



NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

AMERICAN INDIAN PROFILE **2024**

Fall Enrollment Information

American Indian Scholar Profile

"I wanted to stay fairly close to home. I still wanted to have that sense of connection, being a Native American student," said Lauryn Fields, a member of the Cherokee Nation from Sallisaw, Oklahoma.

Fields received a bachelor's degree in Health and Human Performance with a minor in Pre-health from Northeastern State University in the spring of 2024.

"I found that NSU really has a strong Native American community," Fields said. "They are very involved and they want you to stay connected to and learn about more of your culture. So, for those reasons, I found that NSU was the best fit."

For Fields, her favorite part of her time at NSU was all the people she met. She stressed the importance of finding a group of supportive friends.

"It seems like a small campus, but you really do make your niche and find your circle of people," she said. "I think I found that, within my own department of health and kinesiology. Even in the Center for Tribal Studies, I had someone I could turn to and they made me feel welcome."

Fields said that the mentors she met at the Center for Tribal Studies made a big impact on her college experience.

"I turned to Gaelen and Randilyn Rose a lot," she said. "They were just kind of a calm head if I ever needed to talk about anything. They helped with resources for my next steps in pursuing my degree. Sometimes I just needed to do a mindless craft, like basket weaving, to get my mind off of things. They were always there to talk with me, just to be in that listening ear if I needed one."

Fields is grateful for the opportunities the Center for Tribal Studies offers, noting that they are not just a great resource for Native American students, but any student. According to her, they are one of the most inclusive communities on campus.

"I was there pretty much every single day," Fields said. "I did not want to stay stuck in my room the entire time. So, I thought, what better way than to get out and do some studying, just sitting in the

Center for Tribal Studies and getting some work done, seeing all the faces that I have not seen before. I really do encourage anyone out there who doesn't have their home or niche yet to look into the Center for Tribal Studies."

Fields' proudest moment at NSU was participating in a half-time ceremony during the Native American heritage basketball game.

"I was able to be one of the flag carriers that they had," she said. "We got to go out to half court during the halftime of one of the games. I thought that was one of the coolest moments ever."

Fields is currently working toward a doctorate in physical therapy at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

Fields' advice for American Indian students looking to receive a higher education is to figure out their passion and then go for it. She also stressed the importance of finding a supportive group of friends.

"Find a program at the college that offers it and if you're interested in that, pursue it," Fields said. "Then you need to really try to find your people, your circle, while you're in college because you cannot do this alone. I think finding people to help you through that time is one of the most important things for your success."



 *Lauryn Fields* 

Citizen of Cherokee Nation | Sallisaw, Oklahoma

Northeastern State University

Bachelor's in Health & Human Performance, Minor in Pre-Health, Spring 2024



Jules Daugherty

Citizen of Cherokee Nation | Gore, Oklahoma

Northeastern State University

Bachelor's in Criminal Justice (2017), Master's in American Indian Leadership, Spring 2024

American Indian Scholar Profile

A citizen of the Cherokee Nation from the Paradise Hill/Sourjohn community outside of Gore, Oklahoma, Jules Daugherty said she was drawn to the historical significance of Northeastern State University, which is deeply rooted in Cherokee history.

As a second-generation college student, Daugherty followed in the footsteps of her father who obtained two bachelor's degrees from Northeastern. She also had distant relatives who attended the former Cherokee Female Seminary.

In 2017, Daugherty received her bachelor's degree in criminal justice and legal studies. Soon after, she began working towards a master's degree and graduated in the spring of 2024 with her master's in American Indian Leadership, also from NSU.

"I have always been active within my tribal community, and plan on serving my tribe in some form or capacity for the rest of my life," Daugherty said. "By attaining a Master's in American Indian Leadership, this was another stepping stone in building the foundation for the tools I need to be able to successfully educate, shape and mold the future Indigenous youth of today into individuals that would make our ancestors from seven generations ago proud."

Daugherty also hopes to extend her impact on the future generations of Indigenous youth and encourages any American Indian student looking to receive a degree in higher education, to consider the seven-generation principal.

"Always remember that our grandchildren seven generations from now should be able to prosper from the work that we are doing today," Daugherty said. "Our grandparents seven generations ago should also be honored with the work we are doing in the current generation."

