The School of Native Studies was established in 1987 under the authority of the Universities Act and the General Faculties Council (GFC). The composition of the School Council, which was approved by the GFC in 1984, strikes a balance between the needs of the two primary constituencies—the members of the University community and the Native community. The needs of both constituencies are viewed as complementary.

In the 1984 rationale for the School Council, the University was to have the majority of members on the Council because “the University is ultimately responsible for the course of study and granting of the academic degree.” Also, the University was seen to have an important role in ensuring the academic integrity and excellence of Native Studies. The common commitment to excellence of all School Council members was viewed as a unifying factor. The Native community was given strong representation on the School Council, and it was recognized that Native community influence on the School’s program, was vital for the School to achieve its potential.

In 1991, the School Council proposed and the Vice-President (Academic) agreed that the student representation be increased, so that the student views could be more effectively represented. This change increased the student representation from two members to six members of Council, with three members drawn from the Native Studies Student Association and three members from the Aboriginal Student Council.

Accordingly, the School Council is composed of six Native Studies Faculty members (or other University of Alberta faculty members, who are competent in some area of Native Studies); six Faculty members representing the range of disciplines most affected by the School or Faculties offering Native Studies students a minor concentration in their faculties; six members of the Native Community; plus six students, and four ex-officio members (the President, the Registrar, the Director of Native Student Services, and the Director of the School of Native Studies, who shall serve as the Chair of the Council).

Members of the School serve varying terms of office. Strong effort is made to ensure a balanced and fair representation of Native community representatives, especially from Alberta, but also from the Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territories. The current members of the School Council, appointed by the Vice-President, are as follows:

**Ex-officio Members**

- R Fraser, PhD
- BJ Sizer, MEd
- A Beaver, BA
- J Dempsey, MA

**Native Community Representatives**

- F Carnew
- R Davis
- L Makokis
- B Paul
- M Pruden

**University Community Representatives**

- E Hunter, School of Native Studies
- C Bell, LLB, Law
- P McCormack, PhD, School of Native Studies
- T Pocklington, PhD, Political Science
- R Price, MA, Native Studies
- S Wilson, PhD, Education Policy Studies

**Representatives from Other Faculties**

- L Carswell, BCom, Special Sessions
- D Cullen, PhD, Organizational Analysis
- T Hinch, PhD, Physical Education and Sport Studies
- D Hube, PhD, Physics
- S Niessen, PhD, Human Ecology

**Student Representatives**

- a. Aboriginal Student Council
- b. Native Studies Student Association

The establishment of an academic unit focusing on Native Studies has been discussed within the University of Alberta since 1972, when such a unit was proposed in a University Senate Committee meeting by representatives of the Indian Association of Alberta.

In 1978, twenty recommendations were made to the University Senate by their task force regarding improved service to Native people and a more coherent involvement in Native Studies. In that same year, GFC of the University of Alberta established a Standing Committee on Native Studies consisting of University of Alberta faculty members and students and representatives of the Native community at large.

After several years of research, discussion, and consultation with interested individuals and groups, both inside and outside the University, the Committee on Native Studies opted in favor of an ambitious rather than a modest program of Native Studies.

The Committee on Native Studies proposed the establishment of a School of Native Studies that would be multidisciplinary in character, instead of a small department that would confine itself to Native history, language and culture. The School would offer a wide range of courses leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Native Studies, as well as minor concentrations for students in other faculties. Faculty members and students would engage in research with special attention to language and land use. Though not parochial in its outlook on Native Studies, the School would pay particular attention to Native peoples—Indian, Inuit, and Metis of the Canadian West and North.

The establishment of a School of Native Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies was approved by GFC and the Board of Governors of the University in the Spring of 1984. In the same year, the Universities Coordinating Council, which coordinates programs offered by the four Alberta universities, also approved the School and the degree. In 1988, the GFC and the Government of Alberta approved a program of study leading to the Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies.

The School of Native Studies is an academic unit concerned primarily with teaching and research. As such, it is separate both administratively and functionally from the Office of Native Student Services.

### 111.1 Mission Statement

The School of Native Studies fosters the integrated study of Aboriginal experiences. Therefore, the approaches of the School are interdisciplinary, blending indigenous people’s philosophies with other philosophies.

