Majoring in American Indian Studies will give you the skills to communicate effectively and apply your knowledge to address current issues in Indian Country and beyond. You will build a broad understanding of cross-cultural and intergovernmental issues with expertise in American Indian affairs. We train future leaders and intellectuals to meet the dynamic challenges of our ever-changing world.

Why UMD

Select courses based on your specific area(s) of interest. The curriculum that supports the intellectual, ethical, and social development of students. Dedicated, knowledgeable faculty who have and are creating a body of scholarship and research, which is influencing the field today.

Acquired Skills

- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Strong analytical and critical-thinking skills
- In-depth knowledge of American Indian affairs
- Listening, clarifying, questioning and responding skills
- Broad understanding of cross-cultural and intergovernmental issues

Career Possibilities

A bachelor of arts degree in American Indian studies is designed to give students a broad background while allowing concentrated study in an area(s) of interest. American Indian Studies majors go on to successful careers in social services, government, advocacy, business, politics, education, the arts, and much more.

Scholarships

There are many scholarship opportunities including the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Endowed Scholarship (deadline: May 1st), the Page Education Foundation (deadline: May 1st), Minnesota Indian Scholarship Program, the Udall Foundation, the Ethel Curry American Indian Leadership Scholarship program and more. For additional information visit the Department of American Indian Studies.

Student Clubs

The Anishinaabe Student Organization (ASO) is a student-run group for anyone interested in Native American cultures. The ASO seeks to create a friendly environment where students can establish a connection to the Native American communities & cultures. The ASO also endeavors to provide opportunities for its student members to become involved in several academically oriented and social service activities.

Faculty Highlights

Department faculty work to fulfill our responsibility to all Native nations through consultation, partnerships, and research. Several department faculty have awards for outstanding teaching, research, and service.
What you can do with this degree?

Advisor
Advocate
Community Organizer
Community Outreach Coordinator
Consultant
Cross-Cultural Communications Specialist
Diversity Coordinator
Lobbyist
Nonprofit Management
Program Administrator
Public Administration (tribal or federal/state/local relations)
School Counselor
Recruiter

A major in American Indian Studies also prepares students for graduate and professional school in law, public affairs, social work, education, and other other areas.

Graduate Report

Recent UMD Graduates Job Placement Data & Employers

Here's a sampling of positions American Indian Studies grads have attained six months to one year after graduation.

- Natural Resources Manager - Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Cloquet, MN
- Social Worker - Fond du Lac County Social Services, Fond du Lac, WI
- Native American Cultural Liaison - Duluth Edison Charter Schools
- Import Specialist - Navegate Logistics, St. Paul, MN
- Graduate School - Public Health, Native Hawaiian & Indigenous Health, University of Hawaii'i at Manoa, Hawaii

For more data see the American Indian Studies Graduate Follow-up Report.
For ideas about American Indian Studies and other majors visit Career & Internship Services.