

Indigenous Studies

Undergraduate Program in Indigenous Studies

A university that's all about you

Athabasca University, Canada's Open University, is the nation's leading online and distance education university. We're proud to take education to the people, serving more than 38,000 students in 89 countries worldwide.

We offer over 750 courses in more than 90 undergraduate and graduate degree, diploma and certificate programs. Our philosophy is to remove geographical, financial, social and cultural barriers that traditionally limit access to post-secondary achievement.

The flexibility of our distance and online learning programs allows you to obtain a quality post-secondary education on your own terms—anywhere, any time. Studying at AU is the perfect way to experience all the advantages of a traditional university in a non-traditional setting, like your home, office or wherever you may find yourself.

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The undergraduate program in Indigenous Studies

→ At the Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research, we promote an education that is valuable, meaningful and beneficial to Indigenous students and their communities, in Canada and around the world. We draw our educational philosophy from the teachers we know best: our Elders, leaders and traditional knowledge holders in Indigenous communities.

Our aim is to foster your intellectual growth through a quality post-secondary education that is guided by the philosophies and values of Indigenous peoples. We call this education that makes a difference. Our objective is to support your full participation, to ensure equitable access to and success in post-secondary

studies, and to enable you to study and learn in environments which reflect your true heritage and culture.

This program will appeal to you if you are interested in Indigenous issues and are looking for Indigenous Studies courses written by Indigenous authors. It is designed for people, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, who want to get a start on a university degree, learn new skills, keep up with changes in their profession, work toward career advancement or achieve personal development.

→ Benefits

Through Athabasca University's internationally recognized expertise in online and distance education, you can experience the convenience and flexibility of earning a degree without uprooting your life.

→ Benefits of studying at AU include

- * open access to most programs and courses if you are 16 or older
- * the freedom to study according to your own schedule and to set your own pace

- * the ability to complete your post-secondary studies at home in your own community
- * the option to continue working while you earn your degree
- * small classes
- * personalized tutoring and excellent student support
- * telephone and online access to course materials, library resources and your tutor
- * high academic standards
- * easy-to-follow course materials

→ Our Commitment to You

Athabasca University is committed to your education. With long-term Aboriginal education initiatives and partnerships with several First Nations colleges, we have been able to present university classes on reserves, in communities and throughout the world.

We are very proud of our commitment to First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. We have been pleased to have had the opportunity to provide a quality post-secondary education to many Aboriginal students, including nurses, educators, future doctoral candidates, police

officers, managers and many others who required a degree or just a course or two in their educational journey.

Our commitment extends to creating and providing courses that are relevant, respectful and meaningful to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students and to preserving First Nations, Métis and Inuit intellectual traditions in our course development and programming.

Left: Harold Cardinal addresses Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau and other Cabinet members on 4 June 1970. Along with about 200 other First Nations delegates Cardinal argued for the establishment of a "truly impartial claims commission appointed after consultation with the Indians."

Source: Arthur J. Ray, I Have Lived Here Since the World Began: An Illustrated History of Canada's Native People. Revised edition, p. 333 (Toronto: Key Porter Books, 2005). Original source: CP Images, a division of the Canadian Press (Image #1485428). Reproduced with permission.

Courses

Students can study full-time or part-time. Full-time students are expected to enrol in three to five courses per term. Part-time students usually enrol in one or two courses per term.

Athabasca University offers these Indigenous Studies courses in a variety of delivery modes (See below for more information on delivery methods).

INST 111	Introductory Cree I
INST 112	Introductory Cree II
INST 203	Indigenous Studies I
INST 205	Indigenous Studies II
INST 211	First-Year University Cree
INST 212	First-Year University Cree II
INST 348	Aboriginal Justice
INST 357	Contemporary Aboriginal Issues in Canada
INST 358	Aboriginal Women in Canada
INST 377	Topics in Aboriginal Government
INST 426	Aboriginal Law and Government
INST 390/391	Individual/Group Research Projects
INST 430	Indigenous Governance
INST 490	Advanced Topics in Indigenous Studies: Aboriginal Women
INST 493	Individual Directed Research in Governments and Laws

In addition, Athabasca University offers or will offer several courses of interest to those working with Indigenous Nations and organizations. These courses are written by First Nations, Métis or Inuit authors.