### 111.2 The Objectives of the School of Native Studies

1. To incorporate academic study and learned discourse in Native Studies and Native issues in a multidisciplinary administrative unit.
2. To promote research which will be of benefit to the community generally.
3. To promote research which will be of specific benefit to Native people and Native communities, for example, by providing information about alternatives in development.
(4) To promote research which will benefit other disciplines which contribute to that area of study.

(5) To promote the inclusion of Native people in the study of Native people and Native issues.

The specific ongoing objectives of the School follow:

(1) To develop a program, through the initiation of course offerings and the use of existing courses, leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies.

(2) To develop and encourage multidisciplinary research programs in Native Studies, in cooperation with other agencies of the University and with the Native community.

(3) To develop courses which may be of service to other academic units of the University, either as options or as secondary fields of concentration.

(4) To coordinate with the Division of Special Sessions off-campus offerings of particular interest or importance to Native communities.

(5) To cooperate with the Faculty of Extension in the offering of noncredit courses, when those are of particular interest or importance to Native people.

These objectives and goals will be phased in gradually, each new phase based on a record of accomplishment in the previous one, both in regard to academic excellence and in service to the community.

112 School Regulations

The General Faculties Council (GFC) policies and regulations that apply to all faculties and schools apply to the School of Native Studies.

112.1 Admission and Transfer

General University admission and transfer requirements are set out in §13 and §14. Specific admission information for the School of Native Studies is set out in §15.10.

112.2 Registration and Changes of Registration

Deadlines are strictly observed. See §12 of this Calendar. For further information refer to §22.1 of this Calendar.

(1) Student Responsibility: Students are responsible for the completeness and accuracy of their registration and for ensuring their programs are in accordance with degree specifications. Read the Calendar carefully and if you are in doubt about the regulations pertaining to your program, please consult the School office.

(2) Failure to “drop” a course: Students who do not formally withdraw from a course but who are absent from the final examination without excuse (see §23.5.3 of this Calendar) will be given a mark of zero (0) on the final examination. The final grade in the course will then be determined by combining the appropriately weighted term grade and the assigned zero in the final examination. The mathematical result rounded to the closest whole number. Students who register in a course but do not attend and do not formally withdraw will receive a grade of 1.0.

A student who withdraws from a course after the deadline date and who thereby receives a grade of withdraw-failing (WF), will have a grade of 1.0 calculated into the Grade Point Average.

Also refer to §23.5.3 and §12.6.2 of this Calendar.

(3) Course Load Requirement: Normally, students in the School of Native Studies take a full course load, i.e. ‡30, during the academic session. In exceptional circumstances, and following completion of the first ‡30, acceleration to the maximum of ‡36 per academic session may be permitted. In the BA in Native Studies program, students are permitted to take less than a full course load.

112.3 Classification and Selection of Courses

(1) Course Definitions

a. Course Designation: Each course is designated by its computer abbreviation and a number.

b. Units of Course Weight: A unit of course weight is an indication of the instructional credit assigned to a course and is designated by the ‡ symbol after the course number and name. Units of course weight are used to measure the portion of the degree requirements and are also used in calculating a student’s Grade Point Average (GPA) and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).

c. Full Course Weight (FCW): A full course weight (FCW) is a single course or a group of courses whose combined course weight is ‡6.

d. Full Course: A course with a weighting factor of six or greater, that normally extends over two consecutive University terms.

e. Half Course: A course with a weighting factor of less than six that normally extends over one University term.

f. Normal Course Load: A normal full academic course load is ‡30 during the winter session.

g. Options: Courses taken from other faculties which are approved for use by the School as partial fulfillment of the School’s graduation requirements.

h. Courses Extra to the Degree: Courses taken during the student’s tenure in the School which, with the approval of the Director of the School, are not being used for degree credit, are designated as courses extra to the degree.

(2) Junior English: ENGL 101 is required for the Native Studies BA degree program.

(3) First Year: Mandatory first-year requirements in all programs include a Junior English course and a course to clear a deficiency (where applicable). Other first year requirements are listed in §113.1.2 of this Calendar.

