

Brief Statement of Program:

Alaska Native people constitute 18% of the Alaska population and are the fastest growing ethnic group within the state, making up nearly 25% of the K-12 student population. At UAF, Alaska Natives make up 16% of the student enrollment, but only 3% of the faculty. In May, 2007 UAF awarded a Ph.D. to the fourth Alaska Native to receive such a degree in the University's history. To begin to address these disparities, the UAF 2010 Strategic Plan includes the following goals:

- Increase Alaska Native enrollment in graduate programs by 50%
- Increase the representation and retention of women and minorities in staff and faculty positions
- Increase research programs that address the Arctic and its indigenous people
- Document and disseminate indigenous knowledge
- Generate innovative and useful applications of research that benefit the state of Alaska

The Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies is intended to directly address these and most other goals of the UAF 2010 Strategic Plan by offering an advanced program of graduate study focusing on issues that are deeply rooted in Alaska's past and are destined to be an integral part of Alaska's future.

The proposed Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies will draw and build upon longstanding academic and research capabilities at UAF. The program will offer an integrated course of advanced graduate study consisting of a common core curriculum that all students will complete, coupled with five thematic areas of emphasis from which students will choose a concentration:

- Indigenous Studies/Research
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Indigenous Education/Pedagogy
- Indigenous Languages
- Indigenous Leadership

Ph.D. candidates will participate in research activities across a variety of academic disciplines and applied fields at UAF. They will be encouraged to engage in comparative studies with other indigenous peoples around the world and to focus their dissertation research on issues of relevance to Alaska and the Arctic. Using the IGERT and Interdisciplinary Ph.D. model of academic assignment, students' home base will be in the School or College of their major advisor, who will also serve as an affiliate faculty for the program. The program itself will be administered through the UAF Graduate School.

Program Objectives:

1. To provide the programmatic infrastructure for advanced, in-depth, interdisciplinary graduate studies and research in academic fields related to the role of indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing in the contemporary world.
2. To prepare graduates who are capable of conducting basic and applied research on social, political, educational, economic and cultural issues of concern to people and communities in the circumpolar north, with a particular emphasis on Alaska.

3. To expand the pool of knowledgeable and highly skilled Alaskans who can assume leadership and technical positions with public and private sector organizations, including universities, school districts, social service agencies, Native corporations, tribal governments, and state and federal agencies in Alaska and beyond.
4. To provide a venue to sponsor state, national and international seminars, conferences, exchanges and comparative research programs that bring people together around issues of concern to Alaska, the circumpolar north, and indigenous people throughout the world.
5. To contribute to and tap into newly emerging bodies of academic scholarship that address the role of indigenous knowledge systems in fields such as ecological studies, natural resources management, health care, education, language revitalization, community development, social services, justice, and Native studies.
6. To achieve economies-of-scale that put existing university resources and capabilities to more effective and efficient use in addressing issues of concern to all Alaskans.

Preliminary General Catalog layout copy

Ph.D. Program in Indigenous Studies

UAF Graduate School, College of Liberal Arts, School of Education, and College of Rural and Community Development

Ph.D. Degree

Minimum requirement for Degree: 18 thesis credits

The joint Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies draws and builds upon long-standing academic and research capabilities at UAF to offer an integrated course of advanced graduate study consisting of a common core curriculum that all students complete, coupled with five thematic areas of emphasis from which students choose a concentration:

- Indigenous Studies/Research
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Indigenous Education/Pedagogy
- Indigenous Languages
- Indigenous Leadership

Ph.D. candidates will participate in research activities across a variety of academic disciplines and applied fields at UAF. They are encouraged to engage in comparative studies with other indigenous peoples around the world and to focus their dissertation research on issues of relevance to Alaska and the Arctic. Using the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. model of academic assignment, student's home base will be in the School or College of their major advisor, who also serves as an affiliate faculty for the program.

In collaboration with the graduate committee, each student develops a program of coursework and research that produces a unique intellectual contribution to the applied

fields associated with Indigenous Studies. Students elect to focus on one of the five thematic areas or they may choose in collaboration with their graduate committee to draw on multiple themes to develop their areas of knowledge and dissertation research.