Inspired by this principle, Daugherty wrote her thesis on the seven-generation principle in reference to Indigenous families and individuals, noting it as her proudest academic achievement.

"The research and love I poured into that paper was unlike anything I've ever worked on," Daugherty said. "I was able to share the importance of how interacting with various generations of Cherokee community members is beneficial to one another in an academic setting. That, to me, was extremely special."

Although she had a non-traditional approach to receiving her degrees, working full-time and running a business, Daugherty enjoyed her time at NSU.

"My favorite part about studying at NSU was meeting individuals of all cultures and nations," Daugherty said. "It seemed as if NSU was like a large mix of cultures and nationalities and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting new people in my classes, both in person and online."

Through her time at Northeastern, Daugherty was profoundly influenced by two key mentors: Shannon Buhl, Head Marshal for the Cherokee Nation, and Dr. Andrew Vassar, NSU professor of Humanities.

She said during her undergraduate studies, Buhl's classes in criminal justice shaped her understanding of legal procedures from a law enforcement perspective, which she values to this day. According to Daugherty, Vassar's classes challenged her while also welcoming discussions about Cherokee and Indigenous cultures, leaving a lasting impression.

Today, Daugherty is the proud owner of WaterSpider Creations, a Southeastern Woodlands Indigenous Textiles Art studio, which focuses on 18th century Cherokee clothing. Through her business endeavors, Daugherty travels the country showcasing her art at various locations and markets. Aside from her business, she gives back to the surrounding communities by giving lectures regarding Cherokee history, culture, art, political history and more. Daugherty enjoys traveling and spending time with her husband and daughter, as well as with their dogs.

About

THE UNIVERSITY

Northeastern State University is a comprehensive regional university that prepares students to succeed as global citizens by providing exceptional undergraduate and graduate programs, along with the only Doctorate of Optometry offered in Oklahoma (one of only 23 nationwide) and the only Bachelor of Arts degree in Cherokee Education in the nation.

HISTORY

Northeastern was founded in 1846 as the Cherokee National Female Seminary, which opened in 1851. On March 6, 1909, the Oklahoma Legislature purchased the Seminary from the Cherokee Nation, and the following September classes began at the newly formed Northeastern State Normal School. In 2009, the NSU Centennial Celebration highlighted the university's 100 years as a state institution and dedicated a monument to the preeminent Cherokee scholar, Sequoyah.

CENTER FOR TRIBAL STUDIES

The Center for Tribal Studies, founded in 1990, is a resource for bridging communication and interaction between Tribal Nations and the university. Within the context of American Indian higher education, the Center collaborates with other campus entities in program development, strategic planning, research guidance, student engagement and scholarly activities. Northeastern State University is a destination of choice for American Indian education, and the diverse campus culture nurtures a strong sense of community for Native students. Through educational leadership, cultural knowledge and professional development among students, scholars emerge - many of whom will serve in professions benefiting Tribal governments and Indigenous communities.

CHEROKEE LANGUAGE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Unique to Northeastern State University, the Bachelor of Arts in Cherokee Language Education is the only American Indian language education degree available in the United States with a curriculum leading to state certification for teachers. Since 2005, the program has brought together university, global and local interests as part of a plan to strengthen the Cherokee language for future generations. In 2009, a bachelor's degree in Cherokee Cultural Studies was added as an option to study language along with other aspects of cultural studies for non-teachers. A Cherokee Studies minor is also available. With alumni now employed at universities and at the Cherokee Language Immersion School, NSU graduates play a vital role in language revitalization.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN

The 52nd Annual Symposium on the American Indian is scheduled for April 7th-12th, 2025. The theme is Reclamation for an Indigenous Future. This theme was chosen because it is our responsibility as Indigenous Peoples to bring the Indigenous Knowledge Systems of our ancestors through the present and into the future. There has been an ongoing struggle for over 500 years to maintain Indigeneity. As we traverse these uncertain times of both exuberant Tribal Sovereignty and uneasy governmental policies that continue to threaten our ways of life, it is a more reverent time than any to celebrate and share the practices scholars are using to maintain and exemplify these cultural practices.

