

MINOR IN NATIVE STUDIES

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Program Coordinator:
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Program Offered:

- Native Studies Minor

Earning this broadly interdisciplinary minor reflects an awareness of the indigenous heritage as well as the issues which contemporary native communities and peoples confront. Students will focus on native peoples in the United States and Mexico but will have opportunities to consider the experience of native peoples in a global context. The Native Studies Minor demands a range of knowledge focused in four areas: indigenous cultures, history, and the social and environmental contexts of native life. It makes use of the strengths of university faculty members in anthropology, communication, history, music, visual arts, biology, and economics.

The minor prepares students who expect to work with native communities to understand those communities in a broad cultural, historical, social, and environmental context. Students who earn the minor should have the particular knowledge and sensitivity necessary to work successfully as educators, administrators of businesses and tribal and other governmental bodies, and members of other professions serving native communities.

Eighteen reservations are located all or in part in San Diego County, and the California and urban American Indian population is upwards of thirty thousand (not including members of indigenous communities based in Mexico). Much of that population is in the area served by the university. This minor serves as an essential link between the university and the diverse Indian communities within its area of responsibility; a central goal of the program is to strengthen relationships between the university and these communities.

Requirements

Completion of the minor requires twenty-one units of credit, fifteen of which must be upper-division courses, and twelve of which must be completed at CSUSM. Courses must be completed with a grade of C or better to count toward the minor.

One course must be an internship (NATV 498 or a relevant internship in any other discipline), approved by the native studies coordinator, which brings the student into direct contact with a native community.

In addition, at least one course must be chosen from each of the four areas below, plus two electives taken from any of the areas below; NATV 380 may also be used as an elective. With consent of the program coordinator, as many as six units of Independent Study (NATV 390) may be counted toward the minor.

- I. History courses provide a knowledge of the broad issues and problems of native history as well as an understanding of the specific periods discussed.

Select one course:	Units
HIST 337	3
HIST 338B	HIST 338A

- II. Culture courses provide a framework that expose the student to the complexity and diversity of native cultures and encourage further exploration and participation. Students need to recognize that the content of these courses might not address native populations specifically. However, they need to hold in mind the examples of native communities they know in terms of both their own experience and in examples provided in other courses. Students will be expected to take these insights and apply their lessons during their internship.

Select one course:	2-3
ANTH 302	MUSC 390
ANTH 325	MUSC 422

- III. Social Context courses provide a framework that allows students to understand the relationships between native peoples and the larger societies in which they live, and should help students understand the meanings of native identity. Students need to recognize that the content of these courses might not address native populations specifically. However, they need to hold in mind the examples of native communities they know in terms of both their own experience and in examples provided in other courses. Students enrolled in the minors will be expected to take these insights and apply their lessons during their internship.

Select one course:	3
ANTH 200	COMM 330
HIST 356	

IV. Environmental Context courses provide a framework that allows students to understand environmental changes as they affect native communities, especially those located in rural areas such as the reservations, which are the homes and/or homelands of most native populations in the United States. Students need to recognize that the content of these courses might not address native populations specifically. However, they need to hold in mind the examples of native communities they know in terms of both their own experience and in examples provided in other courses. Students enrolled in the minor will be expected to take these insights and apply their lessons during their internship.

Select one course:	Units	
ANTH 370	BIOL 339	3
BIOL 338	ECON 325	

V. Internship in Native Studies

NATV 498 or equivalent internship approved by Native Studies Coordinator	3
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Total Units **20-21**

