

DQ UNIVERSITY POLICY ON THE INDIGENOUS CONTENT OF CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

D-Q UNIVERSITY was founded as a university of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, north and south. It is also a tribally-controlled college, directed by a board whose membership reflects the tribal peoples of the United States and of California in particular. Thus while DQU seeks to serve all Indigenous Peoples, and all who wish to learn about the Original Americans, its governance reflects an emphasis upon California and the region in which the campus and its branches are located.

DQ University has committed itself to offering an Associate in Arts degree and, when feasible, advanced degrees and special programs. As a part of the Associate in Arts degree DQU seeks to offer all students skills comparable with that which they might learn in any general Associate in Arts program, but what is special about DQU is its commitment since 1971 to the infusing of all courses with an Indigenous perspective and to offering a uniquely Native American education.

In keeping with this policy DQU has attempted to direct its faculty to introduce Original American cultures, perspectives, and materials in all of its courses, whenever possible. To further this objective DQU entered into a joint project with Humboldt State University to further infuse Indigenous perspectives and materials into as many courses as feasible. This project has not been fully implemented but the objectives continue to remain the official policy of the University.

In keeping with the above objectives, DQU will now seek to insure that all courses, whether part of the A.A. curriculum, or part of Extension offerings, and whether offered in English, Spanish, or other languages, contain Indigenous orientations and perspectives, and that all texts, readings, and materials, wherever possible and pertinent, will highlight the work of Indigenous authors and authorities and, or, utilize relevant sources, and that the content of all courses will be suitable and appropriate for an Indigenous institution.

By “Indigenous” the university means to refer to the Original Peoples of North, Central and South America primarily, but also, by extension and where appropriate, to similar Indigenous Peoples of other parts of the world (such as Maori, Native Hawaiians, Ainu, Sami, et cetera).

Not every field lends itself equally to the realization of our mission of Indigenous infusion, but even science courses can be designed so that Maya-Mesoamerican mathematics and Native American views of the Living Earth and Living Universe can be incorporated, for example. Applied courses, such as those relating to Early Childhood Education, can and should incorporate traditional Native American views on the manner of respecting children and on the roles of the extended family, et cetera. Much material is available on these concepts, as well as on other aspects of the well-being of parents, children, and communities.

It will be the task of the DQU Curriculum Committee and of DQU administrators and faculty, together, to examine all syllabi, outlines, and reading lists for courses and special offerings, in order to be sure that DQU is living up to its historic mission and commitment.

{Draft by Prof. Jack D. Forbes for use by the volunteers and board members seeking to bring the DQU catalog up to date in the summer of 2004. Of special importance was the effort to be sure that the Early Childhood Education program had Indigenous content and that science and other courses also reflected that perspective where appropriate.}.