervise such work.

791. Preceptorship (1-6) Specialized work on an individual basis, consisting of instruction and practice in actual service in a department, program, or discipline. Teaching formats may include seminars, in-depth studies, laboratory work and patient study.

900. Research (1-6)

909. Master's Report (1-6)

910. Thesis (1-6)

920. Dissertation (1-6)

930. Supplementary Registration (1-9)