

Native American Studies B.A.

1 University Mission Statement:

We educate and empower students to understand and transform our world.

Core Values:

- We are humble, kind and generous, caring for our students and one another.
- We go the extra mile to provide an exceptional experience for students and those we serve.
- We are forward-thinking, adaptable and open to new ideas.
- We are committed to solving problems, whether our own or others.

East Central University's mission is to foster a learning environment in which students, faculty, staff, and community interact to educate students for life in a rapidly changing and culturally diverse society. Within its service area, East Central University provides leadership for economic development and cultural enhancement.

2 College/School Mission Statement:

East Central University's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences takes a student-centered approach inside and outside of the classroom. We provide quality instruction, creative expression, and academic research that enrich our fields, our communities, and the lives of our students.

3 Program Mission Statement:

Success in any career today demands flexibility based in three skill areas: the ability to think critically, the ability to analyze information from a variety of sources and apply that analysis to solving problems, and the ability to communicate that analysis to others. These skills are particularly critical for careers in law, government, business, teaching, medicine, as well as for success in graduate or professional school.

The Native American Studies program is central to the mission of the University to "educate and empower students". This includes preparing students "to understand and transform our world." With that said, it also complies with the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences mission to further enrich ECU by

taking “a student-centered approach inside and outside of the classroom”. The Native American Studies program offers an interdisciplinary degree program that reflects an awareness of the issues which contemporary Native American communities and peoples confront. By approaching the multiplicity of Indigenous cultures from an interdisciplinary academic perspective, this allows students to gain deeper understandings of Indigenous societies past and present. It makes use of the strengths of university faculty members in Native American Studies, anthropology, law, political science, sociology, social work, business, history, human resources, legal studies, nursing, art, English and other disciplines.

4 Program Goal(s)

The Native American Studies program offers an interdisciplinary major and minor that enable students to understand Native America from multiple perspectives. Students can also choose a concentration in cultural resource management.

The Native American Studies degree prepares students to work successfully as educators, administrators of businesses, tribal and other governmental bodies, other professions such as community and health services, social work, the hospitality and gaming industries, others serving or interacting with Native American communities and those seeking additional studies. In order to get students ready for these kinds of employment and additional educational opportunities the program has two major goals: (1) to develop critical thinking, research skills, methodologies, and written communication skills (2) to provide students with an understanding of Native American cultural, historical, legal and political topics.

Degree offered in Native American Studies:

1. B.A. in Native American Studies
2. B.A. in NAS/CRM

5 Assessment Across Program Statement

Students will be assessed from the first year to graduation and transfers students until they graduate. Data will be collected in both the Fall and Spring semesters to ensure that all students that year are assessed and any duplicate data is discarded.

6 External Instrument Availability

No external measures are available for NAS programs and degrees.

7 Student Learning Outcome Student Learning Outcome 1: Students demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in multiple contexts.

7.1.1 Instrument/Measurement

Instrument:

What I know Quiz to measure students knowledge of multiple contexts in NAS and across Native American communities.

7.1 Criterion

1.1 Student self-evaluations of knowledge of major concepts associated with tribal sovereignty and NAS.

1.2 Faculty and student evaluations of standard student writing skills using a portfolio sampling approach

7.1.1 Instrument/Measurement

Instrument: What I know Quiz I and Writing portfolio

(Instruments are being developed adapted, and implemented.)

8 Student Learning Outcome Student Learning Outcome 2:

Students demonstrate the ability to comprehend and process concepts and to evaluate information for knowledge building and decision-making in professional settings.

8.1 Criterion

2.1 Student demonstrates preparedness for employment.

8.1.1 Instrument/Measurement

Instrument: This will be measured using the feedback survey conducted from internship supervisors of student interns and the intern's preparedness for employment. The feedback provides a chance to adapt the program around professional needs.

(Instrument is being developed adapted, and implemented.)

9 Student Learning Outcome

Student Learning Outcome 3:

Students demonstrate the ability to find, evaluate, and use information effectively and appropriately for any given learning situation including demonstrating an understanding of tribal sovereignty, American Indian identities, and Indigenous cultural, social, and political issues.

9.1 Criterion

3.1 Student demonstration of content knowledge and critical thinking skills in exams and writing samples.

9.1.1 Instrument/Measurement

Selection of exams from selected courses. Research project. What I Know Quiz II, which is taken during research course junior or senior year.

(Instrument is being developed, adapted, and implemented.)