



Undergraduate Student Handbook

Fall 2024—Spring 2025

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Introduction

Welcome to American Indian Studies! We're glad you are here. The American Indian Studies department offers a B.A. degree and an undergraduate minor. This handbook is intended to offer you information about our major and minor, guidance for navigating the path toward your degree efficiently, and information about resources that might help you address questions or challenges that might come up along the way.

About the American Indian Studies Bachelor of Arts Degree

American Indian Studies (AIS) is committed to developing indigenous-centered scholarship. The contemporary and historic ways of life, knowledge, and experiences of American Indian/Alaskan Native communities and individuals are fundamental to AIS. The major provides students with a holistic, integrated, and analytical study of critical issues Native North America have faced in the past since contact with Europeans, are facing in the present, and are preparing to face in the future. The major seeks to provide students with a broad understanding of the cultures, histories, creativities, philosophies and societies of the Indigenous Peoples of North America and their political and economic relationship to external governments and societies in a changing and increasingly globalized world. A curriculum based on an interdisciplinary framework provides students with AIS theoretical concepts which serve as a foundation for integrative intellectual agendas:

- **Indigenous Knowledge and Cultures:** The study of all aspects of knowledge developed by Native societies including science, technology, environmental understanding, philosophical principles, epistemologies and education, ethics, religion, ways of interpreting the world, and senses of self and community. Proprietary traditional knowledge and sacred histories are only included to the degree deemed appropriate for expression in public, transcultural situations.
- **Sovereignty and Self-Determination:** The study of diverse political and legal systems and their interactions with regard to settler colonialism and imperialism, and interactions with national, international and state governments. Special emphasis is given to policy that affects Native self-determination and self-government in historic and contemporary contexts.
- **Native Voices and Creativity:** The study of Native oral traditions, literatures, languages, language preservation, and the arts found in both historic and contemporary contexts. The study of creative expressions from the humanistic, social sciences and Indigenous perspectives.
- **Adaptation, Culture Change and Resiliency:** The study of dynamic processes of cultural exchange and social interaction among Native societies and between Native societies and other non-Native Nations and the development of values of cultural awareness, self-awareness and respect for self and others. Special emphasis is given to stewardship of the land and natural resources, the health and welfare of the people, and community and economic development.

The AIS major is open to all students. Special components are designed to assist Native Nations and off-reservation communities by educating individuals who will work for their governments, as well as future leaders who understand the unique relationship Indian Nations have with the federal government and the resiliency, traditionalism and creativity of contemporary Nations, a variety of social groups and individuals. The American Indian Studies major and minor are offered through the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences but work in conjunction with other colleges.

AIS Program Level Learning Outcomes (Revised 2020)

Upon successful completion of the B.A. program in American Indian Studies students will be able to:

1. Define tribal sovereignty, and demonstrate examples of how Native Nations exercise sovereignty and self-determination in at least three contexts in Indian Country.
2. Explain how and why tribal governments function as a third form of governance in the United States.
3. Compare and contrast world views, problem-solving, and dispute resolution processes between Native and non-Native peoples and among diverse Native Nations.
4. Defend an argument to the complex questions, “Who is an American Indian?” and “Who is Indigenous?”
5. Explain and analyze the ongoing relevance of Native knowledge systems in contemporary Native communities.
6. Evaluate the relationship among stories, landscapes, and identity in both historic and contemporary contexts in Native communities.
7. Effectively communicate information both orally and in writing.
8. Initiate & implement respectful research protocols within American Indian communities.
9. Demonstrate basic skills needed for careers working with or on behalf of American Indians.
10. Define then explain how *relationality*, *Peoplehood*, and *sovereignty* are key features of the academic field of American Indian Studies.
11. Analyze historic and contemporary impacts of settler colonialism upon the American Indians.
12. Identify key historical events and federal policies in American Indian history, and analyze the impact of these events and policies in Indian Country.

Undergraduate Academic Policies

Transfer Credit

If you have questions about which courses from another college or university might transfer to your American Indian Studies major or minor, it's best to talk with our advisor. However, you may also find these resources on [Transfer Courses](#) a helpful starting place. AIS majors and minors must also complete the [AIS Coursework Request](#) form when seeking to apply transfer coursework to the degree and submit it to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Course Waivers & Substitutions

AIS majors and minors seeking course waivers or substitutions must complete the [AIS Coursework Request](#) form and submit it to the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Prerequisites

No undergraduate course in American Indian Studies at the UA has a prerequisite requirement; all undergraduate AIS courses are open to everyone who would like to learn.

