

### 3 Points of the Triangle

Please describe how your Department contributes to the 3 Points of the Triangle:

I. Liberal Arts Foundation (200 word limit)

In 1997, Native American Studies (NAS) at Southern Oregon University (SOU) became an academic program with a commitment to educate all students at SOU about Native peoples' worldviews and the diverse cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples of Oregon, California, Alaska, North America, and beyond. Known for being the oldest NAS Program in Oregon, NAS is a problem solving, Native American centered, and applied field that seeks to examine the experiences that unify Indigenous peoples in a way that works in service to Native American communities' contemporary challenges and aspirations. NAS is a regional, placed-based, and interdisciplinary field that connects diverse fields in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences, while also having a distinct disciplinary framework. The program offers a 24-credit minor and a 36-credit certificate, both of which are intended to complement students' training in their primary majors. Our minor includes a foundational course in NAS, while allowing students to choose from a variety of comprehensive and interdisciplinary elective courses from programs across SOU. Our certificate is built around a three-course core sequence, along with elective courses, and is intended to prepare students to work effectively in Indian Country or to pursue a variety of other career paths.

II. Regionally Responsive (200 word limit)

NAS provides resources and supports regional work with Tribes and Native American communities; partners on projects and events; develops curriculum responsive to the needs of the region; brings financial resources into the university through grants and donors; and is a consultant on a wide range of topics.

Communities NAS has partnered with, been consulted by, or provided resources to include:

- Native Nations
- Environmental organizations and land conservancies
- Local churches & businesses
- Native American programs
- K-12 Schools
- Cities of Ashland and Talent

Select Projects:

1. The Indigenous Gardens Network: The IGN provides accessibility to land and First Foods for citizens of the [Confederated Tribes of Siletz](#) and the [Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde](#). Projects include Acorn Camp, First Food Stewardship with the Vesper

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Meadow Education Project, and the development of a Shasta/Takelma Learning Garden at SOU.

2. Indigenous Peoples Day is a collaboration between partners like the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Peace House, Friends of the Cascade Siskiyou Monument, Red Earth Descendants, Rogue Climate, and Oregon Indian Education. Annually IPD serves over 5000 throughout Ashland. Students are involved in scholarly and creative activities like the production of “zines” and creation of curriculum for K-5 youth with Walker Elementary, shared with many Rogue Valley schools.

### III. Creativity and Innovation (200 word limit)

NAS faculty offer an innovative, engaging, and high-flex curriculum that is responsive to the needs of our students, communities, and Tribes. NAS pedagogy is rooted in Indigenous perspectives and justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion through a decolonial and anti-racist framework. This is evidenced by the courses we offer, the service faculty engage in, and NAS faculty’s scholarship.

NAS students are involved in experiential learning that strengthens their capacity to work with Tribal communities, engage in issues that are important to Native Nations, and network directly with Native American people. Below are some examples of projects NAS students are involved in that complement their course work. These include:

- 3 Sisters Garden and Dragonfly’s Garden
- Native American Ecological Symposium
- Queer Indigenous Gathering
- Honoring the Elders Dinner
- Indigenous Futurisms/Native Women’s Film Festivals
- Klamath River Tribes Youth Summit
- Pacific Islander Indigeneity and Education Conference
- Konaway Nika Tillicum
- Powwow
- Native Games

NAS students are central contributors to a number of events and programs at SOU, and in Rogue Valley, Oregon, and California more broadly. Students have been facilitators, moderators, organizers, artists, activists, advocates, presenters, mentors, lecturers, and performers. Some of these activities are part of class projects, in other cases students are networking across campus or in the broader community. Some of these events emerge from the scholarly or creative activities of students, in other cases they are invited by organizations to be central participants in programming and planning.

