Minoring in American Indian Studies will introduce you to tribal sovereignty and the distinct political relationship between American Indian nations to the federal government. With only two required, core courses the minor in American Indian Studies allows you to focus your coursework in a specific area or select a broad range of courses that fit your interests.

Why UMD

Select courses based on your specific area(s) of interest. Many courses for the AIS minor also count for Liberal Education requirements. Curriculum 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

The American Indian studies minor is designed to give students a broad background while allowing concentrated study in an area(s) of interest. The minor pairs well with majors across campus and prepares students to 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.