(4) Restricted Enrolment Courses: The School of Native Studies strives to accommodate all students wishing to enrol in a given course when it is appropriate to the student’s program. However, classes in some courses must, for academic reasons, be restricted in size. Such courses will be labelled ‘restricted enrolment’ in the timetable. If such a course is found to be oversubscribed, students whose programs do not require that course, or who do not have the prerequisite, may be required to delete it from their registration.

(5) Junior Courses: In all programs normally no more than ‡48 at the 100-level may be taken for degree credit. In no case will this limit be extended to permit a student to make up a matriculation deficiency for degree credit, or to include a ‘free’ option at the junior level.

112.4 Academic Record

Students should be aware that their academic record (i.e. transcript) is continuing in nature and that all matters relating to courses, grades, academic standing, probation, etc., will appear permanently on the academic record.

112.5 Cree Language Exams

The School of Native Studies offers the following Cree Language exams which may be used to fulfil one of the Group A admission requirements.

Students wishing to take any of these exams should contact the School of Native Studies. These exams must be taken before the commencement of classes in September.

112.5.1 Cree Exams

The matriculation equivalency exam is an assessment designed for students with a Cree background to fulfill a Group A matriculation requirement. See §15.10.

112.5.2 Credit by Special Assessment

Exams are designed for students with a background in Cree. These students can challenge NS 152, 252, or 352 for credit. Students may use these credits toward fulfilling the Native language requirement of the BA program. (See Credit by Special Assessment, §14.2.6, for further important information.)

112.6 Academic Standing

Beginning Winter Session 1997, academic standing will be assessed on the basis of a sessional grade point average (GPA). Students are expected to maintain a 5.0 minimum GPA. Students who do not maintain this level of academic performance may be permitted to continue under academic warning or may be required to withdraw.

An initial review of academic performance will be conducted for each student at the end of the winter session, covering the previous calendar year’s work; subsequent reviews will be conducted at the end of each session.
The assignment and reassignment of categories of academic standing is based on a student’s performance in a minimum of ★12. If, at the time of review, a student has attempted fewer than ★12 since the last assignment of a category of academic standing the review will be deferred and the academic standing assigned at the last review will remain in effect until the next review.

(1) Terms Used in Assuming Academic Standing

a. Grade point average (GPA): Grade point average (GPA) is a sessional measure of academic performance. Rules for the computation of the GPA are listed in §23.4(7).

b. Categories of Academic Standing: There are three categories of academic standing which are determined for each student on the basis of the GPA:
   i) Satisfactory Standing: at GPA of 5.0 and above.
   ii) Marginal Standing: a GPA between 4.5 and 4.9 inclusive.
   iii) Unsatisfactory: a GPA of 4.4 and below.

(2) Application of Academic Standings

a. First Class Standing: First Class Standing in a given year shall be awarded to any undergraduate student who obtains a grade point average of not less than 7.5 while enrolled in a full, normal academic course load in that year. For the sole purposes of determining First Class Standing a full, normal academic course load for the School shall be a minimum of ★24 successfully completed during the Winter Session.

b. Satisfactory Standing: (GPA 5.0 and above): Students who maintain a satisfactory standing will be permitted to continue their studies in the School of Native Studies subject to meeting the specific requirements of their degree program and the general requirements of the University of Alberta.

c. Marginal Standing: (GPA 4.5 to 4.9 inclusive): Students receiving the first assessment of marginal standing are permitted to continue, under academic warning until the next assignment of academic standing in order to raise the GPA to 5.0 or higher, providing their specific degree requirements and the general requirements of the University of Alberta are also met. Such students who succeed in raising the GPA to at least 5.0 may continue their studies with satisfactory standing, but if the GPA drops below 5.0 in a subsequent review the student is required to withdraw for at least one calendar year.

A student placed on academic warning will remain on academic warning until the School of Native Studies has ruled that the student has cleared academic warning. Periodic assessment of a marginal student is made at the end of each academic session and a final assessment is made at the end of the term in which the student completes ★30. To clear academic warning a student must have
   i) attempted a minimum of ★30; and
   ii) achieved a minimum grade of 4.0 in each course; and
   iii) obtained a minimum CGPA of 5.0 on all courses attempted while on academic warning over four consecutive terms exclusive of Intersession.

