

American Indian Studies

At UW-Eau Claire

Created in 1996, the American Indian Studies major was designed to provide students with a greater understanding of the history, culture and values of the indigenous tribal nations of the United States. The program encompasses several disciplines including anthropology, art, biology, botany, education, geography, healing arts, history, language, law, literature, music and politics.

What you can do

This major prepares you to work in tribal government, education, human services, health care and other areas through interactions with Indian professionals, tribal leaders and peers. The major and minor in American Indian Studies are designed to support degree programs in nursing, education, business and social work.

Unique program

UW-Eau Claire was the first university in the UW System to offer the AIS major, and offers one of only three programs available in the UW System today. Our program is the only one to offer such a breadth of interdisciplinary courses, making it a great complement to many other majors or career choices. The Ojibwe language component of this major is extremely unique; no other school in the world offers Ojibwe classes online. These online courses are also being offered in smaller communities to help continue and preserve their native language.

Cultural internship experience

There are plenty of Internship opportunities through this major. Some recent internships include work with tribal organizations, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, the American Indian Center in Minneapolis, the Ho-Chunk

Nation, the Lac De Flambeau tribe, and tutoring for Indian students in the Eau Claire area.

On and off campus

Activities during American Indian Heritage Month enhance classroom studies. Students also participate in the annual Spring Celebration Pow Wow and the Native American Students Association provides you

with additional opportunities for social interaction and cultural enrichment.

Flexible and creative minor

The AIS minor requires only two courses, allowing you to choose from the entire list of AIS courses to create a minor that enhances or complements your major.



"The American Indian Studies program provides knowledge of the traditions and history of the first nations of America and an understanding of the relationship of the United States government to the First Nation Tribes. My goal after graduation is to help out our people to the best of my ability and to keep traditions strong."

— Charles

Our graduates

Typical positions held by American Indian Studies graduates include family

services specialist, race relations specialist, community outreach worker, teacher or school counselor, literacy program coordinator, health educator

caseworker, school counselor, work in environmental science or work in tribal law and government.

Majors

American Indian Studies

Minors

American Indian Studies

Course work

The American Indian studies major consists of 36 semester credits including:

- AIS 101, Introduction to American History and Cultures
- AIS 102, Introduction to American Indian Expressive Cultures
- AIS 480, Capstone Course

Suggested freshman curriculum

Students majoring in AIS will begin their course of study by taking six credits of required courses in American Indian Studies. A student can easily sign up for AIS 101 (Introduction to American History and Cultures) in the fall semester, and continue with AIS 102 (Introduction to American Indian Expressive Cultures) in the spring semester.

Places you'll find recent graduates:

- History Teacher, Lac Du Flambeau, WI
- Assistant Professor, UW-Green Bay
- Executive Director of Education, Ho Chunk Nation
- Medical Student, UW-Madison

note:

Because there are AIS courses in almost every General Education Category, it is possible to earn a minor in AIS simply by choosing AIS courses for several GE categories, and even a second major in AIS can be earned without many additional courses. Many students find themselves adding American Indian Studies as a second major in order to enhance their cultural competency.

The AIS major program requirements can be successfully completed in four years and is an excellent preparation for graduate study.

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AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES

Hibbard Hall 384, barkerdk@uwec.edu, Debra Barker
715-836-6045 • www.uwec.edu/ais

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