

## American Indian Studies Paradigm

The American Indian Studies Paradigm is grounded in the experiences of American Indian nations, peoples, communities and organizations from American Indian perspectives. Its principles are rooted in the concepts of sovereignty and Indigeness. It recognizes that disparate world-views, literatures, knowledge systems, political structures and languages characterize Indian societies within the United States but that they share commonalities that link them with other indigenous peoples of the world. It acknowledges that colonialism has impacted sovereignty, human rights, landholdings, religious freedom, health, welfare and cultural integrity of Indian nations.

American Indian Studies focuses on the protection and strengthening of Indian sovereignty, self-determination, self-sufficiency and human rights. Faculty must view their teaching, research and service as a sacred responsibility to Indian nations undertaken for the sake of cultural survival. American Indian Studies provides a curriculum for the intellectual, ethical and social development of students so they will acquire a comprehensive and practical understanding of U.S. Indian law and policy, colonization/decolonization and nation building.

## Philanthropy fuels possibilities

We aspire to be known as the university offering the most prestigious American Indian Studies degrees in the nation. Your investment in the American Indian Studies program directly impacts the success of our students and the research discoveries of our faculty as we try to positively shape the discourse of the Indigenous experience. You can give students the freedom to focus their energy on understanding Indigenous communities. As we raise the number of scholarships, our students can learn how to address the pressing needs of American Indian communities and strive to make the world better.

[americanindian.asu.edu](http://americanindian.asu.edu)  
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**“The core of our program is rooted in the concepts of sovereignty and Indigeness and grounded in the experiences of American Indian nations, peoples, communities and organizations from American Indian perspectives. We strive to make our program not only important and relevant to Native nations, organizations and peoples but also to society as a whole.”**

**Stephanie J. Fitzgerald**  
Associate Professor and Director

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Discovery Hall  
250 E Lemon St.  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
April 2022



**ASU** The College  
of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Arizona State University



**1**  
undergraduate  
degree

**2**  
graduate  
degrees

**8**  
total  
faculty

**33**  
enrolled  
students

# Exploring Indigenous experiences

The American Indian Studies program emphasizes the latest ideas and research impacting Indigenous communities across the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. Grounded in the experiences of American Indian nations, peoples, communities and organizations from American Indian perspectives, our program trains future leaders and intellectuals to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world. By exploring oral history and traditional knowledge, we promote collaborative community-based research methods that transcend disciplinary boundaries.



## Building a community of belonging

By measuring our success not by whom we exclude, but rather whom we include and how they succeed, The College builds up a community that values, welcomes and amplifies unique perspectives. Through a number of new initiatives, Sun Devils are able to have important conversations and develop diversity-informed research, while learning how to thrive in today's interconnected world. Of the 33 students pursuing a degree in American Indian Studies, 68 percent are Pell Grant eligible.

271	students enrolled in American Indian Studies courses
3:1	student to faculty ratio
82%	female student population
75%	first-generation students

## Leading global impact and innovative solutions

Our faculty and affiliate faculty have distinguished themselves by creating a body of scholarship and original research, which is influencing the field today. Through this work, we are educating the next generation of globally informed leaders while creating a more equitable, sustainable future. Serving Indigenous nations since 2002, the American Indian Studies program at ASU is setting the agenda for the 21st century.



### Navajo and O'odham language classes

Led by fluent speakers and skilled educators, our Navajo and O'odham language classes are creating new generations of Indigenous language speakers.



### Advocating for Indigenous communities

Dean's Medalist and Moeur Award recipient Angel N. became passionate about studying the injustices Native American communities face during her time at ASU. She participated in the Pre-Law Society and served as the vice president of Alpha Pi Omega, the first Native American sorority at ASU.



### Exploring a shared cultural history

Associate Professor Myla Vicenti Carpio collaborated with Associate Professor Karen Leong of women and gender studies and Asian Pacific American studies to understand the similarities between the experiences of American Indians in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' urban relocation program and Japanese Americans who settled in Arizona.

“As a first-generation college student, it was always going to be ASU in a lot of ways just because it was the local school. ... I also realized there's a long history of Native scholars in the American Indian Studies program. I think it provides a way to see how historic laws still impact tribal nations to this day. Having this degree allows you to become an expert in the field and be able to challenge these laws when needed.”

Alex S.  
American Indian Studies (BS)

