Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Studies

Indigenous Studies Graduate Certificate

The Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Studies is designed to provide students with necessary knowledge of the events, laws, policies, and treaties that have defined the relationship between the United States and Indigenous Nations and Peoples. This knowledge is essential to analysis of a broad range of historical, political, religious, and social issues in the U.S.

The program will provide students with a solid grounding in the histories and cultures of the indigenous peoples of North America. The certificate program enables students to integrate knowledge of Indigenous issues into their own academic disciplines or professional training.

Completion of the certificate in Indigenous Studies represents an additional credential for graduate students from a variety of academic fields who are preparing for careers in research and teaching or professional practice. The certificate will also enhance the qualifications of students seeking careers with Indigenous organizations, governments, and museums, among many other options.

Enrollment in the program is open to students admitted to a regular KU graduate program as well as students who are not currently enrolled at KU.

Admission to Graduate Studies

An applicant seeking to pursue graduate study in the College may be admitted as either a degree-seeking or non-degree seeking student. Policies and procedures of Graduate Studies govern the process of Graduate admission. These may be found in the Graduate Studies (http://catalog.ku.edu/graduate-studies) section of the online catalog.

Please consult the Departments & Programs (http://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences) section of the online catalog for information regarding program-specific admissions criteria and requirements. Special admissions requirements pertain to Interdisciplinary Studies degrees, which may be found in the Graduate Studies section of the online catalog.

Certificate Application and Admissions Procedure

Current Students

Current graduate students wishing to enroll in the Graduate Certificate program will need to apply through Graduate Studies (http://graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application). The application process entails completing the online application, paying a $30.00 application fee, and submitting materials required for the Indigenous Studies Certificate:

- A letter stating your interest in Indigenous Studies and its relationship to your graduate course of study;
- An unofficial copy of your KU transcript;
- A letter of support from your faculty advisor or director of graduate studies in your graduate degree program.

A student must be in good standing with their graduate degree program in order to participate in the certificate program. A graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher is required for admission.

Non-KU Students

Students who are not currently enrolled at KU must complete an application to Graduate Studies (http://graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application) for admission into the certificate program and submit an application fee along with the following materials:

- A letter stating your interest in the Indigenous Studies Graduate Certificate program;
- A copy of your college transcript;
- Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with your academic work or potential for graduate study.

Minimum requirements include a bachelor’s degree with a 3.0 or higher GPA. The GPA requirement may be waived at the discretion of the ISP Director and with approval of the Office of Graduate Studies.

Student Eligibility and Administration of the Program

Eligibility criteria for admission to the certificate program include a B.A. degree from an accredited institution with a 3.0 or higher GPA.

Students admitted to the certificate program may be enrolled either as a regular graduate student or admitted to Graduate Studies (http://graduate.ku.edu/ku-graduate-application) as a certificate seeking student.

Students must maintain grade-point averages of 3.0 or better in all courses taken to satisfy requirements of the Indigenous Studies Certificate.

Please see the Admission to Graduate Study (http://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study) policy for additional information.

Gainful Employment Disclosures


Certificate Requirements

The Indigenous Studies Graduate Certificate requires 12 hours of coursework:

- ISP 800: Indigenous Issues in the United States (3 hrs)
- 9 hours of graduate-level coursework with 50% or more content in Indigenous Peoples; courses must be approved by the ISP Executive Committee. A list of approved courses may be found on the Indigenous Studies website (http://indigenous.ku.edu/courses/#tab3name).