



SOU Land Acknowledgment

In our desire for collective healing and partnership, we offer this Acknowledgment of Indigenous peoples and their connections to the land that Southern Oregon University occupies. This Acknowledgement was developed in conversation between Grand Ronde Tribal staff, Siletz Tribal staff, and Native American Programs faculty and staff at Southern Oregon University; it continues to be a living statement through this ongoing partnership.

This Land Acknowledgment may not be altered from this version, as changes will only occur in conversations with our partners.

We [you may say I or the name of a program/department] want to take this moment to acknowledge that Southern Oregon University is located within the ancestral homelands of the Shasta, Takelma, and Latgawa peoples who lived here since time immemorial. These Tribes were displaced during rapid Euro-American colonization, the Gold Rush, and armed conflict between 1851 and 1856. In the 1850s, discovery of gold and settlement brought thousands of Euro-Americans to their lands, leading to warfare, epidemics, starvation, and villages being burned. In 1853 the first of several treaties were signed, confederating these Tribes and others together - who would then be referred to as the Rogue River Tribe. These treaties ceded most of their homelands to the United States, and in return they were guaranteed a permanent homeland reserved for them. At the end of the Rogue River Wars in 1856, these Tribes and many other Tribes from western Oregon were removed to the Siletz Reservation and the Grand Ronde Reservation. Today, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon (<https://www.grandronde.org>) and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians (<http://www.ctsi.nsn.us/>) are living descendants of the Takelma, Shasta, and Latgawa peoples of this area. We [you may say I or the name of a program/department] encourage YOU to learn about the land you reside on, and to join us in advocating for the inherent sovereignty of Indigenous people.



Land Acknowledgment Protocol

It is important for our SOU Community to begin healing and reconciliation by acknowledging the continued legacy of settler colonialism in our region. When sharing this Land Acknowledgement, please do abide by and remember the following:

1. **You may not alter this Acknowledgement in any way EXCEPT** to change the “We” to “I” or “The [*insert program/department name*] Program.”
 - a. While reading the acknowledgment, you are NOT required to read the websites listed in the statement.
2. The host, facilitator, or guest of special importance at an event or gathering should share this Acknowledgement. Other respectful guests may share this Acknowledgement, if appropriate.
3. Practice beforehand until you are comfortable with all pronunciation and names flow effortlessly.

Grand Ronde (Ronde rhymes with wand)

Siletz (pronounced SIGH-lets)

Shasta (pronounced shass-tah)

Takelma (pronounced tuh-kel-muh) (sometimes Dagelma)

Latgawa (pronounced Lot-gah-wah)

4. It is often not appropriate to invite an Indigenous person to an event for the sole purpose of sharing the Acknowledgement or giving a blessing for your organization/event/meeting. One way you can support Indigenous communities is by speaking this statement yourself. Please be mindful of the expectations you place on Native partners. However, there may be times when it is appropriate to partner with Indigenous people and you should ask them how they want to participate or be included.
5. It is appropriate to share this Acknowledgement regardless of whether Indigenous individuals are present or not.
6. If you're going to invite an Elder or other Tribal representative to conduct this protocol it is extremely important that they are treated with respect and their needs are met before, during, and after the ceremony. Compensating or gift giving to Indigenous people for their extra work is appropriate.
7. (OPTIONAL) At the end of the Land Acknowledgement, you may personalize this by offering additional meaningful thoughts, ideas, or initiatives: For example, Ask yourself what does this statement compel me and/or my program/department to do? What actions will be committed to because of this land acknowledgement? Place additional text at the end of the statement.