Graduate Program--Ph.D.

Complete the admissions process and fulfill the following program requirements:

1. Complete the general university requirements listed in the UAF catalog
2. Complete the Ph.D. degree requirements listed in the UAF catalog
3. Complete coursework as determined by the student's graduate advisory committee (completion of 18 UAF semester credits by distance or on-campus will constitute residency)
4. Required and Elective Elements of the Plan of Study
 - a. Coursework: All Indigenous Studies Ph.D. students will be required to complete a minimum of two research methods courses and select, in collaboration with their graduate committee, 12 credits from the core courses in Table I (including CCS 608 and CCS 690), plus a minimum of 12 credits in an area of concentration.
 - b. Advancement to Candidacy will occur when the student demonstrates mastery in understanding of the problems and theories of indigenous studies and in-depth knowledge of the student's dissertation research topic area. Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy are determined by the graduate committee of the student, and shall be consistent with the candidacy requirements for Ph.D. studies at UAF. The basis of the evaluation will be comprehensive written and oral exams.
 - c. Dissertation Defense Seminar and Oral Examination
 - d. Doctoral Dissertation (18 credits minimum)
5. Recommended additional academic experience
 - a. Students will be encouraged to enroll in a minimum of one semester of coursework at a partner institution with program offerings related to their area of specialization.
 - b. Students will be expected to make at least one formal academic presentation at a national or international meeting, as well as a community-level presentation in Alaska.
 - c. Students will be encouraged to study a language other than English, as appropriate for the thematic area in which they are enrolled. Students who select the Indigenous Languages specialty will be expected to acquire a minimum of nine credits in an appropriate indigenous language.

VII. RESOURCE IMPACT

A. Budget (Resource Commitment Form attached)

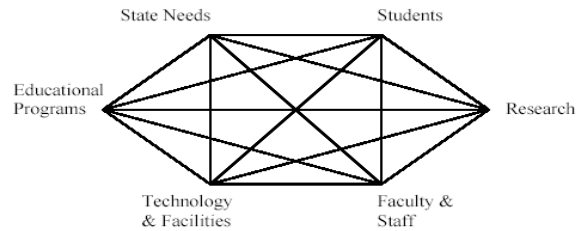
Table 2:
**RESOURCE COMMITMENT TO THE
PROPOSED DEGREE PROGRAM**

Resources	Existing	New		Total
	College/School	College/School	Others (Specify)	
Regular Faculty (FTE's & dollars)	2 @ \$90,000 each	\$13,536		\$193,536
Adjunct Faculty (FTE's & dollars)	2 @ \$3,100 ea			\$6200
Grad. Fellowships (headcount)	2 @ 20,106 ea	2 @ \$15,000 ea (Grad. School)	4 @ \$30,000/yr each (Mellon Fdn)*	\$190,212
Instructional Facilities (in sq. footage)	800 sq ft OUP 1,800 sq ft Brk			2,600 sq ft
Office Space (Sq. footage)	1,000 sq ft OUP/Brk/Gruen			1,000 sq ft
Lab Space (sq. Footage)	N/A			N/A
Computer & Networking (dist ed) (in dollars)	\$1,600			\$1600
Research/ Instructional/ office equipment (in dollars)	\$8,000	\$2,000	\$3,000 (Mellon Fdn)	\$13,000
Support Staff (FTE's & dollars)	\$18,767	.5 @ \$37,535 .5@\$45,000	.5 @ \$45,000	\$127,534
Supplies (in dollars)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$7,000
Travel (in dollars)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$20,000 (Mellon Fdn)	

* On June 13, 2008 UAF was notified that it has been awarded a \$700,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to help support four indigenous Ph.D. students per year with a \$30,000 fellowship plus tuition/fees, travel and mentoring support for four years, with the possibility of further funding if the program is successful.

