



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

**Substantive Program Modification Form**

Use this form to request minor changes in existing programs (majors, minors, certificates, or specializations).

<b>UNIVERSITY:</b>	NSU
<b>CURRENT PROGRAM TITLE:</b>	American Indian Studies Minor
<b>CIP CODE:</b>	050202
<b>UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:</b>	History and Social Sciences
<b>UNIVERSITY DIVISION:</b>	College of Arts and Sciences

**University Approval**

*To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.*

Vice President of Academic Affairs or  
President of the University

12/18/2019

Date

**1. This modification addresses a change in (place an "X" in the appropriate box):**

- Total credits required within the discipline
- Total credits of supportive course work
- Total credits of elective course work
- Total credits required for program
- Program name
- Existing specialization
- CIP Code
- Other (explain below)

**2. Effective date of change: 8/24/2020**

**3. Program Degree Level (place an "X" in the appropriate box):**

- Associate
- Bachelor's
- Master's
- Doctoral

**4. Category (place an "X" in the appropriate box):**

- Certificate
- Specialization
- Minor
- Major

**5. If a name change is proposed, the change will occur (place an “X” in the appropriate box):**

- On the effective date for all students
- On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

**Proposed new name:** Native and Indigenous Studies

*Reminder: Name changes may require updating related articulation agreements, site approvals, etc.*

**6. Primary Aspects of the Modification (add lines or adjust cell size as needed):**

Existing Curriculum				Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)			
Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
		Required	9			Required	9
AIS	422	Issues in Contemporary Indian Life (3 credits)		INDG	404	Issues in Contemporary Native and Indigenous Life (3 credits)	
ANTH	210	Cultural Anthropology (3 credits)		HIST/INDG	368	History and Culture of the American Indian (3 credits)	
HIST	368	History and Culture of the American Indian (3 credits)		INDG/HIST/CJUS	333	Federal Indian Law (3 credits)	
		Electives	11			Electives	9
ANTH	322	Culture of the Plains Indian (3 credits)		SS/INDG	361	Traveling Classroom: A Native Cultural Immersion Experience (3 credits)	
HIST	476	History of South Dakota (3 credits)		SOC/INDG	265	Global Indigenous Media (3 credits)	
SOC	350	Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)		SPCM/SOC/INDG	335	Native Identity and Resiliency (3 credits)	
SS	391	Independent Study (1-3 credits)		ANTH	210	Cultural Anthropology (3 credits)	
				SOC	350	Race and Ethnic Relations (3 credits)	
				AIS	101	Introductory Lakota I (4 credits)	
Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization			20	Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization			18-19
Total number of hours required for degree							

**7. Explanation of the Change:**

The current American Indian Studies minor at Northern State University requires 20 credits, and the revision changes it to 18 to 19 credits in compliance with SDBOR guidelines. The variability in credits depends on whether the student chooses Introductory Lakota I (AIS 101) as an elective.

Additionally, changes are needed in the courses and title because the current minor provides limited academic topics and stems from a Eurocentric perspective.

The title change to Native and Indigenous Studies reflects how the revised minor will enable students and faculty to make connections among and across Native and indigenous populations on a broad range of topics, including history, sociology, law, and language. The substantially modified minor offers the development of interdisciplinary knowledge through the lens of Native American and indigenous perspectives and acknowledges a clear break from the Eurocentric approach of the former American Indian Studies minor. Courses are offered across disciplines and incorporate Native and indigenous knowledge, theories, perspectives, and case studies, which provides a broader space for students to think about the importance of indigenous knowledge in the twenty-first century. The inclusion of Lakota language in the revised minor reflects Northern's commitment to indigenous knowledge and our understanding that language and culture are intertwined (Treuer 2012).

Northern's Native and Indigenous Studies Minor is designed to work with multiple majors. Students who take courses in history, criminal justice, sociology, education, and political sciences can use at least one course from the minor toward credit in their major. Northern is committed to growing our students' knowledge of Native and indigenous perspectives in order to build better communities in our region of the state. Of the SDBOR institutions, Northern State University has the highest proportion of graduates who stay and work in South Dakota after graduation. We designed our Native and Indigenous Studies Minor and the new courses, including syllabi, in consultation with elders from surrounding tribes and student focus groups. Our students are excited to begin the coursework included in this minor and recognize how invaluable earning Northern's Native and Indigenous Studies Minor will be to their work as educators, social workers, public servants, and professionals in our region. Students who earn a minor in Native and Indigenous Studies will approach their work through a more robust cultural lens that is inclusive of the fastest growing demographic segment of South Dakota and the region.