

April 6, 2022

Zoila Mendoza

Department and Program Chair, Native American Studies Graduate Program

RE: Native American Studies Graduate Program Degree Requirements

Enclosed is a copy of the Native American Studies Graduate Program degree requirements as approved by Graduate Council on March 28, 2022. These degree requirements are now the revised, official document for the Native American Studies Graduate Program and will be posted to the Office of Graduate Studies program webpage:

<https://grad.ucdavis.edu/programs/gnas>

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of graduate education.

Sincerely,



Dean Tantillo
Chair, Graduate Council Committee

c: Jasmine Bonite, Project/Policy Analyst, Graduate Studies
Duncan Temple Lang, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Graduate Studies
Felicia Murdoch, Policy Analyst, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Victoria Torres, Coordinator, Native American Studies Graduate Program

Department of Native American Studies
PhD and MA Degree Requirements
Revised: August 7, 2020
Graduate Council Approval: March 28, 2022

The graduate program in Native American Studies emphasizes the Hemispheric Study of the Americas. Graduate students may narrow their focus area in their thesis and/or dissertation work. Throughout the process, students should coordinate their plan of study and chart their progress with their Major Professor and assigned Graduate Advisor.

MA Program Requirements

1) Admissions Requirements

Consideration for program admission requires a bachelor's degree, three letters of recommendation, official undergraduate transcripts, a CV, and a 10-20 page writing sample, and the Office of Graduate Studies online application with fee by the stated admission deadline. There are no other prerequisites other than possession of a Bachelor's degree. The online application can be found here:

<http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/prospective/applicationlanding.html>. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for consideration. Admissions decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Meeting some or all of these criteria does not guarantee admission, but merely eligibility. The decision to recommend admission to the Dean of Graduate Studies will be made by the Program Admissions Committee on the basis of available space and the competitiveness of applicants compared to the eligible pool.

2) MA, Plan I or II

The MA Program in NAS requires approximately two years. The length of the program, however, is based on the student's progress in mastering subject matter. Ordinarily, the MA thesis or comprehensive exam should be completed by the second year.

There are two possible plans for completion of the Master's Degree; Plan I (Thesis), or Plan II (Examination). By the end of the second quarter of their first year, students should begin consulting with their Major Professor to determine which is the best option for the completion of the MA Degree.

Plan I. This plan requires a minimum of 30 units of graduate and upper division courses (the 100 and 200 series), of which at least 16 units must be graduate courses in NAS. Students may take up to 8 units of course work in the 100 series. These must not duplicate courses taken for the bachelor's degree. The choice of courses must be made in consultation with the Major Professor and Graduate Advisor. In addition, a thesis is required. The thesis serves as the capstone requirement.

Plan II. This plan requires a minimum of 36 units of graduate and upper division courses (the 100 and 200 series), of which at least 20 units must be graduate courses in NAS. Not more than 4 units of research (299 or 298 courses) and up to 8 units of 100-level courses may be used to satisfy the remaining required 16 units. The undergraduate 100-level courses can fulfill one of

the graduate subject areas noted below if the professor works with the student to add additional unit of 299. The choice of courses must be made in consultation with the Major Professor and Graduate Advisor. A comprehensive examination of three hours is required of each candidate. No thesis is required.

3) Course Requirements – Core and Electives (30 units—MA Plan I; 36 units—MA Plan II)

Successful completion of a Master's Degree requires knowledge of the following subject areas listed below. Students may have fulfilled this requirement prior to admission. Otherwise, relevant coursework will have to be taken at Davis.

- Native American history (North, Central or South America)
- Native American religion and philosophy
- Native American government, politics and society
- Native American/Indigenous art (visual sovereignty)
- Native American performance
- Native American literature
- Native American women
- Native American language or linguistics

A full listing of all Native American Studies courses offered at UC Davis is available on-line here: <https://ucdavis.pubs.curricunet.com/Catalog/nas>. There are also courses outside of NAS that will be of interest to NAS graduate students. We encourage you to review the registrar's schedule of upcoming classes, and to contact professors and departmental administrators to learn about relevant coursework that may not be part of the regular NAS offerings.