University of Alaska Board of Regents
Program Approval Summary Form

MAU: University of Alaska Fairbanks
Title: Ph.D., Indigenous Studies
Target admission date: Fall 2009



1. How does the program relate to the Education mission of the University of Alaska and UAF?

The Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies will directly address the following goals of the UAF 2010 Strategic Plan by offering an advanced program of graduate study focusing on issues that are deeply rooted in Alaska's past and are destined to be a vital part of Alaska's future.

- Increase Alaska Native enrollment in graduate programs by 50%
- Increase the representation and retention of women and minorities in staff and faculty
- Increase research programs that address the Arctic and its indigenous people
- Document and disseminate indigenous knowledge
- Generate innovative and useful applications of research that benefit the state of Alaska

The proposed program was developed by faculty in the UAF College of Liberal Arts, School of Education and College of Rural and Community Development in response to a growing need for "advanced graduate opportunities for Alaska Native scholars and leaders," as expressed in a 2004 resolution of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Details of the program grew out of a two-day "Indigenous Ph.D. Planning Workshop" hosted by UAF in conjunction with the 2007 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. We invited 55 Alaska Natives (out of a list of over 100) with a Master's degree who had expressed an interest in pursuing a PhD to provide input into the planning of the proposed Ph.D. in Indigenous Studies. Following the workshop a survey form was sent to all the participants to obtain a more systematic picture of the level of interest and the conditions under which students would enroll in a Ph.D. program. The survey responses have served as the basis for many of the elements and structure of this proposal. The level of interest in the program is high from both Native and non-Native potential doctoral candidates, provided there is a strong Indigenous core emphasis, multiple avenues for access to the program (on-campus, distance education, intensive seminars, etc.) and sufficient fellowship funding for financial support.

2. What State Needs will be met by this program?

In 2002, the Alaska Federation of Natives conducted a statewide survey to identify all the Alaska Natives who had earned a Ph.D. (30), J.D. (32) or M.D. (12). Of the 30 Alaska Native Ph.D.'s at the time, three had earned their degree from the University of Alaska, with one more graduating in 2007. The dearth of Alaska Natives with advanced degrees has meant a paucity of indigenous perspective in upper level leadership and professional

roles, including as university faculty members, where at UAF they currently constitute 3% of the faculty but 16% of the students.

Most often, upper-level expertise has to be imported from outside Alaska to fill advanced professional and technical positions in the state. Businesses, government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, policy institutes, Native organizations, academic institutions, and other groups in Alaska today need professionals who have competencies in a wide set of Indigenous issues, while also having the in-depth expertise in a specific problem area. The Indigenous Studies program strives to meet these needs by training professionals with analytical skills for understanding human resource problems and cultural sustainability issues.

3. What are the Student opportunities, outcomes and enrollment projections?

The proposed Ph.D. program will draw and build upon long-standing academic and research capabilities at UAF to offer an integrated course of advanced graduate study consisting of a common core curriculum that all students will complete, coupled with five thematic areas of emphasis from which students will choose a concentration: indigenous research; indigenous knowledge systems; indigenous education; indigenous languages; and indigenous leadership. The specific skill set of the graduates will include quantitative analysis, scientific applications, qualitative research methods, research design and program management, along with broad conceptual frameworks for understanding the dynamics of social-cultural-ecological systems. Based on current staffing levels and resource commitments, the program will accommodate six new students each year for an average total enrollment of approximately 20 students spread over three to four years.

4. Describe the Research opportunities:

Ph.D. candidates will participate in research activities across a variety of academic disciplines and applied fields at UAF and with an international network of partner institutions. They will be encouraged to engage in comparative studies with other indigenous peoples around the world and to focus their dissertation research on issues of relevance to Alaska and the Arctic.

5. Describe the Fiscal Plan for development and implementation:

The faculty resources for implementation of the program will be drawn from reallocation of existing workload in cooperating departments across the campus, with the only additional funding being to support program operations during the summer. Facilities and equipment of the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies will be utilized to house the administration of the program. These existing institutional resources will be augmented by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to provide doctoral fellowships and student support services.