A student who fails a course will have failed academic warning even if fewer than ★30 have been attempted. The final grade on a failed course may be raised through reexamination if the student is eligible to write a reexamination; however, only one reexamination is permitted during the period of academic warning.

A student will also have failed academic warning if the GPA on a minimum of ★30 is less than 5.0. Note: A student must complete ★30 with a GPA of 5.0, which is calculated on these ★30.

d. Unsatisfactory Standing: (GPA 4.4 and below): Students receiving an unsatisfactory standing will be required to withdraw from the School of Native Studies for at least one calendar year.

(3) Requirement to Withdraw: In addition to the above, if the average obtained in any review period on a minimum of ★12 falls below 4.5, the student will be required to withdraw for at least one calendar year.

Courses taken during the period of review which resulted in the requirement to withdraw will be retained for credit only if a grade of 5.0 or higher was achieved.

(4) Readmission After a Requirement to Withdraw: A student who was required to withdraw from the School of Native Studies may apply for readmission to the School of Native Studies as a probationary student. Such applications are normally only considered for terms beginning at least one calendar year after the requirement to withdraw. If requested by the School of Native Studies, such applications must be accompanied by a recommendation from Student Counselling Services, Deadlines for submitting applications are listed in §12.

Readmission of nonmatriculated applicants after a failure in half, or more than half, of the ★30 in first year will be considered only after matriculation requirements have been completed.

(5) Probation: A student admitted, or readmitted, on academic probation remains on probation until the School of Native Studies has ruled that probation has been cleared or failed. Final assessment of a probationary student is made at the end of the term in which the student completes ★30. To clear probation a student must have (a) attempted a minimum of ★30; (b) achieved in each course a minimum grade of 4.0; and (c) obtained a minimum 5.0 GPA on all courses attempted while on probation over four consecutive terms exclusive of Intersession.

A student who fails a course will have failed probation even if fewer than ★30 have been attempted. The final grade on a failed course may be raised through a reexamination if the student is eligible to write a reexamination; however, only one reexamination is permitted during the period of probation.

A student will also have failed probation if the GPA on a minimum of ★30 is less than 5.0. Note: A student must complete ★30 with a GPA of 5.0, calculated on these ★30.

112.7 Reexamination

See §23.5.5.

112.8 Academic Performance

Academic Performance for Graduation: Students must present credit (with a minimum grade of 4.0 or equivalent) in a minimum of ★120, which satisfy program requirements, with an overall graduation average of at least 5.0 and a major graduation average of 5.3. The graduation average is the quotient of (a) the total number of grade points earned by the student in courses credited to the degree, and (b) the total weight of those courses. The major graduation average is the quotient of courses used to specifically satisfy the Native Studies major requirement, see §113.2.2. In the case that a student has attempted, as part of the program, courses at an institution for which the grades are not precisely equivalent to those of the University of Alberta, the degree will be awarded at the discretion of the School of Native Studies.

112.9 Graduation

(1) Application: Students wishing to receive a School of Native Studies degree at an upcoming Convocation must obtain an Application for Degree form from the School Office and submit it in accordance with the deadlines specified in this Calendar.

(2) Degree Requirements: These requirements are given in §113 of this Calendar.

(3) To obtain a BA in NS, a GPA of at least 5.0 must be attained in all courses credited to the degree. Moreover a GPA of at least 5.3 must be attained in all courses credited to the major.

(4) BA in NS degrees With Distinction are awarded when students achieve a GPA of 7.5 or higher over the last ★60 taken at the University of Alberta provided the student has satisfactorily completed these ★60 over five consecutive terms, exclusive of Intersession.

112.10 Appeals

Formal and informal grade appeal, and academic appeal procedures and regulations are available from the School of Native Studies.

112.11 Academic Offences

A breach of the Code of Student Behavior, for example plagiarism or cheating, may result in penalties being imposed. For further information refer to §26 of this Calendar.

