

Many Programs, Many Options

Even non-tribal colleges and universities offer a wide array of options for American Indian studies. Here are just a few

To achieve fluency in a Native language, attend Bemidji State University

Centrally located near Minnesota's three largest reservations, Bemidji State University (BSU) offers a bachelor of arts major and minor in Indian studies and, with the combined efforts of the languages and ethnic studies department, a minor in Ojibwe language. Begun in 1969 as the first of its kind, this award-winning program immerses students in Ojibwe culture and history. One standout professor is Anton Treuer, author of the prized *Awesinyensag: Dibaajimowinan Ji-gikino'amaageng, Ojibwe in Minnesota, The Assassination of Hole in the Day*, and editor of *Oshkaabewis Native Journal*.

Currently, the university lacks the resources to expand its offerings into a full-fledged Ojibwe teaching program. Nonetheless, the language is flourishing as the staff commits itself to transforming Bemidji into a bilingual campus. Back in 2005, a number of signs on campus were remade to be read in English and Ojibwe; now, dual-language signage is sprouting up around the entire community.

Students can also build on their studies to earn a certificate in Ojibwe language instruction at an elementary/secondary level. Indeed, some alumni have applied their knowledge to their postcollegiate careers and co-founded both the Niigaane Ojibwe Immersion School and the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Immersion Charter School.

Also consider:

- The University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (B.F.A. in American Indian Arts);

- The University of Alaska Fairbanks (B.A. in Alaska Native Studies, Alaska Native Languages, Rural Development, Indigenous Studies);
- The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (B.A. in First Nations Studies).

To immerse yourself in Native culture, go to The Evergreen State College

Nicknamed the House of Welcome, the Longhouse Education and Cultural Center in Olympia, Washington is a multifunctional facility and home to the Native American and World Indigenous Peoples Program, as well as many of The Evergreen State College's indigenous educational and cultural events. The Longhouse—built in 1995 and revamped in 2009—is the United States's first Salish-style building constructed on a public campus. According to the school's website, the center strives to “promote the indigenous arts and cultures through education, cultural preservation, creative expression and economic development” and serves as a liaison between Evergreen's students and Indigenous Peoples throughout the world.

The Longhouse was officially designed by Colleen Jollie. But reflecting the college's mission statement, this staggering 18,020-square-foot center is not the work of one person alone. It was, in fact, constituted as a communal project and included several statewide donations of funds, supplies and insight from local tribes. Further, the center holds exhibits and classes by indigenous artists throughout the world with its artist-in-residence program. This unique project sends notable indigenous artists like Bruce Miller and Christina Hurihia



The Longhouse Education and Cultural Center at The Evergreen State College

Wirihana not only to the Longhouse but also to other indigenous communities throughout the world to teach their craft to aspiring artists.

Also consider:

- Cornell University's Akwe:kon Student Housing;
- Stanford University's Muwekma-Tah-Ruk Student Housing;
- The University of Arizona's Native

Did You Know...

- Ilisagvik College in Barrow, Alaska has a Teachers for the Arctic program to increase the number of certified Inupiaq teachers.
- Tohono O'odham Community College in Sells, Arizona, formed a basketball team in June.
- The College of Menominee Nation, in Keshena, Wisconsin is an Apple Authorized Training Center.
- Fort Berthold Community College in New Town, North Dakota, has created an energy technology major to train students to work at the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation's proposed refinery.
- United Tribes Technical College, in Bismarck, North Dakota was approved by the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board in March to offer a bachelor's degree in elementary education.
- Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago, Nebraska conducts research on Ho-Chunk ethnobotany, the study of how the Ho-Chunk culture views plants. 🌱