Penn-Native American Studies

Philadelphia has served historically as a center for treaties, urban Indian communities and education. Located in Philadelphia, Penn recognizes the traditional homelands of the Lenape Indians and has played a significant role in supporting the educational pursuits of native peoples. In 1740, the College was chartered, and two Mohawk brothers attended classes at what was then called the Academy of Philadelphia. In 1847, Robert Daniel Bone (Cherokee) became the first Native American to earn a Penn degree. The first Penn Nursing Class of 1889 graduated a native woman named Elizabeth Warin. Louis Bruce (Mohawk) graduated from the Penn Dental School in 1904, and later became instrumental in the organization of NCLAI, where he served as Executive Director. He also advocated for the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. Gladys Tiestapquois (Mohagoni), prominent native scholar, began studying anthropology at Penn in 1926. Her work specialized in a round herbal medicine and recognition of many east coast tribes, culminating in the 1994 Federal Recognition of her Mohegan Tribe.

Native Resources at Penn

The Penn Center for Native American Studies, established in 1996, promotes the interests and welfare of Native American students and faculty, and supports accurate research and presentation of Native history. ANA also cultivates a acknowledgment that the University resides on land that is original to Native inhabitants and thus their history is part of the history of the University of Pennsylvania. www.upenn.edu/aua

The Greenfield Intercultural Center

The Greenfield Intercultural Center was established in 1994 and welcomes all students interested in fostering intercultural understanding on campus. Among its many programs and services, the center is home to Native Americans at Penn and hosts speakers, film screenings, and conferences highlighting issues in Indian Country. The center is connected to the local Lenape community whose members support and participate in many of the center’s events. www.upenn.edu/aic

Recent Campus Speakers

Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy, GED1K, GED1, Arizona State University, “Race in the Academy”
Alice Johnston, NYTimes, “Advocacy Work with Canadian First Nations”
Dolphins Red Shirt, PAR’11, Stanford University, “Language Revitalization”
Suzan Haskins, President, Moving That أربیأع, “Dialogues Across Indian Country”
Mamani Meyer, University of Hawaii at Hilo, “Dialogues Across Indian Country”
John Sanchez, visiting professor, Penn State, “American Indians and the Media”

Visiting Campus

Tour and Information Sessions are held weekdays year-round and during the summer months. Please call (215) 898-7507 or visit the Admissions website for more information and a complete schedule. www.admissions.upenn.edu/visit

Financial Aid

Penn prides itself on need-blind admissions, meets full demonstrated financial need, and provides a no-loan aid package for students who receives aid, so they may graduate debt-free. The average financial aid amount for incoming awarded freshmen in 2011 was $38,584. www.aid.upenn.edu

Admissions Deadlines

Early Decision (binding) application: November 1
Regular Decision application: January 1
Transfer application: March 15
Note: Penn uses the Common Application. www.comonapp.org

Since its founding in 1740, Penn’s mission has been to educate young minds with “an inclination and ability to serve all mankind.” More than 270 years later, our students continue to use the new discoveries, theories, and knowledge introduced every day on our campus to solve problems in the real world. We serve this mission by seeking students who care deeply about the world they will inherit and who aspire to use their education to effect positive change. Penn offers a unique experience to Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native students who are interested in studying in an urban environment. Below is a list of some of the resources available to our undergraduates:

Natives At Penn

Native Americans at Penn, originally founded in 1994, is a student organization representing Native American, Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native students on Penn’s campus. NAP undergraduates and graduate students meet with University faculty and staff to increase awareness of contemporary Indigenous issues, attend intercultural events such as the All-Indy Native Conference, work with the Office of Admissions to sponsor recruitment events, and host Penn’s Annual Powwow every year. Apart from engaging with the Penn community, NAP students also attend events hosted by local tribes and are supported by the partnerships they create within their own communities as well. Current members of NAP represent nations from across Indian country including Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Oglala Lakota, Navajo, Cherokees, Hunkpapa Lakota, Lakota, Washoe, Mescalero Apache, Lenape, Cherokee, Miskito, Washoe, Mescalero Apache, Lenape, Cherokee, Lakota, Navajo, Cheyenne River Sioux, Micmac, Choctaw, and more. The NAP represents nations from across Indian country including Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Oglala Lakota, Navajo, Cherokees, Hunkpapa Lakota, Lakota, Washoe, Mescalero Apache, Lenape, Cherokee, Miskito, Washoe, Mescalero Apache, Lenape, Cherokee, Lakota, Navajo, Cheyenne River Sioux, Micmac, Choctaw, and Micmac.

College Horizons

Penn is proud to be one of the 12 hosts of College Horizons, a non-profit organization that supports the higher education of Native American students by providing college and graduate admission workshops to American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian students/participants from across the nation. Penn has been a partner university with College Horizons for more than seven years and supports their increased recruitment efforts in Indian Country.

Natives at Wharton

Natives at Wharton was founded in 2012 in order to foster a community of Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian Wharton graduate students and those interested in native cultures. The group provides an informal mentorship program between club members and native Penn undergraduates who have an interest in business.

United Minority Council

The United Minority Council (UMC) founded in 1978, is an undergraduate student coalition of Penn’s Caribbean/ African American, Asian/ Paciﬁc Islander, Latino, and Native American student organizations. The UMC across campus to provide a forum of advocacy, relection and action on issues of concern to student of color at Penn. The UMC also hosts two major university activities during the academic year: Unity Week in the Fall and Celebration of Cultures in the Spring.

Penn Center for Native American Studies

The Penn Center for Native American Studies, established in 2007, promotes research and education to foster cross-cultural understanding of the indigenous peoples of the Americas. The Center seeks to enhance the diversity of the Penn community by actively engaging in increasing the enrollment of Native American students and the number of Native-American faculty and staff. The Center is committed to conducting outreach to Native American communities, particularly the Lenape (Dolores Indian) people, upon whose ancestral lands the University sits. There are approximately 40 courses taught at Penn with substantial Native American content and spanning a variety of disciplines including Anthropology, Education, Folklore, History, History preservation, Law, Linguistics, and many more. www.sas.upenn.edu/cnas

American Indian Cultures Residential Program

This new interdisciplinary program, housed in the Rock College House, brings together a diverse group of students interested in American Indian cultures and societies. The residential community is connected to a network of faculty across campus within education, history, anthropology, linguistics, history of art, and law. Residents in this program are involved in a range of activities including meeting with speakers from different American Indian nations, visiting the National Museum of the American Indian at the Smithsonian, and participating in a mentorship film series, a student research forum, and a spring powwow organized in collaboration with the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. http://www.collegehouse.upenn.edu/residentialprograms/ii-crap-13-04
The College was chartered. Two Mohawk brothers attend.

Elizabeth Weston earns Nursing Degree in first class. Louis Bruce earns AB at Penn. Gladys Tantaquidgeon attends Penn. Indian Citizenship Act.

Native students from many nations pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees. United States Congress funds Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) entitled “Native Voices.”

Penn Compact established. NSF funds Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) entitled “Native Voices.”

Six Directions hosted the All-Ivy Native Conference for the first time at the Penn Museum. Six Directions founded and Pow-wow held.

Penn becomes the first Ivy League institution to host the prestigious Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. Penn hosts College Horizons.

The Association of Native Alumni (ANA) founded.

Penn School of Nursing hosts the first Summit on American Indian Health Care where Native and non-native attendees from 18 states and Canada consisted of providers, faculty, students, and community participants.

Penn becomes the first Ivy League institution to host the prestigious Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. "Six Directions" name changed to "Natives at Penn." Annual Penn was established by "Natives at Penn."