

Bachelor of Arts in Native American Studies

Degree Requirements

A Bachelor of Arts in Native American Studies from University College is designed to give students a relatively broad background while allowing concentrated study in one of the two concentrations. Students formally declare a major and minor when they enter University College. They must file a degree application (available from the Department Advisor) upon completion of 80 credit hours. A list of courses required for graduation is then sent to the student. The student is solely responsible for being familiar with and completing all graduation requirements.

A Bachelor of Arts degree from University College is awarded upon completion or accomplishment of the following:

1. A total of 120 acceptable credit hours.
2. A grade point average of at least 2.00 as defined in the [Undergraduate Program](#) section of this Catalog, and a major specific GPA of 2.5.
3. 42 (forty-two) credit hours of upper-division course work (courses numbered 300 or 400) with a minimum grade point average of 2.00 on all upper-division credit hours accepted by University College. University College does not accept in fulfillment of the upper-division requirement any lower-division course work transferred to UNM as the equivalent of an upper-division course. While a particular topic may be adequately covered in such a lower-division course so as to be considered acceptable for fulfillment of major or minor course requirement from a disciplinary content viewpoint, it does not meet the upper-division requirement, as upper-division courses are taught assuming a degree of maturity and sophistication on the junior/senior level. In other words, lower-division courses accepted by substitution approval at a departmental level do not constitute substitution for the 42 credit hour upper-division requirement.
4. Completion of all requirements for declared major and minor or a double major.
5. The UNM Core Curriculum.
6. Demonstration of competence in the writing of English as described above.
7. A minimum of 26 credit hours of academic work earned while enrolled in University College (Not to include: credit by exam, transfer credit and/or concurrent enrollment, or independent study/problems courses unless specifically approved by the Director/Dean).
8. Students must comply with University requirements for a Bachelor's Degree. Students who have not been in continuous attendance must follow the current Catalog requirements upon re-enrollment.
9. All paperwork and requirements documenting transfer equivalencies, grade changes, removals of incomplete, substitutions and/or waivers awarded at the departmental or college level must be filed with the Department Advisor by the last day of classes in the semester of graduation.

Major Study Requirements

A major in Native American Studies requires successful completion of 36 credit hours. Students must take 18 credit hours of the required core courses. 12 credit hours must be from one of the two concentrations in NATV. The remaining 6 credit hours must be upper-division courses (300-level or above) from the concentrations OR from courses with significant Native American content offered by other departments, which are subject to approval by the Chair of Native American Studies.

Additional Information

Transfer from Other Units Within the University Minimum Requirements:

1. A minimum of 26 credit hours.
2. A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 with a 2.50 on all major course work complete.
3. Demonstrated competence in the writing of English as evidenced by one of the following:
 - o • Completion of ENGL 120 with a grade of C (2.00) or higher.
 - o • A score of 29 or better on the English portion of the Enhanced ACT.
 - o • A score of 650 or better on the verbal portion of the SAT.
 - o • Credit for ENGL 120 through CEEB advanced placement program.
 - o • Acceptance of a writing proficiency portfolio (procedures available through the Department of English).
4. Students must declare a Native American Studies major, apply and be accepted by that department prior to admission into University College.
5. Non-degree students apply to the Office of Admissions. Students should see Native American Studies advisor.

Transfer from Accredited Universities:

1. A cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 with a 2.50 on all major course work attempted.
2. A minimum of 26 credit hours.
3. Demonstrated competence in the writing of English (see above).

University Core Curriculum. The UNM Core Curriculum requirements are described in the [Undergraduate Program](#) section of this Catalog. Students should be familiar with both the UNM Core and University College's program requirements in order to minimize the number of credit hours taken to satisfy both sets of requirements. A grade of "C" (not "C-") is required in all courses used to fulfill the requirements of the Core Curriculum.

Major and Minor Studies. Upon entering University College, students shall formally declare 1) a major and a minor; or 2) two majors.

Distributed Minor. A major department may specify, in lieu of a specific minor, a distributed minor in courses in related departments. A distributed minor shall consist of not less than 30 credit hours or more than 36 credit hours. Students should consult with their major departmental advisor or Chairperson, if they wish to propose a distributed minor. The student-proposed distributed minor allows a student develop an individualized program of multidisciplinary study in support of the major or in another area of interest. In order to apply for a student-proposed distributed minor, the student must present a petition to the undergraduate advisor in the major department as early as possible, and not later than two semesters prior to planned graduation. The petition must also contain a list of the specific courses proposed totaling at least 30 credit hours. At least 15 of those credit hours shall be at the 300- or 400-level (upper-division). Course work must come from outside the major area of study and represent multiple departments. The list should indicate courses already completed (including semester taken and grade received), courses in progress and semester for planned completion. Documentation for distributed minor programs of study must be included with the Application for Degree.

Double Major. University College allows students to have two majors in lieu of, or in conjunction with a minor. Only one degree is awarded, but the transcript will indicate both majors. Because one degree earned, degree requirements must be completed only once.

Adding Majors or Raising Minors. Students who already have a degree from UNM and who are not enrolled in a graduate program may complete the requirements for another major or raise a previously earned minor to a second major. These students must apply for admission to University College, declare the appropriate major on the application, and register as a senior.

Dual Degree in University College. Students wishing to pursue a second baccalaureate degree must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours in addition to those required for the first degree and must choose majors and minors different from the first degree. The minor used for the first degree may be raised to a major, but the first major may not be used as the minor for the second degree.

Combined Curricula. Dual degrees from both University College and another college may be obtained upon completion of the established program as approved by the Dean of each college. Interested students should consult with each dean before the end of their sophomore year.

Courses for Which Degree Credit is Not Given. The Native American Studies program does not accept any courses which are by nature remedial, tutorial, skills or preparatory, technical or vocational, physical education, or dance . Examples include: any course numbered 100 and such courses as Women Studies 181. Courses oriented toward professional practice, such as those taught by Nursing, Pharmacy, Elementary Education, Health Promotion, Health Education, Physical Education, Professional Physical Education, Art Education, Music Education, and leisure programs, etc.; courses taken in a

law or medical school are considered credit in those programs of study. Students may enroll in these courses in pursuit of their own interests, but should not expect degree credits from Native American Studies for them. Proposed exceptions may be made based on individual programs of study and their demonstrated applicability to one of the two concentrations in the Native American Studies major.

Departmental Honors. Students with a 3.75 GPA in Native American Studies coursework graduate with Summa Cum Laude departmental honors. Those graduating with a 3.50 in Native American Studies coursework graduate with departmental honors. A notation of honors is made on the academic record.

Probation, Suspension, Dismissal. Students enrolled in the Native American Studies are subject to University College academic standards.

Justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications

NAS is changing the upper division requirement to align with the Provost's Office recommended change across UNM to reduce total credit hours from 128 to 120. This Form C provides details for a revision to the current Native American Studies degree requirements. Currently we require students to earn (50) fifty upper division hours under the previous requirement of earning 128 credit hours to graduate with a Native American Studies degree.

The requested revision is to change the required upper division requirement to (42) forty-two credit hours, which warrants the student to take 14 classes of upper division coursework in alignment with the new approved change to earn a total of 120 credit hours to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Native American Studies. Since the total hours to graduate was reduced by 8 credit hours, it would be best to also do the same for the upper division requirement.

Overall, this revision to the Native American Studies requirement impacts long-term planning to enable students to graduate within the University's 120 credit hour goal. By allowing student to graduate with 42 credit hours of upper division will also allow our department to better recruit and retain students as well as to graduate them in a more timely manner. This revision will also help lead to greater student success.

There is no impact on our budget or faculty workload.