113 Program of Study

113.1 The Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies

113.1.1 Program of Study Rationale

Two distinct yet related themes underlie the School’s Program of Studies. The first theme is respect for indigenous knowledge systems, including
languages, cultures, and philosophies. The second theme is the University’s emphasis on research excellence. Together the two themes focus on the School’s development of a research capability to address issues affecting Indian, Inuit, and Metis people today. In this context, the students’ program of study will centre on the development of knowledge, and analytical and research skills suited to address problems of current Native interest.

The program of study objective is to provide students an interdisciplinary academic experience that will be integrative. Land, language and self-government are among the most vital issues that have been identified by Native communities in the Canadian West and North. These issues and the stress on research of University and the Native communities have shaped the development of courses. At the same time, Native communities are very dynamic, and the School intends to respond to these changes as well as developments in the broader Canadian Society. With academic excellence as the standard, the School’s courses are interrelated and may be grouped in the following key areas of study:

1. Language and Culture,
2. Land and Resources,
3. Self-Government,

113.1.2 The BA Degree in Native Studies

(1) Duration: This BA degree is a program with 120 credits. Students must secure credit in a minimum of 36 in Native Studies courses. Students will normally complete 30 credits in each academic session and will normally complete the program in four academic years.

(2) Residence Requirements: Students taking a program of 120 credits in the School of Native Studies must have credit for at least 60 credits from the University of Alberta. The final 30 of the program must be taken at the University of Alberta campus.

Note: The word “course” used in the following context refers to a full-session course of 6 credits or equivalent (two single-term courses, each of 3 credits).

113.1.3 The BA (Native Studies) After Another Undergraduate Degree

Applicants having a first undergraduate degree may be admitted to the BA (Native Studies) degree program. All requirements of the BA (Native Studies) degree, as in §113.1.2 of this Calendar, are to be met, but the total number of required courses for the After Degree may be reduced by a maximum of 50 credits taken in the first degree. These courses from the first degree may only be from the Faculties of Arts or Science, or from any other Faculty through which students in the Native Studies degree program may take their second area of concentration (e.g. Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics). Moreover, these courses from the first degree must be appropriate to satisfy the requirements of the BA (Native Studies) degree. The After Degree program is taken under the direction of the School of Native Studies.

113.2 Required Courses for BA in Native Studies

113.2.1 School Common Core (★48)

(1) ★6 ENGL 101
(2) ★6 Humanities Core:
   - CLASS 110/HIST 110 (★3/★3)
   - C LIT 100 (★6)
   - HIST 120 (★6)
(3) ★6 Humanities at the 200-level or higher:
   - Arabic
   - Bulgarian
   - Canadian Studies 200 (See Note 2)
   - Chinese
   - Christian Theology
   - Classics (excluding CLASS 363, 364, 367, 368, 369, 370, 373, 374)
   - Comparative Literature
   - Cree
   - English
   - Film Studies
   - German (excluding GERMAN 306, 307, and 308)
   - Greek
   - Hebrew
   - W ST 200 (See Note 1)

(4) ★6 Social Science Core:
   - ANTHR 101 (★3)
   - ECON 101 (★3)
   - ECON 102 (★3)
   - EAS 190 (★3)
   - EAS 191 (★3)
   - LING 101 (★3)
   - LING 102 (★3)
(5) ★6 Social Sciences at the 200-level or higher:
   - Anthropology
   - CLASS 363, 364, 369, 370, 373, 374
   - Economics
   - Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
   - History
   - Linguistics
   - Psychology
   - Sociology
   - W ST 200 (See Note 1)
(6) ★6 Fine Arts at the junior or senior level:
   - Art
   - Art History
   - Design
(7) ★12 Natural Sciences, Formal Studies, and Science and Technology:
   a. ★6 Natural Sciences:
      - ANTHR 390 (★3)
      - ASTRO 110 (★6)
      - BIOL 107 (★3)
      - BIOL 108 (★3)
      - BIOL 207 (★3)
      - BOT 201 (★3)
      - BOT 202 (★3)
      - CHEM 101 (★3)
      - CHEM 102 (★3)
      - CHEM 161 (★3)
      - EAS 101 (★3)
      - EAS 102 (★3)
   b. ★3 Formal Studies:
      - CMPUT 101 (★3)
      - CMPUT 102 (★3)
      - CMPUT 114 (★3)
      - CMPUT 115 (★3)
      - LING 210 (★3)
      - MATH 113 or 114 (★3)
      - MATH 115 (★3)
      - MATH 120 (★3)
   c. ★3 Science and Technology or additional ★3 from Natural Sciences or Formal Studies:
      - AG EC 316 (★3)
      - AG EC 323 (★3)
      - AG EC 333 (★3)
      - AN SC 110 (★3)
      - AN SC 200 (★3)
      - AN SC 310 (★3)
      - AN SC 311 (★3)
      - AN SC 374 (★3)
      - ANTH 393 (★3)
      - ENCS 201 (★3)
      - ENCS 203 (★3)
      - ENCS 204 (★3)
      - ENCS 352 (★3)
      - FOR 100 (★3)
      - FOR 322 (★3)
      - FOR 340 (★3)
      - HIST 294 (★3)

