

What Can I Do With a Minor in First Nations Studies?

FIRST NATIONS STUDIES

Courses in First Nations Studies will give you expertise in the study of traditional and contemporary issues involving the aboriginal peoples, particularly of North America and of Canada. It focuses on the study of the traditional cultures, languages, and the history of First Nations, as well as "Indian-White" relations, the development of federal and provincial policies toward native peoples, aboriginal rights and title questions, economic development, self-government, and intergenerational issues. You will be able to examine critically the above issues, taking into account the perspectives of aboriginal peoples. In addition, it exposes students to research methods pertinent to past, present, and future issues affecting aboriginal peoples. In this respect, it is especially relevant for First Nations students who wish to put knowledge of Native issues and research skills to practice in serving their communities and nations.

(Source: <http://www.sfu.ca/fns>)

WHAT SKILLS HAVE YOU DEVELOPED WITH YOUR DEGREE?

While the academic knowledge you acquire through your BA may be directly applicable to some careers, the general skills you gain with an Arts degree are the most valuable to employers. These skills are not limited to course work, and may be gained through paid and/or volunteer work both on and off campus. The knowledge and skills gained through work experience, volunteering and extra-curricular activities are relevant to future work.

Communication Skills

The ability to communicate ideas clearly and efficiently in a variety of mediums (written, oral, visually and electronically).

Ability to effectively communicate aboriginal issues with sensitivity as well as to question the validity of established frameworks, preconceptions and stereotypes.

Information Management

Locate, gather, and organize information using appropriate technology and information systems. Use research skills to access, analyze, and apply knowledge.

Problem Solving

Use critical thinking skills to evaluate and solve problems. Demonstrate the ability to be creative and innovative in identifying solutions.

Teamwork Skills

Able to work effectively within a group.

Demonstrates the ability to lead or support the group while monitoring the success of a project and identifying ways to improve it.

Personal Management Skills

Able to work effectively and independently under deadlines.

Plan, design, and carry out projects from start to finish, with well-defined objectives and outcomes.

WHERE CAN YOU GO FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Career Services is your one-stop shop for more information. Through our workshops, one on one career and work search advising, and groups, you'll have access to information, resources and career and peer educators to help you no matter what stage of planning you are in, from exploring your interests to practicing for an interview, we can help.

For the self-directed, our on-line and print self-help resources covering topics from career exploration to researching careers to conducting a targeted work search are easily accessible. Check us out!

Visit the CSI—our blog with articles, job postings, employers and events on campus, and tips from the Career Services staff!

SFU CAREER SERVICES

Simon Fraser University
Burnaby Campus, MBC 0300

Come to the Maggie Benston Centre and go down to the lowest level. You will find us there Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm. Check out our blog for the latest articles, tips and news!

Phone: 778-782-3106
E-mail: career_services@sfu.ca
Website: www.sfu.ca/career.html
Blog: www.sfu.ca/career/csi.html

What are some of your Career Options?

The following is a non-exhaustive list of career options. Some of them may require further education than a minor in First Nations Studies.

DIRECT Career Options: A minor in First Nations Studies will serve as a credential for getting any of the following career choices as the skills required are similar to the skills acquired throughout your minor in First Nations Studies.

ABORIGINAL ISSUES LOBBYING ORGANIZER

Distributes materials and disseminates information about a particular issue or organization, recruits, volunteers, solicits funds, and organizes such efforts as rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and voter registration drives. Employers include special and public interest groups as well as professional lobbyists.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REPRESENTATIVE

Researches, analyzes and monitors staffing policies in order to achieve affirmative action goals. Conducts outreach activities in order to identify and attract qualified First Nations and minority applicants for company openings. Employers in all fields.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

Works for organizations that support the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage. Coordinates and assists with the planning, promotion and encouragement of programs that further public awareness of, accessibility to, participation in and support for artistic and cultural development.

FIRST NATIONS ISSUES EDUCATOR

Plans and conducts outreach presentations to the public on various issues concerning social, economic and political concerns. Issues might include segregation, poverty, human rights, language and culture among many others. Researches materials and provides visual aids to supplement speech. Works for non-profit organizations or special interest groups.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCHER

Works to improve awareness and accountability for human rights violations against indigenous populations, conducting fact-finding missions, writing and publicizing reports, briefing papers, letters, press releases and submissions to local and international bodies based on the findings.

LESS DIRECT Career Options:

Knowledge of First Nations Studies may be less pertinent to these positions and the minor alone in First Nations Studies may not serve as a credential for employment.

EDUCATION CONSULTANT/ RESEARCHER

Creates new educational methods and materials, assesses the effectiveness of existing methods and materials. Employers include school districts, private schools, manufacturers of educational equipment, educational publishers, and national testing organizations.

MULTICULTURALISM EDUCATOR

Implements programs devoted to promote multiculturalism across different communities. Coordinates programs and services for immigrants including promotion of culture, workshops and consulting services, community and diversity assessments as well as leadership development.

SOCIAL SERVICES PLANNERS

Conduct research, develop social programs, assess, coordinate and develop awareness of existing social services, and ensure that duplication of services is avoided.

SOCIAL SURVEY RESEARCHERS

Develop questionnaires, co-ordinate and conduct surveys, analyse data, and compile and interpret statistics on social issues and policy areas.

INDIRECT Career Options: On the surface, the following career options may not appear to have much to do with the study of First Nations Studies. Yet the primary skills required in these jobs are significantly related with some of the skills a First Nation Studies student acquires.

ELGIBILITY WORKER

Screens prospective beneficiaries of a government program to determine their eligibility for the program's services. Works for federal, state and local government agencies.

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

In an activist organization, program coordinators may supervise long-term public education and organize public events or demonstrations. Other responsibilities include administrative, research-oriented, organizational, and public-relations duties. Ability in public speaking is a valuable skill.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

ADVISOR

Administers various activities for college students, usually extracurricular. Positions include fraternity/sorority advisor, disciplinary advisor, foreign student advisor, student publications advisor, and so forth.