

MASTER'S DEGREE

MISSION STATEMENT

KU's Indigenous Studies Program serves students, Native American and Indigenous Nations and communities in Kansas, the Midwest, the U.S., and the world through our teaching, research, creative work, and service. At the core of these endeavors is our deep commitment to and engagement with the nations and communities we come from, learn from, and serve. Our aim is to contribute to the continuing projects of knowledge building, effective leadership, and infrastructure development.

MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students pursuing the M.A. in Indigenous Studies must successfully complete a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours: a 21-hour core curriculum plus 9 hours taken according to either Plan A or Plan B.

Core Curriculum

ISP 800 Indigenous Issues in the United States. A 3-hour graduate-level course taught by the director of the ISP with guest presentations by faculty who study Indigenous peoples from various disciplinary perspectives.

Plus 18 hours of approved coursework with content relevant to the field of Indigenous studies approved by the student's graduate committee. Courses are offered by Indigenous Studies, as well as certain departments such as Anthropology, Environmental Studies, English, History, Political Science, Religion, and Geography.

Plan A: Portfolio

9 hours of electives

An M.A. examination: an oral examination in which the candidate defends his or her portfolio, composed of the student's entire body of work completed in courses counted for the degree

Plan B: Thesis

6 hours of electives

3 hours of thesis hours

A thesis on an approved subject with an oral defense

AFFILIATE FACULTY

Norman Akers, Visual Arts
Joseph Brewer III, Environmental Studies
Christine Daley, Preventive Medicine & Public Health
Stephanie Fitzgerald, English
W. Matthew Gillispie, Speech-Language-Hearing
Jay Johnson, Geography
Kelly Kindscher, Environmental Studies
Elizabeth Kronk Warner, Law

Andrew McKenzie, Linguistics
Brent Metz, Anthropology
Joshua Miner, Film & Media Studies
Lizette Peter, Education
Catherine Preston, Film & Media Studies
Robert Warrior, English and American Studies
Peter Welsh, Museum Studies
Michael Zogry, Religious Studies

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates requesting consideration for admission to the Master of Arts program in Indigenous Studies must complete the online application through the [Office of Graduate Studies](#). Applicants should upload the supporting application documents listed below to the online application. There is no need to send hard copies of application materials directly to the Indigenous Studies program.

Timeline

The Indigenous Studies program accepts students on a rolling admissions basis. Students may apply to be admitted for either the fall or spring semester. Priority consideration will be given to applications received by January 15 for the fall semester and by October 1 for the spring semester.

Application Documents

- **GRE verbal and analytical writing scores**
- **Transcript(s)** from undergraduate or graduate institution(s) you have attended
 - The Office of Graduate Studies requires *a minimum 3.0 undergraduate GPA* for admission.
 - Applicants may attach a scanned version of their official transcript from their undergraduate institution, as well as a scanned version of their official transcripts from any post-bachelor institution to the online application. Because these transcripts are not coming directly from the institution, KU does not consider them official. However, you may be admitted with unofficial transcripts.
- **Writing sample of at least 10 pages**
- **2-page personal statement** explaining how a master's degree in Indigenous Studies will benefit you and why you will successfully complete the degree
 - Applicants can upload their writing samples and statements as part of the application.
- **Resume or curriculum vitae** listing your educational and employment history, any scholarships, fellowships, internships, and awards
- **Three letters of recommendation from instructors (former or current)**
 - The Letter of Recommendation system works on the contact information provided by the applicant at the time of application.
- **TOEFL scores**, if student's native language is not English

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Indigenous Studies program awards scholarships to incoming and current master's degree students as funds become available. To be considered for University or departmental scholarships, the priority consideration deadline is **January 15** for fall. The committee will use application materials to determine scholarship awards. Please indicate on the application that you would like to be considered for scholarships. Only students admitted on regular status are eligible.