Through the perspectives of two of the most renowned academics in Native American History, Education, and Research, Dr. Donald L. Fixico and Dr. Cornell Pewewardy, we hope to gain perspectives of Native American Issues in all realms so that we can assess the practices of the past as we move forward into the future of Indian Country. We are also excited to gain knowledge and perspectives of the up-and-comer Dr. Sky Wildcat, who has been making strides in the field of Indigenous Methodologies and representation in Higher Education. In this period of uncertainty, now is the time more than ever to reclaim the Indigenous Knowledge Systems of our ancestors to transform the future for all Indigenous Peoples.

nsuok.edu/symposium

American Indian Undergraduate Enrollment

BY DEGREE AND ACADEMIC MAJOR » FALL 2024

BACHELOR OF ARTS 298

American Indian Studies	4
Cherokee Cultural Studies	9
Communication Studies	17
Creative Writing	11
Drama	8
English	11
Geography & Sustainability Studies	3
History	8
Media Studies	14
Music	5
Political Science	5
Psychology	188
Sociology	14
Spanish	1

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION 51

Art Education	4
Cherokee Education	12
English Education	16
Social Studies Education	18
Spanish Education	1

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 235

Accounting	51
Business Administration	81
Entrepreneurship	9
Finance	13
Hospitality & Tourism Management	5
Information Systems	15
International Business Management	3
Management	18
Marketing	33
Supply Chain Management	7

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK 37

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS	15
Art	15

BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES 53

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION 6

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE 482

Advocacy and Justice Studies	1
Applied Physics	1
Cellular and Molecular Biology	44
Chemistry	11
Computer Science	29
Criminal Justice	51
Cyber Security	29
Environmental, Health & Safety Management	27
Freshwater Sciences	5
Health & Human Performance	89
Health Organizations Admin	19
Homeland Security & Emergency Management	8
Integrative Biology	25
Legal Studies	14
Mathematics	18
Mechanical Engineering	10
Medical Laboratory Science	17
Nutritional Sciences	28
Organizational Leadership	24
Physics	2
Speech Language Pathology	30

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION 138

Early Childhood Education	49
Elementary Education	58
Health & Physical Education	20
Special Education - Mild/Moderate Disorder	4
Special Education	7

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE EDUCATION 1

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING 30

BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY 2

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS 1

Business Basics	1
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TOTAL DECLARED MAJORS 1,348

TOTAL UNDECLARED MAJORS 516

NON-DEGREE SEEKING STUDENTS 18

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS 1

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT 1,883

American Indian Graduate Enrollment

BY DEGREE AND ACADEMIC MAJOR >> FALL 2024

MASTER OF EDUCATION 75

Early Childhood Education	5
Instructional Leadership	9
Mathematics Education	5
Reading	13
School Administration	29
Science Education	4
Special Education - Autism Spectrum Disorders	10

MASTER OF ARTS 14

American Studies	4
English	2
Public Relations	8

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION 60

Business Administration	60
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MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH 8

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK 12

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING 22

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE 3

MASTER OF SCIENCE 152

Accounting & Financial Analysis	8
Applied Geographic Information Systems	5
Counseling	49
Criminal Justice	10
Health & Sport Science	7
Leadership	18
Library Media and Information Technology	10
Natural Sciences	3
Occupational Therapy	15
Physician Assistant Studies	15
Speech Language Pathology	12

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS 20

Classroom Teaching & Learning	2
Library Media Specialist	1
Public Health	1
School Administrator Certificate	13
Special Education	1
STEM Education	1
Strategic Human Resources	1

DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY 15

TOTAL DECLARED MAJORS 381

TOTAL UNDECLARED MAJORS 28

TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT 409

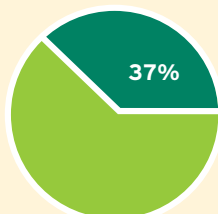
American Indian Enrollment

ENROLLMENT TOTAL >> FALL 2024

DATA SOURCE: NSU Office of Institutional Effectiveness

TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT

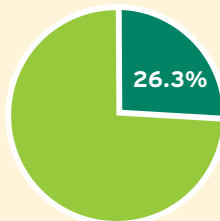
1,883 of 5,085



% OF ALL UNDERGRADUATE

TOTAL GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

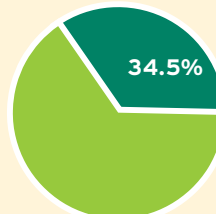
409 of 1,557



% OF ALL GRADUATE

TOTAL ENROLLMENT FALL 2024

2,292 of 6,642



% OF TOTAL STUDENTS

■ American Indian
■ Other

AMERICAN INDIAN ENROLLMENT BY MAIN CAMPUS



■ Tahlequah
■ Broken Arrow

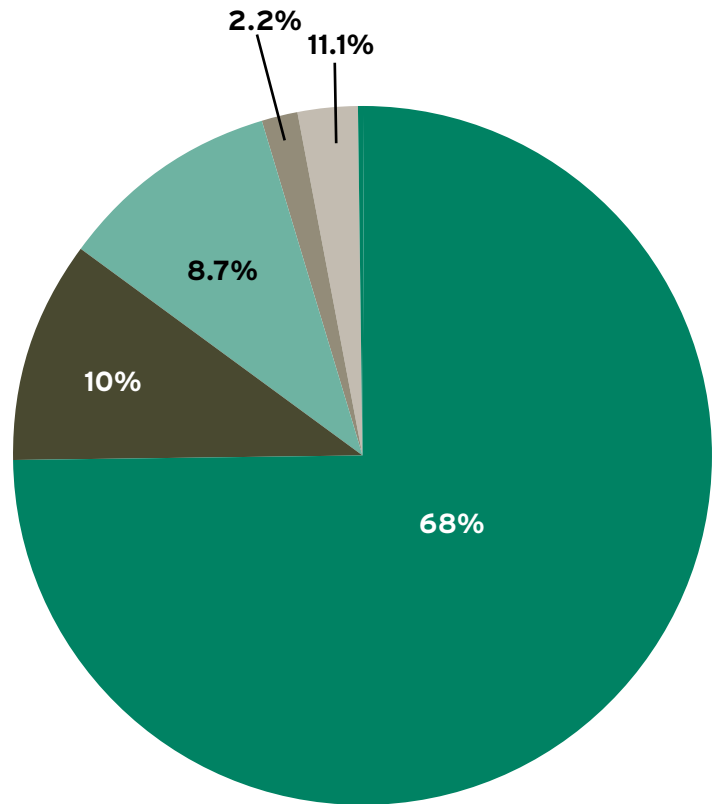
■ Online*
■ Muskogee

*Includes student enrollment in 100% online degree programs

American Indian Enrollment

BY TRIBE >> FALL 2024

TRIBE	STUDENTS	% TOTAL
Absentee Shawnee	6	0.3
Apache	7	0.3
Caddo Nation	3	0.1
Cherokee Nation	1,611	68.0
Cheyenne-Arapaho	3	0.1
Chickasaw Nation	53	2.2
Choctaw Nation	207	8.7
Citizen Potawatomi Nation	16	0.7
Comanche Nation	9	0.4
Delaware	8	0.3
Eastern Shawnee	2	0.1
Kaw Nation	2	0.1
Kickapoo	5	0.2
Kiowa	10	0.4
Miami Nation	1	0.04
Modoc Nation	2	0.1
Muscogee Nation	236	10.0
Osage Nation	28	1.2
Otoe-Missouria	5	0.2
Ottawa	1	0.04
Pawnee Nation	6	0.3
Peoria	3	0.1
Ponca	3	0.1
Quapaw	6	0.3
Sac & Fox Nation	5	0.2
Seminole Nation	22	0.9
Seneca-Cayuga	13	0.5
Shawnee	5	0.2
Thiophthlocco (of the Creek Nation)	1	0.04
Tonkawa	1	0.04
United Keetoowah Band	15	0.6
Wichita	1	0.04
Wyandotte Nation	5	0.2
Other US Tribes	34	1.4
Other North American Tribes	11	0.5
Other Central or South American Tribes	4	0.2



Enrollment by Tribe >> Fall 2024

■	Cherokee Nation	68%
■	Muscogee Nation	10%
■	Choctaw Nation	8.7%
■	Chickasaw Nation	2.2%
■	Other US Tribes and Indigenous Populations	11.1%

Degrees Conferred

BY DEGREE AND ACADEMIC MAJOR >> SUMMER 2023, FALL 2023, SPRING 2024

BACHELOR OF ARTS	36
American Indian Studies	2
Communication Studies	4
Creative Writing	3
Drama	2
English	5
Geography & Sustainability Studies	1
History	8
Media Studies	6
Political Science	3
Sociology	1
Spanish	1

