

Master's Program Assessment Report

Academic Year: 2012-13 and 2013-14

Department: Native American Studies

Program(s): All programs/options

1. Students completion of comprehensive exams and defenses/programs completions.

Native American Studies does not require comprehensive exams. We require students to submit a thesis or professional paper prospectus or proposal.

Thesis Defended	2012 – 2013	2013 – 2014
Totals	Four (4)	Two (2)

Professional Papers Completed	2012 – 2013	2013 – 2014
Totals	Four (4)	One (1)

2. Results of the comprehensive exams and defenses

Number Passes Failures	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014
Passes - Defenses	4	4
Failures - Defenses	0	0

3. Summary of ethics training among Masters' students who have finished their degrees.

Master's of Native American Studies students receive ethics training in two formats. One is as content area in NASX 505, *Proseminar in Native American Studies*, a required course in the program. Within a second required course, NASX 541 (*Critical Approaches to Native American Studies Methodologies*), students are required to complete successfully the "Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). One hundred percent (100 %) of students admitted in the program complete this requirement.

4. What Was Learned

In 2013, we required comprehensive examinations and found that students put off scheduling them until the last semester of coursework. In practice, students did not focus on a research topic or mythology until much later in the process. Eliminating the comprehensive exams in favor of a research proposal requirement encourages students to engage their research sooner.

5. How We Responded

While we do not require a comprehensive examination, our requirement of a thesis or professional paper prospectus or proposal supports the timely completion of degree requirements. The writing of the prospectus is integrated into a required course, NASX 540, Theoretical Positions in Native American Studies. Thus, students begin to narrow research topics earlier in their program, improving completion requirements.