

Undergraduate Studies

Students may earn a major or a minor in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS). The primary goal of the major and minor is to help students understand contemporary and historic Indigenous lives through attention to the politics, cultures, identities, and practices of Native American and Indigenous peoples. The program centers the voices and perspectives of Native American and Indigenous peoples throughout the interdisciplinary curriculum. Students of literature, social sciences, education, urban planning, art history, humanities, international studies—to name only a few—find that related Native American studies courses can enrich their academic programs.

Up to three courses applied to the Native American and Indigenous studies major may be used to satisfy major or minor requirements for other programs. All courses applied to a minor in Native American and Indigenous studies may be used to satisfy major or minor requirements for other programs.

There are two tracks for the major: an interdisciplinary track and a language track.

Requirements for the Major: Interdisciplinary Track

The interdisciplinary track of the Native American and Indigenous studies major requires 56 credits. At least 28 credits must be taken in residence at the University of Oregon. Up to 4 credits may be counted toward the major from a list of related courses that fall outside the core of Native American studies but that focus on other issues closely related to the field. Courses must be taken for a grade, and grades must be mid-C or higher to count toward the minor. The one exception is ES 409: Practicum, which may be applied to the major on a graded or pass/no pass basis. The interdisciplinary track requires one year of Native language classes that may be fulfilled at the University of Oregon or any other accredited institution or tribal language program. See program director for details. The course load is distributed as follows:

Lower division: 20 credits

ES 256: Intro to Native American Studies

One year of Ichishkiin or Chinuk Wawa (or other Indigenous language) (3 quarters/12 credits)

One elective

Upper division: 36 credits

ES 321: Indigenous Peoples of Oregon (O'Neal)

ES 470: Native Feminisms OR WGS 251: Transnational and Indigenous Feminisms

ES 468: NAIS Research Methods and Ethics (Junior year)

ES 409: NAIS Practicum (optional, senior year)

Five electives (One class in group 3 [literature/media/creative arts])

Requirements for the Major: Language Track

The language track of the Native American and Indigenous studies major requires 56 credits. At least 28 credits must be taken in residence at the University of Oregon. Up to 4 credits may be counted toward the minor from a list of related courses that fall outside the core of Native American studies but that focus on other issues closely related to the field. Courses must be taken for a grade, and grades must be mid-C or higher to count toward the minor. The one exception is ES 409: Practicum, which may be applied to the major on a graded or pass/no pass basis. The language track requires two years of Indigenous language classes that may be taken at the University of Oregon or any other accredited institution. See program director for details. The course load is distributed as follows:

Lower division: 28 credits

ES 256: Intro to NAS

Two years of Ichishkiin or Chinuk Wawa (or other Indigenous language) (6 quarters/24credits)

Upper division: 28 credits

ES 321: Indigenous Peoples of Oregon (O'Neal)

ES 470: Native Feminisms OR WGS 251: Transnational and Indigenous Feminisms

ES 468: NAIS Research Methods and Ethics (Junior year)

ES 409: NAIS Practicum (optional; senior year)

Linguistics class or Indigenous Values in Education class

Two electives (One class in group 3 [literature/media/creative arts])

Requirements for the Minor

The Native American and Indigenous Studies minor requires 28 credits. At least 16 credits must be taken in residence at the University of Oregon. Up to 4 credits may be counted toward the minor from a list of related courses that fall outside the core of Native American studies but that focus on other issues closely related to the field. Courses must be taken for a grade, and grades must be mid-C or higher to count toward the minor. The course load is distributed as follows:

Lower division: up to 8 credits

ES 256: Intro to Native American Studies

One elective at the 100- or 200- level (optional)

Upper division:

At least 16 credits at 300- or 400-level

4 credits with a focus on Oregon Indians

4 credits each across three distribution groups (Group 1: Culture, Language Education; Group 2: History, Law, Politics; Group 3: Literature, Media, and the Arts)