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION	6
Art Education	1
Cherokee Education	1
English Education	3
Social Studies Education	1

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK	8
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BACHELOR OF GENERAL STUDIES	32
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BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS IN EDUCATION	3
Art	3

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION	33
Early Childhood Education	10
Elementary Education	17
Health and Physical Education	3
Mathematics Education	1
Special Education - Mild/Moderate	2

BACHELOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION	3
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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE	153
Applied Physics	1
Cell and Molecular Biology	6
Chemistry	3
Computer Science	11
Criminal Justice	20
Cyber Security	4
Environmental, Health & Safety Management	5
Freshwater Sciences	1
Health & Human Performance	19
Homeland Security & Emergency Management	1
Integrative Biology	1
Legal Studies	4
Medical Lab Science	4
Nutritional Sciences	8
Organizational Leadership	10
Psychology	50
Speech and Language Pathology	5

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	62
Accounting	14
Business Administration	18
Entrepreneurship	2
Finance	5
Health Organizations Administration	7
Hospitality & Tourism Management	1
Information Systems	3
Management	4
Marketing	8

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING	11
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BACHELOR OF TECHNOLOGY	2
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TOTAL BACHELOR'S DEGREES 349

MASTER OF EDUCATION	27
Early Childhood Education	1
Instructional Leadership	7
Reading	3
School Administration	11
Science Education	2
Special Education - Autism Spectrum Disorder	3

MASTER OF ARTS	5
American Studies	4
English	1

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	18
Masters of Business Administration	18

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH	2
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MASTER OF SCIENCE	68
Accounting and Financial Analysis	4
Counseling	16
Criminal Justice	7
Health & Sport Science	3
Leadership	8
Library Media & Information Technology	11
Occupational Therapy	7
Physician Assistant Studies	3
Speech Language Pathology	9

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING	8
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MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK	13
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DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY	5
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TOTAL MASTER'S DEGREES AND DOCTORATES 146

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

CERT-American Chemical Society (UG)
 CERT-Classroom Teaching & Learning (GR)
 CERT-Curriculum Director (GR)
 CERT-Data Analytics (GR)
 CERT-Emergency Mgmt & Planning (UG)
 CERT-Healthcare Administration Leadership (GR)
 CERT-Library Media Specialist (GR)
 CERT-Online Teaching (GR)

30

1
1
1
1
4
2
1
1

CERT-Operations & Supply Chain Management (UG)
 CERT-Program Management (GR)
 CERT-Public Health (GR)
 CERT-Quality Management (UG)
 CERT-Reading Specialist (GR)
 CERT-School Administrator (GR)
 CERT-Soft Skills (UG)
 CERT-STEM Education (GR)

1
4
1
1
1
6
1
3

TOTAL DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES CONFERRED 525

Top Five Ranking Among Four-Year Colleges Serving American Indians

WINDS OF CHANGE 31ST ANNUAL SPECIAL COLLEGE ISSUE • 2024-2025

RANKED BY NUMBER OF DEGREES AWARDED TO INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

#1	University of Phoenix - Arizona	335
#2	Northeastern State University	321
#3	University of Oklahoma - Norman Campus	300
#4	Oklahoma State University - Main Campus	249
#5	Arizona State University Campus Immersion	249

RANKED BY NUMBER OF FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

#1	University of Phoenix - Arizona	1130
#2	Northeastern State University	949
#3	Fort Lewis College	905
#4	Oklahoma State University - Main Campus	899
#5	Arizona State University Campus Immersion	852

Winds of Change report is based on data from the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). "Indigenous" above includes American Indian, Alaska Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, First Nations, and other Indigenous peoples of North America.