Plan I

a) Core Courses (8 units)

- NAS 200 (4) Basic Concepts in NAS
- NAS 246 (4) Native American and Indigenous Research Methodologies

b) Elective Courses (22 units)

Options for elective courses include but are not limited to:

- NAS 202 (4) Advanced Topics in NAS (may be repeated for credit)
- NAS 207 (4) Leadership Skills and Strategies in California Language Documentation & Revitalization
- NAS 212 (4) Indigenous Community Development for Sovereignty and Autonomy
- NAS 213 (4) Native Criminality and Deviance
- NAS 217 (4) Public Law 83-280: Colonial Termination
- NAS 220 (4) Colonialism, Neoliberalism and Indigenous Self-Determination
- NAS 224 (4) Performance in the Americas
- NAS 233 (4) Visual Sovereignty
- NAS 237 (4) Native American Art Collections and Museums
- NAS 240 (4) Native American Public Health: Topics and Issues
- NAS 250 (4) Indigenous Critique of Classic Maya Ethnographies
- NAS 254 (4) Native American Literature

- NAS 257 (4) Indigenous Religious Traditions in the Americas
- NAS 280 (4) Ethnohistorical Theory and Method
- Independent study (299, 298)
- Graduate courses in a related discipline, i.e., Critical Theory; Cultural Studies; Anthropology; Human Rights; History; Music; Performance Studies; and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

c) English Language Requirement

Students who have not obtained an undergraduate or graduate degree at an approved English-medium institution, or who have not demonstrated strong English language proficiency through the TOEFL or IELTS exam are required to take appropriate English language courses, as described in Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language (GC-2018-02). Courses taken in satisfaction of this requirement do not count towards the total number of units (30 for MA Plan I) required for graduation.

- d) Summary.** The MA Plan I requires a minimum of 30 units of graduate and upper division courses (the 100 and 200 series), of which at least 16 units must be graduate courses in NAS. Students must complete the two required core courses, NAS 200 and NAS 246, with a grade of B+ or better or they will be required to repeat the course. Students may take up to 8 units of course work in the 100 series. These must not duplicate courses taken for the bachelor's degree. The choice of courses must be made in consultation with the Major Professor and Graduate Advisor. A minimum course load is 12 units each academic quarter. Per UC regulations, students cannot enroll in more than 12 units of graduate level courses (200) or more than 16 units of combined undergraduate and graduate level (100, 200, 300) courses per quarter.

Plan II

a) Core Courses (8 units)

- NAS 200 (4) Basic Concepts in NAS
- NAS 246 (4) Native American and Indigenous Research Methodologies

b) Elective Courses (28 units)

Options for elective courses include but are not limited to:

- NAS 202 (4) Advanced Topics in NAS (may be repeated for credit)
- NAS 207 (4) Leadership Skills and Strategies in California Language Documentation & Revitalization
- NAS 212 (4) Indigenous Community Development for Sovereignty and Autonomy
- NAS 213 (4) Native Criminality and Deviance
- NAS 217 (4) Public Law 83-280: Colonial Termination
- NAS 220 (4) Colonialism, Neoliberalism and Indigenous Self-Determination
- NAS 224 (4) Performance in the Americas
- NAS 233 (4) Visual Sovereignty
- NAS 235 (4) Native American and Indigenous Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies
- NAS 237 (4) Native American Art Collections and Museums
- NAS 240 (4) Native American Public Health: Topics and Issues