Internships

AIS students may apply [Internship](#) credit toward their undergraduate major or minor. In collaboration with your faculty and site supervisors, complete the paperwork available through the link here, then submit it to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for help with registration.

Independent Studies

AIS students may apply [Independent Study](#) credit toward their undergraduate major or minor. In collaboration with your faculty supervisor, complete the paperwork available through the link here, then submit it to the Director of Undergraduate Studies for help with registration.

Grade Replacement Opportunity

If you received a grade of "C" or lower in a class, you may be eligible to apply for a [Grade Replacement Opportunity](#).

Retroactive Withdrawal from Courses

If you need to retroactively withdraw from courses due to extenuating circumstances after the semester has ended, you'll need to file a [general petition](#).

Academic Progress and Probation

All UA students are required to make sufficient academic progress. For undergraduates, this means a cumulative GPA of 2.0. If you've been placed on probation, see resources compiled by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences on [academic progress, probation, and dismissal from the university](#).

Grade Appeal

If you feel you've been given a grade incorrectly, the first step is to contact your GTA or instructor to discuss the grade. If you aren't able to resolve the matter, you may consider filing a [Grade Appeal](#).

University of Arizona Policies and Resources

D2L

Most AIS courses use the [D2L](#) platform to manage course content and grades. Course sites are automatically activated one week prior to the course start date. If you don't see a class in D2L, and it starts in less than a week, your instructor may have made it inactive. If you are concerned about access, please email your instructor. For help learning and using the D2L system, visit: <https://help.d2l.arizona.edu/student/student-home>

Important Dates and Deadlines

Visit the [UA Calendars](#) page to find calendars for registration, payment, final exams, and more.

Course Descriptions

[Course descriptions](#) for all AIS undergraduate courses are available in the UA Catalog.

Codes of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-rights-responsibilities/academic-integrity>

Avoiding Plagiarism

For resources to help you avoid plagiarism visit the resources available through the UA Library: <https://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism>

Attendance

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies/attendance-policies-and-practices>. The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>. Absences preapproved by the UA Dean of Students (or dean's designee) will be honored. See <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-rights-responsibilities/forms>. Participating in the course and attending lectures and other course events are vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all lectures and discussion section meetings.

Accessibility & Accommodations

At the University of Arizona, we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268, <https://drc.arizona.edu>) to establish reasonable accommodations.

UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See [Threatening Behavior by Students | Policies and Procedures](#)

UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

Student Code of Conduct, Arizona Board of Regents

<https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-rights-responsibilities/student-code-conduct>

Email

Your UA email account is the official means of communication with university student. Because of this, it is vital that students read all their UA emails. It is each student's responsibility to understand all information sent to their UA email account.

UAccess Student

Students may access their personal, financial, and academic information from any computer with internet access via [UAccess](#). This site provides information on academics, class schedules, grades, financial information, personal and registration information, degree audits, tax information, and other services.

Catalog

Are you looking for academic information that you haven't found here? The UA Catalog provides comprehensive information about all degree programs and policies, including graduation requirements, academic standing, courses, grades, credit, code of conduct, and student rights and responsibilities, and many other topics to help you make the most of your time at the University: <https://catalog.arizona.edu/>

Campus Pantry

<https://campuspantry.arizona.edu/>

Native American Student Affairs (NASA)

<https://nasa.arizona.edu/>

Other Student Centers

<https://immigrant.arizona.edu/cultural-resource-centers>

Think Tank

The Think Tank offers tutoring and other academic support services: <https://thinktank.arizona.edu>

Life Challenges

If you are experiencing unexpected barriers to your success in your courses, please note the Dean of Students Office is a central support resource for all students and may be helpful. The [Dean of Students Office](#) can be reached at (520) 621-2057 or DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu.

Physical and Mental-Health Challenges

If you are facing physical or mental health challenges this semester, please note that Campus Health provides quality medical and mental health care. For medical appointments, call (520) 621-9202. For After Hours care, call (520) 570-7898. For the Counseling & Psych Services ([CAPS](#)) 24/7 hotline, call (520) 621-3334.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

<https://financialaid.arizona.edu>

Contact Information

Undergraduate Academic Advisor
Christopher Cruz
520-621-7438
cbcruz75@arizona.edu

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Professor Amy Fatzinger
520-624-8440
fatzinge@arizona.edu

Thinking About Graduate School?

AIS at the University of Arizona is the place to be! The University of Arizona is the first university in the world to offer a master's degree in American Indian Studies, and also the first university to offer a doctorate degree in our field. We also have a combined JD/MA program available that allows students to earn a juris doctorate degree and a master's degree in American Indian Studies in less time than it would take to earn the two degrees separately.

