American Indian Studies
The American Indian Studies program was designed in collaboration with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. The curriculum is designed to provide a study of American Indians from a holistic and humanistic viewpoint by focusing on their cultural, historical, and contemporary lives. It is an interdisciplinary program drawing on the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural resources, science, and professional studies. The delivery method for courses in the American Indian Studies program is through on-campus, face-to-face, hybrid (combined face-to-face and online), and Internet courses. Students can choose from an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree. The program serves both Indian and non-Indian students, providing a solid general education for American Indian Studies students and preparing them for most majors at transfer institutions.

American Indian Studies students can also earn their A.A. or A.S. degree with an emphasis in American Indian Studies completely online.

What can you do with a major in American Indian Studies?
American Indian Studies students develop a diverse foundation of knowledge and skills that are applicable to a number of career options, including:
- All aspects of tribal businesses and economic development including management, consulting, agribusiness, manufacturing, tourism, gaming, recreational activities, and more.
- All aspects of tribal government at local, state, and federal levels.
- Natural resource management and development.
- Health care and social work.
- Law and law enforcement.
- Cultural diversity specialists, including consulting, cultural sensitivity training, and more.
- Education ranging from elementary education to the college level, including areas of administration, teaching, counseling, and more.
- Environmental and cultural rights organizations.
- Traditional arts.
- Ethnography, museums, cultural centers, and cultural programs, including curator, cultural preservation, historian, and other options.
- Media and communications industries.
- Federal and state agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Services, Department of Labor, Environmental Protection Agency, National and State Park Services, Title IX Indian Education Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, etc.

In addition, many students double-major in other fields, keeping American Indian Studies as their emphasis while at the same time specializing in justice studies, political science, social work, education, a variety of health fields. An American Indian Studies background is also useful for professional doctoral programs in law, medicine, education, and other fields.

As an increasingly desirable field of study, undergraduate and graduate opportunities in American Indian Studies are also rapidly growing. The National Indian Education Association maintains a comprehensive list of colleges with website links at http://www.niea.org/Students/Native-American-Studies.aspx. Currently, nearly 100 colleges with bachelor’s (both minors and majors), master’s, and doctoral programs are listed.

Note that these programs are under a number of different names and departments, with American Indian Studies and Native American Studies being the most common (though a number of these programs are under the umbrella of Ethnic Studies departments).

Collaboration
In 1997, North Idaho College signed the “Nine-Point Agreement” with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. The purpose of this agreement is to work together on projects of mutual benefit to both communities, and to make NIC a more welcoming and supportive environment for American Indian students. The plan consists of nine points, each led by team leaders from North Idaho College.

In addition, on March 24, 2008, North Idaho College signed an inter-institutional memorandum of understanding with Lewis-Clark State College, North Idaho College, Northwest Indian College, Washington State University, and the University of Idaho for the cooperative development and delivery of educational services and scholarly endeavors related to American Indians.
American Indian Studies

Core Courses

Core:
- AIST 101 Introduction to American Indian Studies
- ANTH 225 Native People of North America
- ENGL 285 American Indian Literature
- HIST 240 American Indian History

Recommended:
- CDA 101 Elementary Coeur d’Alene Language 1
- CDA 102 Elementary Coeur d’Alene Language II
- CDA 201 Intermediate Coeur d’Alene Language

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American Indian Student Services

American Indian and Alaskan Native students feel like they are at a home away from home by being a part of the American Indian Student Club and the American Indian Student Alliance, an Associated Students of North Idaho College (ASNIC) club, which was formed by American Indian students to share with and inform the community about the Native culture.

Also at the American Indian Student Advisor’s Office, students can receive assistance and guidance with scholarships, financial aid, academic advising, transferring, tutoring, and computer lab access. American Indian Student Services supports Native student success by creating a community of fellow students that they can relate with and referrals to campus and community resources that will facilitate completion of a student’s educational goals.