

MASTER'S DEGREE

OVERVIEW

Through a multidisciplinary program of study, the master's program educates students to become innovative and capable scholars, leaders, and mentors who bring Indigenous perspectives to academic settings, government and other public service, and the private sector. ISP equips students with the knowledge and skills to conduct theoretical and applied research and to develop innovative solutions to issues facing Indigenous communities. Students can take advantage of courses offered across the university to create an individualized program of study. Our affiliate faculty have appointments in departments such as Environmental Studies, Film & Media Studies, Geography, History, Journalism, Law, Linguistics, and Religious Studies.

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. Please see the list of preapproved courses at indigenous.ku.edu/courses.

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
Kent Blansett, ISP and History
Joseph Brewer II, Environmental Studies
Ignacio Carvajal, Spanish & Portuguese
Sarah Deer, Public Administration and Women, Gender
& Sexuality Studies
Philip Duncan, Linguistics
W. Matthew Gillispie, Speech-Language-Hearing
Melissa Greene-Blye, Journalism
Sara Gregg, History and Environmental Studies

Jay T. Johnson, Geography
Kelly Kindscher, Environmental Studies
Andrew McKenzie, Linguistics
Brent Metz, Anthropology
Joshua Miner, Film & Media Studies
Catherine Preston, Film & Media Studies
Jennifer Raff, Anthropology
Shawn Watts, Law
Peter Welsh, Museum Studies
Michael Zogry, Religious Studies

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission to regular graduate status in the program, a student must hold a bachelor's degree and have earned at least a B (3.0) grade-point average in previous academic work. Candidates requesting consideration for admission to the master's 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. Students interested in pursuing a joint M.A./J.D. with the KU School of Law or the PSM + ISP graduate certificate will need to apply to both programs.

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 April 1 for the fall semester and by October 1 for the spring semester.

Application Documents

- **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.
- **Academic 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. It should answer:
 - why Indigenous Studies is the right fit for your interests
 - who among our affiliate faculty would you like to work with on your research
 - what you'd like to do with your master's degree
- **Resume or curriculum vitae** listing your educational and employment history, any scholarships, fellowships, internships, and awards
- **Three letters of recommendation**
 - The Letter of Recommendation system works on the contact information provided by the applicant at the time of application.
 - Be sure your recommenders can speak to your ability to traverse the rigors of academia. We suggest at least two of your recommenders come from professors you've taken courses from. Their letters should help the admissions committee understand why Indigenous Studies fits your research and career goals.
- If an applicant is not a native speaker of English, they must verify their English proficiency. Please see Graduate Admissions' [English Proficiency Requirements](#) for additional information.

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 **April 1** 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.