

# NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay

[nipissingu.ca/nativestudies](http://nipissingu.ca/nativestudies)

Native Studies



## Program Description

Native Studies offers you an opportunity to learn about Native cultures, philosophies, literature, histories, and contemporary issues that are central to this land that we live in. Its multidisciplinary approach reflects the different directions of the Medicine Wheel, so your studies will include the physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual aspects that are needed for true learning according to indigenous thought.

Built upon traditional First Nations land and with a number of First Nations communities in the area, North Bay and Nipissing University are significant centres of aboriginal influence and activity. It would be challenging to find a more appropriate or ideal place than Nipissing to study and engage with a diversity of native cultures, communities, and organizations.

Our program welcomes both Native and non-Native students in an inclusive, side-by-side learning environment. By studying at Nipissing, you will get a first-rate academic experience, and you will also be immersed in local Native communities (both urban and rural). You will have access to and learn from many aboriginal organizations and services in the North Bay area including the North Bay Métis Council and the North Bay Indian Friendship Centre. You will also meet elders, access a wide range of resources, and participate in or learn from many community activities and events.

Our Office of Indigenous Initiatives (Enji giigdoyang) is available to help you transition smoothly into the university system with many useful services at your fingertips such as, tutoring and counseling. It will also connect you with interactive activities, guest speakers, and elders. You will find plenty of support and opportunities to make new friends!

## Our Teaching Approach

Our Native Studies program assists our students with accumulating a comprehensive academic foundation in writing and critical thinking skills. Our program emphasizes hands-on and experiential learning. Because of the high concentration of both urban and rural Native communities in the North Bay area, you will have many opportunities for connecting with, participating in and learning first hand from diverse Native sources. Attending a Native ceremony, participating in pow-wows, and participating in discussions of mutual interest are just a few of the experiences you will have.

Our growing Native Studies program remains close-knit with small class sizes. This gives you great access to one-on-one help from professors and creates a community atmosphere. In upper years of the program, you will find yourself in classes of 15-20 students, which allows for thorough discussion and engagement with the subjects.

In addition to their commitment to teaching, our excellent faculty is very active in researching and cataloguing native artifacts, with work in topics like eco-trails, and plants on the Nipissing First Nation, Dokis First nation and other similar communities in the vicinity.





## Program and Faculty

### Bachelor of Arts

- Major
- Minor

Our program is designed with the four keys to learning in mind. The Native Creativity in the Arts course addresses the emotional aspect by encouraging personal expression in various forms. Native Philosophy provides an introduction to Native worldviews and addresses both physical and intellectual content. Native Spirituality and Religions course examines different faith systems and responds to spiritual inquiry.

In first year it is common and recommended to take *Madjitaang, In the Beginning: An Introduction to Native Studies*. Note that it is possible to have the Introduction course waived under certain circumstances and with the permission of the instructor.

In upper years, you will be able to focus on more specific topics that you have an interest in. Some of those courses include Native Literature, Native Kinships with Environment, Ethnobotany, Colonialism in First Nations Communities, and more. Many of these courses build on each other, with each year expanding on the skills developed in previous courses.

In our courses, you will have many opportunities for direct experiential activities or hands-on work. Many classes give assignments that will involve you speaking with or learning directly from a Native community member, attending a ceremony or activity, or engaging in some other opportunity

with direct involvement. In the Ethnobotany course, for example, you will visit a First Nation's community to discover the inter-relationship between humans and plants, bringing real-world experience into your studies.

### Bachelor of Education: The Schulich School of Education

If you want to earn a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, you can choose the Consecutive Program once you've completed your undergraduate degree.

The Schulich School of Education is one of the best education programs in Ontario. It will prepare you to teach in both traditional and non-traditional environments, and you will gain communication and collaborative skills that can be used in any career.

Our teacher candidates are immersed in an active professional learning environment with support and resources available through our Professional Learning Centre.

Each term a calendar of opportunities is made available, and you will be invited to participate in a series of real-world professional experiences that help you to hone skills, strategies and activities that integrate digital technology resources, enhance school community involvement, develop a personal résumé, portfolio and interview techniques, and much more.

All professional learning opportunities are designed to support and supplement course content by broadening teaching/learning skills and by building your confidence and readiness for the teaching profession.



## Why Nipissing?

You will feel right at home the minute you step onto campus. Becoming a part of our community is just one of the many perks of attending Nipissing. You will also benefit from small class sizes where you will have a name and a voice. Should you need help, you will have access to our supportive professors, even outside of classroom hours.

Nipissing is focused on student success. So you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally.

In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school.

We encourage you to come and see for yourself why you belong at Nipissing.

## Where Can I Go From Here?

With a strong base of transferable skills in writing, research, and critical thinking, you will find that a Native Studies degree gives you a wide variety of career options to choose from. In addition, your knowledge of Native studies and well-developed cultural sensitivity will be highly valued by employers—especially in the government, arts, non-profit, human resources, and public relations sectors.

You may pursue careers in areas as diverse as policy development, politics, Indigenous organization, social work, consulting, journalism, social service-related work, and much more.

You may also continue your studies in Master and Doctorate-level programs, or professional schools like law or teaching. The growing demand for Native curriculum in schools means that education and teaching is a great career option.

Sign up for Open House, a tour, or more information:  
[ibelongatnipissingu.ca](http://ibelongatnipissingu.ca)

For more information please visit: [nipissingu.ca/nativestudies](http://nipissingu.ca/nativestudies)



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

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