Indigenous Studies Certificate

The main goal of the indigenous studies certificate program is to encourage active intellectual and community engagement with indigenous peoples and cultures. The program allows undergraduate students to develop interdisciplinary expertise in indigenous studies and comparative approaches to their primary field of interest.

[Each student develops a specialization within the program that is tailored to his or her academic and professional development. Students concentrate their studies in two of the following eight strands: Mayan culture, Mesoamerica, indigenous arts, indigenous peoples of Latin America, indigenous peoples in the United States and Canada, indigenous peoples of the Americas, indigenous politics and human rights, and indigenous writing and language.]

Courses the student has completed at the time of application to the program may be counted toward the certificate. Upon completion of the course requirements, the student writes a three- to four-page essay that describes his or her intellectual work in the program and how the experience contributed to his or her academic career at the University.

The certificate program requires 18 semester hours of coursework, including at least nine semester hours completed in residence. Students must fulfill the following requirements:

The requirements of an undergraduate major

Three semester hours in a lower-division introductory or foundational course with indigenous studies content, such as:

E 314V – Introduction to Literature and Culture (Topic 5: Native American Literature and Culture)

HIS 317L – Topics in United States History (Topic 3: Introduction to Native American History)

Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies (offered with different course numbers depending on the department of faculty teaching it)

Or other courses from an approved list
Six semester hours of approved coursework in each of two of the following eight strands:

- Mayan culture
- Mesoamerica
- Indigenous arts
- Indigenous peoples of Latin America
- Indigenous peoples in the United States and Canada
- Indigenous peoples of the Americas
- Indigenous politics and human rights
- Indigenous writing and language

Twelve semester hours (4 courses) of classes with at least 30% content related to Native American and Indigenous Studies. At least nine hours must be from upper-division courses. At least six hours must be taken in a field of study outside the student’s major department.

Students will be given the opportunity to enroll in a 3-hour conference course that allows students to work with issues in Indigenous Texas or the Southwest. This course can count toward the above twelve-hour requirement.

Three semester hours (1 course) from a list of approved upper-division capstone course with 100% content related to Native American and Indigenous Studies.

Please Note:

At least three courses must be taken in a field of study outside of the student’s major department.

Each semester a list of approved courses that meet the requirements above is available [in the Department of Anthropology undergraduate advising office] on the website of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Program.