

Advantages to Earning the Native American Law Emphasis

In today's economy, completing this Emphasis within one's legal education will benefit law graduates seeking employment with federal/state agencies, private firms, Tribal Nations, and others entities where Native American Law issues arise. Prospective employers are becoming more aware of the intersections of tribal jurisdiction, federal jurisdiction and state jurisdiction as well as the distinctive sources of law for each. Part of this growing trend in the region is evidenced by the fact that several western states include Indian law as a testable subject for their state bar examinations.

Educationally, the Native American Law Emphasis adds to the law student's base of knowledge on a variety of issues, including the basics of criminal law in tribal territories where federal, tribal and, at times, state law intersect; the extent of tribal civil jurisdiction in various contexts; tribal authority under major federal environmental statutes; examples of intergovernmental agreements between Tribes and states in the region; the legal landscape concerning tribal economic development; the continuing vitality of tribal treaty rights; and many other topics. The Emphasis provides an in-depth examination into law topics that cross-cut many other areas of the law.

Law students successfully completing the Native American Law Emphasis will have the emphasis reflected on their official law school transcripts. As a specialization designation within the legal field, the Native American Law Emphasis will bestow considerable benefits for those successfully completing the emphasis.

University of Idaho Native Law Program consists of four components:

- ▶ Native American Law Emphasis
- ▶ Native American Law Student Association (NALSA)
- ▶ Native American Law Faculty Member, Associate Professor Angelique EagleWoman, James E. Rogers Fellow in American Indian Law
- ▶ Collaboration with Regional Tribal Nations



For more information on the Native Law Program at the University of Idaho College of Law, please contact:

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University of Idaho
College of Law



The Native American Law Emphasis

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The University of Idaho College of Law's Native American Law Emphasis is based on an intense course of study on Native American law and related topics, to be completed during the course of a student's J.D. program. After completing the first year of law school, interested students may apply for approval to pursue the Native American Law Emphasis. The Native American Law Emphasis requirements will be met in the second and third years of law school. Upon successful completion of the Emphasis, the law school transcript will note the fulfillment of the Native American Law Emphasis.

The Emphasis requires a minimum of 6 credits completed in the Native American Law curriculum, 6 credits completed in law school courses or graduate courses in a related topic area to Native American Law, (a total of 12 credits through coursework), a substantial research paper in the area of Native American Law and completion of a total of twenty (20) service hours of experiential learning involving the application of Native American Law. All aspects of the Emphasis require the pre-approval for each component by the Native American Law Emphasis Advisor, Professor Angelique EagleWoman.

The specific requirements for the Emphasis are as follows:

A. From the Native American Law curriculum: (6 credits)

Native American Law, 3 credits

Plus one or more of the following:

Native American Natural Resources Law, 3 credits
Topics in Native American Law, 2-6 credits

B. A research paper of 20 – 30 pages focused specifically on an area within Native American Law.

The paper must meet the standards of the Upper Division Writing Requirement as outlined in the University of Idaho College of Law Bylaws. The paper topic must be pre-approved by the Native American Law Emphasis Advisor.

C. Two related courses offered regularly as part of the Law School curriculum or the Graduate Studies programs of the University of Idaho or Washington State University. A law student may take only one course from a Graduate Studies Program to count towards the Native American Law Emphasis. (6 credits)

Law School Courses:

Administrative Law, 3 credits

Basic Family Mediation, 2 credits

Critical Legal Studies, 2 - 3 credits

Environmental Law I, 3 credits

Environmental Law II, 3 credits

Introduction to Intellectual Property, 3 credits

International Business Transactions, 3 credits

International Environmental and Water Law, 3 credits

Local Government and Land Use Law, 3 credits

Natural Resource Law and History, 3 credits

Natural Resources Law and Policy, 3 credits

Negotiation and Alternative Dispute Resolution, 2 credits

Public International Law, 3 credits

Public Land Law, 3 credits

Water Law, 3 credits

Water Policy Seminar, 3 credits

Topics in Native American Law, 2-6 credits
(if not previously counted in Section A)

Up to 3 credits of course work at the University of Idaho or Washington State University:

Any graduate course related to Native American Law issues deemed appropriate and approved by the Native American Law Emphasis Advisor and the Associate Dean of the College of Law.

D. Completion of 20 service hours of experience documented and approved by the Native American Law Emphasis Advisor, including participation in any of the following:

- Successful participation in the Immigration Clinical Program, the Victims' Rights Clinic or the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Clinic with an assignment related to Native Law issues;
- Externship with a Tribal Court or Tribal entity that meets the Law School's current rules governing externships and has proper supervision;
- An approved Public Service Externship in the Native American Law area;
- A legal internship with a private law firm or administrative agency that focuses substantially on the practice of Native American Law with assignments in that area of the practice which may include paid work; or
- Pro Bono service substantially related to Native American Law issues and that meets the University of Idaho College of Law Pro Bono Service Requirements.