Notes:
(1) W ST 200: the ★6 may be used to meet either the senior Humanities or senior Social Sciences requirement. It may not be used to meet both requirements.
(2) CANST 200 may be used to meet either the senior Humanities or senior Social Sciences requirement. It may not be used to meet both requirements.

113.2.2 Native Studies Major (★36)

(1) ★3 Native Studies introductory skills and methods:
   - NS 100
   Note: Students who transfer to the School from other University of Alberta Faculties or other postsecondary institutions with a minimum of ★24 which are transferable, are exempt from the NS 100 requirement. These students must take ★3 of Native Studies coursework at the senior level to replace the NS 100 requirement.
(2) ★6 Native Language:
   - NS 152 (★6)
   - NS 155, 153 (★3, ★3)
   - NS 252 (★6)
   - NS 352 (★6)
   Note: Students who satisfy their LOE in CREE will not be given credit for NS 152.
(3) ★6 Issues Courses:
   - NS 210 (★3)
   - NS 211 (★3)
(4) ★3 Research Methods Course:  
NS 390 (★3)

(5) ★6 Native Studies Courses at the 200-level or above (See Note)

(6) ★12 Native Studies Courses at the 400-level (See Note)  

**Note**: The following is an approved list of courses with a strong Native (Aboriginal) People component which can be taken for Native Studies credit from other departments; only 6 of which may be applied toward the Native Studies major. Students may apply to the Director for other non-Native Studies courses to be approved for the degree.

### Anthropology
- ANTHR 246
- ANTHR 446
- ANTHR 250
- ANTHR 470
- ANTHR 256
- ANTHR 473
- ANTHR 340
- ANTHR 478
- ANTHR 455
- ANTHR 497

### Educational Foundations
- EDFDN 432
- EDFDN 474

### History
- HIST 368/369
- HIST 479

### Textiles, Clothing, and Culture
- TCC 480

### Political Science
- POL S 432

### Religious Studies
- RELIG 379

### Sociology
- SOC 422

**113.2.3 Minor (★12–★24)**

At least 6 at the 300- and 400-level (including prerequisites) is required for a minor. A minor shall be taken in any Faculty which offers a suitable range of courses open to students in the School of Native Studies. Students are presently able to take their minor concentration through departments in the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Science, and the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics. Additional specific minor concentration requirements for departments in the Faculty of Arts may be found in §§54.1 to 54.26. Additional specific minor requirements for departments in the Faculty of Science may be found in §173.1.3(3). Students may also opt to take a series of recommended options in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation (in lieu of a minor). It is expected that in the future students will be able to take the minor through additional Faculties.

**113.2.4 Options (★12–★24)**

1. Options are courses which do not fulfill the School Common Core requirements, the Native Studies Major requirements, or the Minor requirements. The number of required option credits are dependent on the minor credit requirements and should make up the difference to the maximum of 120 required to graduate.

2. Students may take a maximum of 12 from any one area of concentration. Courses which are not accepted for a minor may be placed in the Options section up to the 12 maximum.

**114 Courses**

School of Native Studies courses are listed in §211, Course Listings, under the subject heading Native Studies (NS).