



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

The Centre for
Indigenous Studies

Indigenous Studies: An Undergraduate Program

The first Indigenous Studies students entered the program at the University of Toronto in September 1994. Indigenous Studies was originally conceived as an interdisciplinary program that would meet the needs of Indigenous students and non-Indigenous students alike.

What began as a small minor program offering two courses has grown into a program that offers all three degree types: minor, major and specialist. Since the beginning, language courses have played an integral role in the program. Indigenous Studies now offers courses in Anishinaabemowin and Kanienskéha-Mohawk.

Today, Indigenous Studies is an undergraduate program dedicated to the re-conceptualizing of knowledge. In Indigenous Studies students are exposed to literature and research from diverse knowledge systems that reflect multiple ways of knowing and they are encouraged to develop and hone their critical thinking skills. Learning is enhanced by the program's inter-connectedness with Indigenous communities. Typically, students enrolled in Indigenous Studies come from a range of personal backgrounds and educational programs. Similarly, graduates of Indigenous Studies enter into a variety of fields including social work, law, education, and politics, as well as media, creative writing and fine art.



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Anishinaabemowin: "Greetings, Welcome"

Sge:nq' swa gwe gq

Cayuga: "Hello, everyone"

Wa'tkwanonhwerá:ton'

Kanien'kéha - Mohawk: "Greetings"

Wa?tkunuhela·tú·

Oneida: "I greet you, I thank you"

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Inuktitut: "Welcome"

Discover Your Potential



Indigenous Studies students begin their study with the course Introduction to Indigenous Studies: Foundations, History and Politics. This course is designed to introduce students to the ideas, methods and themes of the discipline of Indigenous Studies. Throughout students' academic careers in Indigenous Studies, they have opportunities to learn about Indigenous spiritual and healing traditions, intersections of Indigenous and Western science, Indigenous politics, the representation of Indigenous peoples in society and the mass media, the junction of language and culture, Indigenous arts, Indigenous legends and teachings, and Indigenous/non-Indigenous politics in Canada, among others.

Students in Indigenous Studies also have access to extra-curricular groups like the Indigenous Studies Student Union (ISSU) and Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (SAGE UT). ISSU is an undergraduate student union that aims to provide events and programs that allow students from diverse backgrounds to come together in an inclusive space and engage with Indigenous knowledges. SAGE UT is a student-based and student-driven group that supports Indigenous graduate students while they transition into and complete their graduate programs.



Charting Your Course(s)

Students have the opportunity to combine a major or minor in Indigenous Studies with another program, such as:

- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Art History
- Criminology
- Earth Sciences
- Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
- Environmental Studies
- Equity Studies
- Forestry
- Geography
- History
- Latin American Studies
- Linguistics
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Public Policy
- Sociology
- Women & Gender Studies

Where Can You Go?

Graduates of the Indigenous Studies program have gone into careers such as: social work, education and community development, health, media arts and journalism, youth outreach, arts and heritage, public policy analysis, advocacy, and community-government relations.



A Knowledge-Building Community

ᑦᑭᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦᑲᑦ (Turtle Lounge)

The Turtle Lounge at the Centre for Indigenous Studies is a gathering place—a place that reflects a sense of belonging. Students and visitors are welcomed by bright murals commissioned by Indigenous artists. It is an ideal place for workshops, presentations, meetings and smaller language classes, as well as a casual place to connect with community.

“...a place that reflects a sense of belonging”

The Centre for Indigenous Studies is closely linked to the broader university, academic and Indigenous communities, facilitating the sharing of knowledge through the support of community research and teaching. Through the Centre, students are given opportunities to engage with the broader community and build relationships, while learning from authors, scholars and teachers at the forefront of Indigenous research and thought.

+ Research

CIS is home to many accomplished faculty members and instructors with dynamic and diverse research interests. For more information about our faculty and to learn about their areas of speciality, please visit: indigenoustudies.utoronto.ca/people.

+ Language

Along with our language instruction classes, CIS houses Ciimaan/Kahuwe'yá/Qajaq (CKQ), a language initiative that assists in the creation, facilitation, and delivery of Indigenous language and cultural programming for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at all levels.

+ Events

Throughout the academic year, CIS hosts several events and workshops, including our annual speaker series, which provides U of T and the surrounding community with the opportunity to learn from inspiring and innovative leaders, researchers, and scholars.



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