



INDIGENOUS / AMERICAN INDIAN LAW CONCENTRATION TRACK

In both the global and domestic contexts, the laws of and relevant to Indigenous peoples and Native Nations are critically important for understanding issues of sovereignty, rights and authority. Understanding these issues and identifying their connection to other, non-Indigenous legal systems requires study of the history and context in which they arose.

In North America there are over 1,200 functioning Indigenous governments, each with their own customs, laws and distinct territories that are recognized by other sovereigns in a significant way and that play a major role among the modern nation states of the world. Therefore, the study of Indigenous and American Indian Law is not only critical for working

in the state of Washington, home to 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes, and the Pacific Northwest, these areas of law also inform a deeper and more nuanced understanding of other systems of American and International law.

Building on our long tradition and leadership in teaching, scholarship, and service in support of these fields, the UW School of Law and the Native American Law Center (NALC) offer a J.D. concentration track in Indigenous/American Indian Law. The range of courses, clinical or experiential opportunities, and scholarship commitments provides interested students with a well-rounded and in-depth approach intended to further their interests and understanding while also preparing them for practice in the field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students need a minimum of 30 credits in Indigenous/American Indian law curriculum as follows:

Students must take:

- American Indian Law
- Indigenous Governance
- Indigenous Economic Development

Tribal Court Clinic (or complete an externship with an approved organization)

Students must earn at least 6 credits in courses from the following list:

- Administrative Law
- Water Law
- Federal Courts and the Federal System
- Advanced Environmental Law — Restoration of the Elwha River
- Comparative Legal Studies Seminar — American Indian Tribal Law
- Legal Problems of Economic Development Seminar
- Land, American Culture, and the Law
- Natural Resources Law
- Legislation

WRITING REQUIREMENT

All students must complete an advanced writing project on a subject related to Indigenous/American Indian Law. Subject to approval by a concentration track advisor, this requirement may be satisfied by writing a major research paper in conjunction with a seminar as part of an independent study (Advanced Writing Project Law), or by publishing a law journal article.

CLINIC, EXTERNSHIP, OR EQUIVALENT PRACTICE REQUIREMENT

Students must earn at least 12 credits in the Tribal Court Clinic or by completing an externship with an organization approved by the law school public service program and the concentration track advisor. As part of meeting the externship requirement, students must take B567 General Externship Perspective Seminar (2 credits) or its equivalent. A concentration track advisor may waive the clinical or externship requirement for students who document equivalent practical experience in the area (e.g. through a summer internship focused on relevant issues). To the extent that the student has equivalent experience, he or she must still take sufficient additional credits of approved courses to meet the 30-credit hour minimum for the concentration.