INST 440	Principles of Indigenous Business
INST 450	Financial Management for First Nations
INST 460	Management of Indigenous Nations and Organizations
INST 470	Leadership of Indigenous Nations and Organizations
INST 480	Comparative Indigenous Models of Government: International Models

The Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research is continually developing new programs and courses. Courses now in development include

INST 301	Indigenous Education
INST 420	Indigenous Resistance

Also look for future courses in Cree languages, self-determination, contemporary issues, oral traditions and Indigenous literature.

A list of courses now being offered and of those that are scheduled to be offered in the near future is available at <http://www.athabascau.ca/indigenous/courses.php>.



Left: Chief Kinoyayoo at Treaty No. 8 negotiations, Lesser Slave Lake Settlement.

Source: Charles Mair, *Through the Mackenzie Basin: A Narrative of the Athabasca and Peace River Expedition of 1899* (Toronto: W. Briggs, 1908). Public Domain

→ Admission Requirements

AU is an open university. If you are 16 or older, you can enrol, regardless of your previous academic achievement. You are not required to have a high school diploma. Some courses or programs, however, do have specific academic prerequisites.

You can take the self-assessment questionnaire *Am I Ready for Athabasca University?* in the Online Resources section at www.athabascau.ca/main/studserv.htm or phone to request a printed copy of the questionnaire.

AU's year-round admission and course registration policy and its individualized study courses, prior learning assessment and recognition program, and challenge-for-credit opportunities can help you to achieve your educational goals.



→ Course Delivery Methods

AU is committed to meeting your needs as a student through flexibility in the design and delivery of its courses and programs. You can choose from two basic course delivery modes: individualized study or grouped study. Both modes allow for a number of different learning methods, including home study, seminars, classroom instruction, teleconferencing, videoconferencing, and Internet and computer-mediated courses.

Individualized Study: Almost all AU courses are available through individualized study. The flexibility of individualized study through online and distance education allows you to continue your post-secondary education and professional development while maintaining your employment and remaining in your home community. Individualized study courses are offered throughout the year, beginning on the first of each month. You have up to six months to complete a three-credit course and, within that time frame, you are free to set your own study schedule. Please

note that you must register for your courses at least one month in advance of your intended start date.

Grouped Study: Grouped study courses require students to meet in a classroom and follow a fixed course syllabus and work schedule. Grouped study courses are currently available in Alberta, Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories. To find out whether a course you are interested in is available as a grouped study course, go to <http://www.athabascau.ca/collab/> and click on *Classroom Courses*.

Do you have a group of learners in your community, institution or nation who are interested in a particular course, diploma or degree? If so, please contact the Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research at AU. We will not only recommend course or program options to meet your needs but also make



sure that course delivery is suitable for your audience. A minimum number of learners is generally required for this type of delivery. Please contact us for more information.

→ Prior Learning and Assessment Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR involves the identification, demonstration, documentation, assessment and recognition of the learning that you have acquired experientially or informally and awards credit for learning relevant to the AU degree, certificate or diploma that you are seeking.

For information and application forms, call the Centre for Learning Accreditation at 1-800-788-9041, extension 6348, or go to their website: <http://priorlearning.athabasca.ca/contact/php>.



→ Advanced Credit/ Transfer Credit

AU has articulation agreements with many colleges and technical institutions across Canada, and you may receive up to 60 transfer credits for your previous education. Visit our Transfer Credit Database at www.athabasca.ca/cgi-bin/credit_transfer.pl to see whether you are eligible to receive transfer credit.