- NAS 250 (4) Indigenous Critique of Classic Maya Ethnographies
 - NAS 254 (4) Native American Literature
 - NAS 257 (4) Indigenous Religious Traditions in the Americas
 - NAS 280 (4) Ethnohistorical Theory and Method
 - Independent study (299, 298)
 - Graduate courses in a related discipline, i.e., Critical Theory; Cultural Studies; Anthropology; Human Rights; History; Music; Performance Studies; and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies
- c) **Summary.** The MA Plan II requires a minimum of 36 units of graduate and upper division courses (the 100 and 200 series), of which at least 20 units must be graduate courses in NAS. Students must complete two required core courses, NAS 200 and NAS 246, with a grade of B+ or better or they will be required to repeat the course. Not more than 4 units of research (299 or 298 courses) or 8 units of 100- level courses may be used to satisfy the remaining required 16 units. Independent study (299 or 298 courses) are graded on a S/U basis and, therefore, do not count as letter- graded courses. Students may take more independent studies with the approval of the Major Professor, but only four units (the equivalent of one graduate course) can count towards the degree. Faculty may require graduate students enrolled in upper division undergraduate courses to complete additional work. The choice of courses must be made in consultation with the Major Professor. A minimum course load is 12 units each academic quarter. Per UC regulations, students cannot enroll in more than 12 units of graduate level courses (200) or more than 16 units of combined undergraduate and graduate level (100, 200, 300) courses per quarter.

4) **Special Requirements: Native Language Requirement for the MA Degree**

Students seeking the MA degree are required to demonstrate basic competence in a Native American/Indigenous language. With the approval of their Major Professor and the Graduate Adviser, students demonstrate knowledge of a Native American language by one of the following:

1. Complete 4 units of coursework or independent study, in which the student examines some aspect of a Native American/ Indigenous language relevant to their research.
2. Participate in a language internship program in which at least one quarter is spent off-campus doing language study in an Indigenous community, or taking classes in an Indigenous language through a tribe, or a college or university.
3. A student who comes to the program with a high degree of proficiency in a Native American/ Indigenous language may compose a 500-word text in the language (either in writing or by audio recording) without the help of a dictionary. This option is normally reserved for people who are native speakers of the language or who have other relevant background, such as advanced coursework or extensive experience living in communities where the language is spoken. A Native speaker, or a qualified linguist or language teacher may act as a consultant for purposes of judging language competence. In the

event of failure, a student may repeat an examination after one month. In the event of two successive failures the student may be required to enroll in a language course designated by the Graduate Adviser.

5) Committees

- a) **Admissions Committee.** Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions Committee. Given the comparatively small size of our faculty, the Admissions Committee consists of all department faculty. Each faculty member reads each application and ranks applicants. Admissions committee members consider factors including preparation for graduate study in NAS, research objectives and goals for graduate school, potential for faculty mentorship, and competitiveness for internal and external fellowships. Faculty then meet as a group to discuss individual rankings and consider all applicants in the context of Departmental, individual mentor, and financial capacity to support applicants. Based on a holistic review process that incorporates both individual and collective Departmental considerations, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant's request for admission. That recommendation is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies. Applications are accepted through the deadline listed on the program website of the previous year for the next Fall entering class.
- b) **Course Guidance or Advising Committee.** The student's course guidance committee is composed of their Major Professor (assigned by the faculty at time of admission, but subject to change by student via petition) and the Graduate Advisor. The student will select a preliminary list of courses and bring that list to the Major Professor and Graduate Advisor for consultation and approval at the beginning of the Fall quarter of the first year, and again during every subsequent Spring quarter, to formulate the plan of study for the following year.
- c) **MA Thesis Committee.** After a research topic has been selected, and in consultation with the Major Professor, the student forms the thesis committee. At least two of the three faculty members on the committee must be from within NAS. Although it is not required, one committee member may be from outside of NAS. The student's Major Professor is the Chair of the thesis committee. The Candidacy for the Master's Degree – Thesis Plan I (GS313) form should be completed and submitted to Graduate Studies by the end of the first year. The Thesis Chair and the Graduate Advisor must sign the form prior to submitting it to Graduate Studies (with a copy of the completed form to the Graduate Program Coordinator). The Dean of Graduate Studies, in approving the application, appoints the thesis committee. The student should remain in regular communication with all members of their committee during the implementation of the research for the thesis.

- d) MA Comprehensive Examination Committee. At least 1 quarter prior to the proposed exam date, the NAS Graduate Advisor will confer with the faculty and appoint a Comprehensive Examination Committee. The Committee must consist of three faculty, one of whom is the student's major professor. The Committee will be Chaired by a faculty member who is not the student's major professor.