Fall to fall first-time & full-time UG retention rate

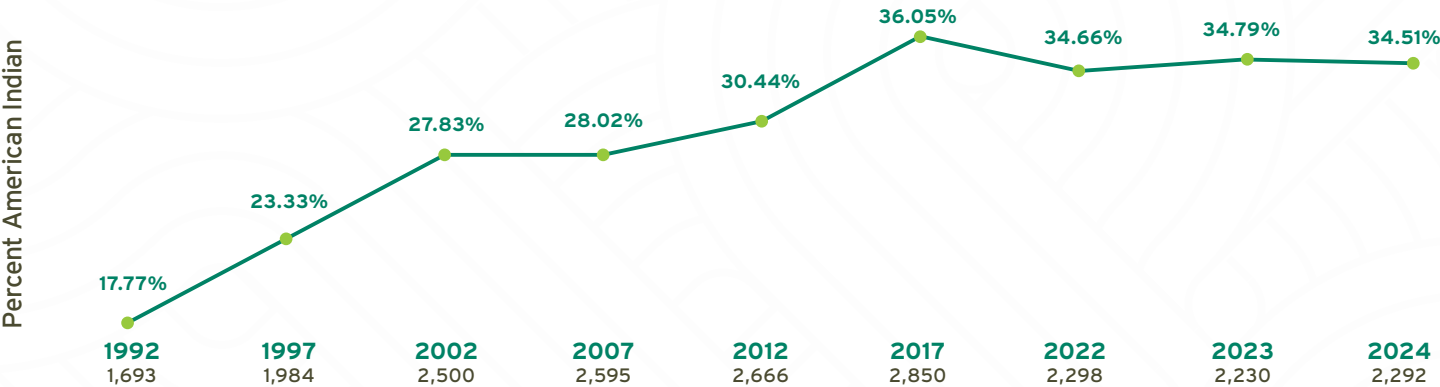
6 Year graduation 2017 Cohort

American Indian Undergraduate and Graduate Enrollment

BY YEAR >> FALL SEMESTERS 1992 to 2024

YEAR	UNDER-GRADUATE	GRADUATE	TOTAL AMERICAN INDIAN	NSU TOTAL	PERCENT AMERICAN INDIAN
2024	1,883	409	2,292	6,642	34.51
2023	1,849	381	2,230	6,409	34.79
2022	1,892	406	2,298	6,631	34.66
2021	1,926	411	2,337	7,006	33.36
2020	2,096	358	2,454	7,291	33.66
2019	2,284	350	2,634	7,496	35.14
2018	2,631	310	2,941	7,899	37.23
2017	2,573	277	2,850	7,906	36.05
2016	2,502	317	2,819	8,100	34.80
2015	2,510	326	2,836	8,276	34.27
2014	2,525	313	2,838	8,332	34.06
2013	2,513	255	2,768	8,559	32.34
2012	2,417	249	2,666	8,758	30.44
2011	2,290	236	2,526	9,361	26.98
2010	2,511	240	2,751	9,588	28.69
2009	2,309	257	2,566	9,318	27.54
2008	2,203	193	2,396	8,833	27.13

YEAR	UNDER-GRADUATE	GRADUATE	TOTAL AMERICAN INDIAN	NSU TOTAL	PERCENT AMERICAN INDIAN
2007	2,343	252	2,595	9,261	28.02
2006	2,411	245	2,656	9,540	27.84
2005	2,396	240	2,636	9,702	27.17
2004	2,435	281	2,716	9,562	28.40
2003	2,422	223	2,645	9,297	28.45
2002	2,257	243	2,500	8,984	27.83
2001	2,187	183	2,370	8,603	27.55
2000	1,962	139	2,101	8,378	25.08
1999	1,769	91	1,860	8,121	22.90
1998	1,920	120	2,040	8,462	24.11
1997	1,875	109	1,984	8,503	23.33
1996	1,760	99	1,859	8,710	21.34
1995	1,786	130	1,916	8,273	23.16
1994	1,766	135	1,901	9,374	20.28
1993	1,582	138	1,720	9,299	18.50
1992	1,521	172	1,693	9,527	17.77



Total American Indian Enrollment by Year

STAFF

Elizabeth Bird, M.Div.
United Keetoowah Band |
Director

Tavia Armstrong, B.S.
Cherokee | Student Services
Coordinator

Jerret Carpenter, B.S.A.G.
Choctaw | Student Programs
Coordinator

Gaelen Rose, M.S.
Cherokee | Student Engagement
Coordinator

Randilyn Rose, M.S.

Cherokee | Retention Specialist

Carla Feathers, M.A.
Project Manager, NASNTI

Karis Poafpybitty
Kiowa, Cherokee & Comanche |
Therapist

52ND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN -

*Reclamation for an
Indigenous Future
April 17-12, 2025*

AMERICAN INDIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Alpha Pi Omega Sorority
American Indigenous Business Leaders
American Indian Science
& Engineering Society
Native American Student Association

CENTER FOR TRIBAL STUDIES

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