→ Admission Procedures

Admission is easy. To apply, go to www.athabasca.ca, click on *Become a Student. Apply Online!* and follow the on-screen instructions.

If you have completed courses or programs at other post-secondary institutions, you can have your previous work evaluated to see whether you can receive transfer credit toward your AU degree, diploma or certificate. Arrange to have official transcripts sent directly to AU by the other post-secondary institution(s) at which you have studied.

→ Student Services

As an AU student, you will have access to extensive support services, including counsellors and academic advisors, to help with program planning and academic questions. You may also consult with the Office of the Registrar for advice on academic procedures and problems.

For more information on student services, go to www.athabasca.ca/main/studserv.htm. To discuss your situation with an Indigenous staff member, please contact indigenous@athabasca.ca.

→ Financial Assistance

Financial assistance is available for Indigenous students. Consult the AU Calendar, or the online Calendar at <http://www.athabasca.ca/> for information about financial assistance and awards.

Honorary Doctorates

At the Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research, we promote an education that is valuable, meaningful and beneficial to Indigenous students and their communities, in Canada and around the world. We draw our educational philosophy from the teachers we know best: our Elders, leaders and traditional knowledge holders in Indigenous communities.

Over the years, AU's connection to the First Nations community in Alberta and in Canada has been nurtured and strengthened. It is an example of our commitment to building quality post-secondary education that is determined by the philosophies and values of and our relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

We are proud of the First Nations/ Metis leaders who have received honorary degrees from AU.

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Ovide William Mercredi (2009): An Honorary Doctor of Letters was conferred on Ovide William Mercredi in recognition of his outstanding contributions to public service and lifetime commitment to the peaceful preservation and celebration of Indigenous Peoples' rights. Mercredi is celebrated as a leader, Indigenous rights advocate and peace activist. His notion of egalitarianism and fairness, as well as his sense of community obligation, led him to the position of Regional Chief in the Assembly of First Nations, and ultimately, beginning in 1991, to the first of two terms as the National Chief of the AFN, during which time he demonstrated a commitment to peaceful resolution of differences and to the rejuvenation of traditional Indigenous teachings in contemporary settings.



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Patricia Anne Monture (2008): An Honorary Doctor of Laws was conferred on Patricia Anne Monture, a professor of sociology, chair of Graduate Studies and academic co-ordinator of the Aboriginal Justice and Criminology Program at the University of Saskatchewan. Monture's commitment to academic excellence in both research and teaching has had a tremendous effect on Indigenous studies, women's studies, law and sociology. She is a highly sought-after international lecturer whose work has been acknowledged by Indigenous communities worldwide.



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Johnsen Sewepagaham (2007): An Honorary Doctor of Laws was conferred on Johnsen Sewepagaham, who was elected Chief of the Little Red River Cree Nation in northwestern Alberta in 1980 and served in that capacity for five consecutive four-year terms. He distinguished himself as a respected leader of his people in the fields of education, public service, social services, health and resource development. Sewepagaham is highly supportive of post-secondary learning and was instrumental in bringing post-secondary education to his community.



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Marie Smallface-Marule (2006): An Honorary Doctor of Letters was conferred on Marie Smallface-Marule in recognition of her outstanding service to Aboriginal community development and education. Smallface-Marule is an outstanding Alberta educator who has dedicated her career to native education and native community development. She is president of Red Crow Community College and was the founder and president of the First Nations Higher Education Commission of Alberta. She was the recipient of the 1995 National Aboriginal Achievement Award and was honoured with the Queen's Medal for outstanding community and educational service.



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Maria Campbell (2001): An honorary Doctor of Letters was conferred on Maria Campbell for her lifelong endeavours to promote Métis culture, traditions and politics and advance Métis issues, concerns and priorities in Canada. She has been an Elder in Virtual Residence with the Centre for World Indigenous Knowledge and Research at Athabasca University.