6) Advising Structure and Mentoring

The **Major Professor** is the NAS faculty member who supervises the student's research and thesis; this person serves as the Chair of the Thesis Committee (for Plan I) or serves on the examination committee (for Plan II). During admission deliberations, faculty elect to serve as Major Professor to incoming students.

The **Graduate Advisor**, who is nominated by the Chairperson of the Native American Studies Graduate Group and appointed by Graduate Studies, is a resource for information on academic requirements, policies and procedures, and registration information.

The **Graduate Program Coordinator (staff)** is the main staff support person in charge of various aspects of the administration of the program. The graduate program coordinator assists students with navigating departmental and general university policies.

The **Mentoring Guidelines** are posted on the NAS Department website <https://nas.ucdavis.edu/mentoring-guidelines>

7) Advancement to Candidacy

Every student must file an official application for Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Native American Studies and pay the Candidacy Fee after completing one-half of their course requirements and at least one quarter before completing all degree requirements; this is typically the end of the fourth quarter. The Candidacy for the Degree of Master form can be found online at: <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/forms> There are two choices of forms for Candidacy for the Master's Degree: [Candidacy for the Master's Degree - Thesis Plan I \(GS313\)](#) and the [Candidacy for the Master's Degree - Comprehensive Exam Plan II \(GS314\)](#). A completed form includes a list of courses the student will take to complete degree. It is recommended that the student make an appointment with the Graduate Advisor to complete the form. The student should bring to this meeting a copy of their transcript (unofficial) for the completion of page 2 of the form. The student is responsible for submitting the completed form, signed by the Graduate Advisor, to the Graduate Program Coordinator, who will in turn submit it to Graduate Studies. If changes must be made to the student's course plan after they have advanced to candidacy, the Graduate Adviser must recommend these changes to Graduate Studies. MA Plan I students must also have their Committee Chair sign the candidacy form before it can be submitted to Graduate Studies. If the candidacy is approved, the Office of Graduate Studies will send a copy to the appropriate Graduate Program Coordinator and the student; the Thesis Committee Chair will also receive a copy, if applicable. If the Office of Graduate Studies determines that a student is not eligible for advancement, the program and the student will be told the reasons for the application's deferral. Some reasons for deferring an application include: grade point average below 3.0, outstanding "I" grades in required courses, or insufficient units.

8) Thesis Requirements and/or Comprehensive Examination

a) Thesis Requirements (Plan I).

This section is for students who have elected to produce a thesis for the completion of the MA Degree in NAS (Plan I). Students should anticipate spending approximately one year in the preparation, research and development of the thesis. Students are encouraged to begin this work during the first year of graduate school. As a general guideline, one might anticipate spending one quarter reviewing literature in the area of focus, selecting a thesis topic, and identifying and developing the methodological approach (i.e., the means of conducting the research).

After a research topic has been selected, and in consultation with the Major Professor, the student forms the thesis committee (typically in the third quarter of the first year of study). The student's Major Professor is the Chair of the three-member thesis committee. At least two members of the MA thesis committee must be faculty members of the NAS graduate program. The student should remain in regular communication with all members of their committee during the implementation of the research for the thesis.

By the end of the third quarter of the first year, the student should have presented a detailed thesis proposal to the members of the thesis committee. Following approval of the proposal by the Chair of the committee, students conducting research with human subjects must seek and receive Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval (current forms are located here: <https://www.irbnet.org/release/index.html>). The student should anticipate devoting at least one summer and/or one quarter to conducting the research. The second quarter would be devoted to writing the thesis. At the beginning of the final quarter of the second year, the student should submit the thesis to the thesis committee.

MA Plan I students may choose between three options for completion:

Thesis

The thesis should be written in consultation with the Major Professor. A typical thesis in NAS is approximately 25,000- 33,000 words (100-130 pages), excluding bibliography and endnotes.