For more information about AIS Graduate Degrees:

Director of Graduate Studies
Professor Ben Colombi
979-8962
bcolombi@arizona.edu

AIS Graduate Degree Application Information:

<https://gidp.arizona.edu/academic-programs/american-indian-studies>

B.A. American Indian Studies
2024 Catalog Checklist

	Completed Units	In Progress Units	Total Units by _____	Units Remaining	Graduation Requirements
Total Units					120 Total
Upper Division Units (300-499 level)					42 UD (300-499 level)

UA/UNIV Units: _____/56 Cumulative GPA: _____ Major GPA: _____ Major/Minor GPA: _____

FOUNDATIONS

ENGLISH COMPOSITION

ENGL 101 & ENGL 102 or
ENGL 106, 107 & ENGL 108 or
ENGL 109H

MATH

PHIL 110, LING 123, MATH 107, or higher

SECOND LANGUAGE: 4th semester proficiency

GENERAL EDUCATION

GE Entry Course: (1 unit)

UNIV 101 required

GE Exploring Perspectives: (12 units)

Artist: (3 units)

Humanist: (3 units)

Natural Scientist: (3 units)

Social Scientist: (3 units)

GE Building Connections: (9 units)

GE Portfolio Course: (1 unit)

UNIV 301 required

SBS CORE

EXPLORE SBS (3 units): _____

CONNECT TO CULTURE (3 units): _____

SKILL UP (3 units): _____

[See options here.](#)

B.A. AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

AIS CORE I: (6 units)

AIS 200 - Intro. to American Indian Studies

AIS 220 - Contemporary Indian America

AIS CORE II: (21 units)

Approved AIS department courses *(see list on page 2).*

AIS ELECTIVES: (12 units)

Any approved AIS department courses or AIS cross-listed courses *(see list on page 2).*

Mid-Career Writing Assessment (MCWA):

- Complete ENGL 102 with a grade of "B" or better,
or earn a "B" or better in a writing emphasis course.

AIS Department Website: <https://ais.arizona.edu/>

AIS Major Website: <https://ais.arizona.edu/ba-ais>

MINOR or 2nd MAJOR

REQUIRED ELECTIVES
(If needed to reach 120/42 UD)

AIS Department Courses

- AIS 160A1 - Many Nations of Native America
- AIS 225 - Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- AIS 295A - American Indian Studies Special Topics
- AIS 336 - History and Philosophy of the Dine People
- AIS 344 - Native Americans in Film*
- AIS 348A - Educating Native Americans: History and Contemporary Perspective
- AIS 395A - American Indian Studies Special Topics
- AIS 403 - Globalization and Indigenous People*
- AIS 415 - American Indians and the Urban Experience
- AIS 426A - Principles of Indigenous Economics*
- AIS 431A - Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- AIS 434 - Tribal Government
- AIS 437A - Nation-Building: Issues of Leadership, Institution-Building, Governance, and Culture
- AIS 441A - Natural Resource Management in Native Communities*
- AIS 448 - Social Research with Indian Communities*
- AIS 450 - American Indian Women
- AIS 452A - Mixed Media Stories: Stories in Text & Film*
- AIS 465 - Tribal Colleges and Universities
- AIS/ENGL 477 - Studies of Native American Literature
- AIS 480 - Native American Warfare
- AIS 485 - American Indian Gaming
- AIS 490 - Indian Religions and Spirituality
- AIS 495A - American Indian Studies
- AIS 498H - Honor's Thesis*

* *Writing Emphasis*

AIS Cross Listed Courses

- AIS/LING 204A - Intermediate Navajo (3rd semester)
- AIS/LING 204B - Intermediate Navajo (4th semester)
- AIS/LING 210 - American Indian Languages
- AIS/RELI 212 - Introduction to American Indian Religious Traditions
- AIS/ENGL 278 - American Indian Literature
- GEOG 312 - Native American Geography
- AIS/ANTH 346 - Clovis to Coronado: Archaeology of the Southwest
- LAS/POL 356 - Indigenous Resistance in Latin America
- HED 397C - Native Student Outreach, Access, and Resiliency (SOAR)
- LING 399 - Intermediate O'Odham (3rd semester)
- LING 499 - Intermediate O'Odham (4th semester)
- AIS/MAS 405 - Traditional Indian Medicine: Health, Healing and Well-being
- AIS/RELI 407 - Religion, Spirituality, and the Sacred in Native North America*
- AIS/ANTH 423 - Anthropology of Rural Mexico
- AIS/LING 427 - Linguistics for Native American Communities
- AIS/EHS 428 - Indigenous Research and Ethics
- AIS/MAS 435 - Mexican Traditional Medicine: An Overview of Indigenous Curing Cultures
- AIS/LAW 450A - Native American Law and Policy

