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**The Native American Studies Minor**

Minor involves a minimum of 18 credits of course work focusing on Native Americans with the three required NAS-designated courses are:

- NAS 101: Introduction to Native American Studies
- NAS 102: Introduction to Wabanaki Culture, History, and Contemporary Issues
- NAS 490: Theory and Research Methods in Native American Studies

The remaining credits come from:

- ANT 451: Native American Cultures
- ANT 472: North American Prehistory
- ENG 442: Native American Literature
- HTY 220: American Indian History
- HTY 481: Amerindians of the Northeast: A History
- NAS 201: Topics in NAS
- NAS 298: Directed Study in NAS
- NAS 401: Advanced Topics in NAS
- NAS 498: Directed Study in NAS

In addition, students may submit courses with considerable Native American content for consideration for inclusion in the Native American Studies minor. The content of such courses may make them suitable as approved electives.

The Native American Studies Program at the University of Maine is committed to the study of the cultures, values, history, and contemporary life of the aboriginal peoples and nations of North America. With an emphasis on the Wabanaki tribes of Maine, the program offers opportunities for students and the public to learn about them, as well as other tribal groups within the United States and Canada. Students will enhance their knowledge and understanding of the complex issues facing American Indian communities through courses from various disciplines and interactions with Native American experts, elders, and scholars.

The Native American Studies Program administers a minor in Native American Studies, open to all students at the University of Maine. The aim of the program is to teach students, through Native perspectives, to understand Native people, their traditions, and their right to self-determination. The program is designed around the belief that such explorations are the cornerstones of Native American Studies as an academic discipline, giving voice and credibility to the Native perspective, worldview, and life experiences.

The program offers a curriculum which focuses on understanding how differing value systems function, appreciating the aesthetic qualities in Native American culture, and comprehending the historical aspects of Native America, including the critical issues of sovereignty and treaty rights. The presence of the Wabanaki Tribes within the State of Maine (Maliseet, Micmac, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot) provides a tie to the history, language, and vital culture unique to this state and is a major focus of the program.

The program maintains high academic standards through the traditional pedagogy of Native communities, as well as Western-based academic standards. It focuses on the connection between the University of Maine and Maine Native communities to ensure accuracy, authenticity, and credibility in course offerings. It also seeks to strengthen the connections between Native and non-Native people allowing respectful discussion of issues of significance.