

DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES
Bachelor of Arts in American Indian Studies

MISSION STATEMENT

Through the American Indian Studies Department, a program is offered to educate students about the rich diversity of American Indian histories and cultures, to promote research and scholarship concerning American Indian issues and to prepare students for professional and scholarly careers. The AIS department provides a comprehensive program with both an academic and public orientation focusing on the history, cultures, and contemporary experiences of American Indian tribal groups.

GOALS

1. Students will have an understanding of traditional American Indian life prior to colonial contact.
2. Students will understand some of the major historical developments that characterized Native American life from colonization to the boarding school era.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

For Goal 1, students will:

- Describe the phases of American Indian pre-contact history.
- Explain the technological changes that occurred in pre-contact history.
- Describe the lifeways of American Indians in pre-contact history, including adaptations to their local environments.

For Goal 2, students will:

- Understand and explain the effects of contact and conflict between American Indians and Europeans.
- Understand and explain the impact of exploration and colonization of the Americas by European powers on Native American peoples.
- Describe colonial and federal treaty relationships with American Indian tribes.
- Understand and explain the differences between Indigenous and colonial educational systems and institutions.
- Describe the impact and legacy of the boarding school system on Native American peoples.