American Indian Studies Minor

Minor Requirements: 18 units (9+ UD units)

UD = 300-499 level

AIS CORE I: Complete TWO courses (6 units)

- AIS 200 - Introduction to American Indian Studies (*Offered Fall*)
- AIS 220 - Contemporary American Indian Issues (*Offered Spring*)

AIS CORE II: Complete TWO courses (6 UD units)

- AIS 336 - History and Philosophy of the Dine People
- AIS 344 - Native Americans in Film
- AIS 348A - Educating Native Americans: History and Contemporary Perspective
- AIS 393 - Internship
- AIS 395A - American Indian Studies
- AIS 399 - Independent Study
- AIS 403 - Globalization and Indigenous People
- AIS 415 - American Indians and the Urban Experience
- AIS 426A - Principles of Indigenous Economics*
- AIS 431A - Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- AIS 434 - Tribal Government
- AIS 437A - Nation-Building: Leadership, Institution-Building, Governance, and Culture
- AIS 441A - Natural Resource Management in Native Communities
- AIS 448 - Social Research with Indian Communities*
- AIS 450 - American Indian Women
- AIS 452A - Mixed Media Stories: Stories in Text and Film*
- AIS 465 - Tribal Colleges and Universities
- AIS 480 - Native American Warfare
- AIS 485 - American Indian Gaming
- AIS 490 - Indian Religions and Spirituality
- AIS 493 - Internship
- AIS 495A - American Indian Studies
- AIS 498 - Senior Capstone
- AIS 498H - Honor's Thesis*
- AIS 499 - Independent Study

AIS ELECTIVES: Complete TWO courses (6 units / minimum 3 UD units required)

- AIS/LING 204A - Intermediate Navajo
- AIS/LING 204B - Intermediate Navajo
- AIS/LING 210 - American Indian Languages
- AIS/RELI 212 - Introduction to American Indian Religious Traditions
- AIS 225 - Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- AIS/ENGL 278 - American Indian Literature
- AIS/ENGL 279 - Oral Tradition

- AIS 295A - American Indian Studies
- GEOG 312 – Native American Geography
- AIS 336 - History and Philosophy of the Dine People
- AIS 344 - Native Americans in Film
- AIS/ANTH 346 - Clovis to Coronado: Archaeology of the Southwest
- AIS/ANTH 347 - Native Peoples of the Southwest
- AIS 348A - Educating Native Americans: History and Contemporary Perspective
- AIS 393 - Internship
- AIS 395A - American Indian Studies
- HED 397C - Native Student Outreach, Access, and Resiliency (SOAR)
- AIS 399 - Independent Study
- AIS 403 - Globalization and Indigenous People
- AIS/MAS 405 - Traditional Indian Medicine: Health, Healing and Well-being
- AIS/ANTH 413 - Ethnology of the Southwest*
- AIS 415 - American Indians and the Urban Experience
- AIS/ANTH 418 - Southwest Land and Society
- AIS/ANTH 421 - Ethnology of North America
- AIS/ANTH 423 - Anthropology of Rural Mexico
- AIS/ENGL 424 - Studies in Southwest Literature
- AIS 426A - Principles of Indigenous Economics*
- AIS/LING 427 - Linguistics for Native American Communities
- AIS 431A - Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- AIS 434 - Tribal Government
- AIS/MAS 435 - Mexican Traditional Medicine: Overview of Indigenous Curing Cultures
- AIS/SOC 437 - Health of Indigenous Populations
- AIS 437A - Nation-Building: Leadership, Institution-Building, Governance, and Culture
- AIS 441A - Natural Resource Management in Native Communities
- AIS 448 - Social Research with Indian Communities*
- AIS/ENGL 449 - Folklore
- AIS 450 - American Indian Women
- AIS/LAW 450A - Native American Law and Policy
- AIS 452A - Mixed Media Stories: Stories in Text and Film*
- AIS 465 - Tribal Colleges and Universities
- AIS/ENGL 477 - Studies of Native American Literature
- AIS 480 - Native American Warfare
- AIS 485 - American Indian Gaming
- AIS 490 - Indian Religions and Spirituality
- AIS 493 - Internship
- AIS 495A - American Indian Studies
- AIS 498 - Senior Capstone
- AIS 498H - Honor's Thesis*
- AIS 499 - Independent Study

* Writing Emphasis Course

18 units required. A minimum of 9 units must be upper division = 300-499 level. Minimum 2.00 GPA required. Double dipping, or double use of courses, with another major/minor is not permitted.