Generally, a thesis should include:

- Specific question or problem to be addressed
- Significance of project
- Methods
- Review of related literature(s)
- Detailed analysis and interpretation of findings
- Conclusions
- Bibliography

Creative Project

Native American Studies scholarship recognizes the value of creative and performative practice-based research. NAS scholars internationally are developing critical multi-media scholarship that reflects the multiplicity of Indigenous epistemologies and praxis. International bodies such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada are recognizing and investing in

“research creation,” which they define as: “An approach to research that combines creative and academic research practices, and supports the development of knowledge and innovation through artistic expression, scholarly investigation, and experimentation. The creation process is situated within the research activity and produces critically informed work in a variety of media (art forms).”

In NAS at UC Davis, we recognize the importance of rigorous multimedia research and project development. Several of our faculty are creative scholars and practitioners and teach specific courses in creative development, including sensory studies, digital media, art studio, and creative writing. Students developing creative projects should take at least two quarters of either coursework or independent study with faculty with expertise in the area of the creative project. Most NAS Seminars provide opportunities for students to complete creative projects (in lieu of traditional seminar papers). Therefore, students can receive guidance from various NAS faculty on creative projects, and/or they may opt to take relevant creative and performing arts seminars outside of NAS.

Students developing creative projects must have at least two committee members who can review their creative project. These two committee members focused on the creative project must include at least one NAS faculty member in the field(s), and may include an external committee member (who may/may not be a faculty member) with expertise in the particular creative field. The latter person may be a recognized artist and/or practitioner (traditional or contemporary) with expertise in the area of creative practice. Examples of creative projects may include, but are not limited to, recordings of music and dance performances, studio art, poetry collections, and digital media. Creative projects provide faculty positions in fields such as Film Studies, Visual Studies, Studio Art Studies, Performance Studies and Multi-media Studies, taught in dedicated departments such as American Studies or Native American Studies.

The creative project option for the thesis should consist of the following:

- An original creative work (artistic, musical, multimedia, production, performance, etc.)
- An approximately 20,000-word (80-page, double-spaced, 12-point font) document with comprehensive academic citations that situates the work within academic, creative, and cultural approaches, literatures, and themes. This document should include a literature review, methodology, results, and critical scholarly analysis of the creative project, its outcomes, and contributions to the field of Native and Indigenous Studies.
- A detailed bibliography of sources cited in the document (separate from and in addition to the 20,000-word document).

Publishable Papers

In consultation with the Major Professor, the student is expected to also produce one or two publishable papers on distinct topics.

The thesis should follow the format provided by Graduate Studies. Please see “Preparing and Filing Your Thesis or Dissertation” (<http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/filing.html>). The

thesis should be submitted to the thesis committee at least one month before the student plans to make requested revisions. The student makes appointments with each committee member to review their reactions, comments and suggestions. At least two weeks prior to the filing date, the student makes final revisions and submits the revised document to committee members for final approval. A final presentation is not required; however, students are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to present their work at departmental seminars and campus events.

All committee members must approve the thesis and sign the title page before the thesis is submitted to Graduate Studies for final approval. A thesis can only be filed when a student is registered as a full-time student or is on filing fee, and filing fee can only be used for one quarter (please find link for filing fee here: <https://ucdavis.app.box.com/v/FilingFeeApplication>). Instructions on preparation of the thesis and a schedule of dates for filing the thesis in final form are available from Graduate Studies. A student must have a GPA of 3.0 for the MA degree to be awarded.

Should the committee determine that the thesis is unacceptable, even with substantial revisions, the program may recommend to the Dean of Graduate Studies that the student be disqualified from the program.

Summary for Thesis Plan. The first year is devoted to completing core coursework and emphasis area course work as approved by the Major Professor, and developing and submitting the thesis proposal and the request for IRB approval, if needed. The second year of the program is devoted to completing any remaining coursework and the completion of the thesis.

- b) Comprehensive Examination (Plan II).** Fulfillment of the written Comprehensive Examination is the last requirement of the MA Plan II. By the end of the second quarter of the first year, students should consult with their Major Professor to determine if this is the best option for the completion of the MA degree. A student may take the comprehensive examination once they have advanced to candidacy.
- i) Timing.* A student may take the comprehensive examination once they have advanced to candidacy; typically, this is by the end of the first quarter of their second year. The student will complete the Candidacy for the Master's Degree: Comprehensive Exam Plan II form (GS314), which requires review and signature by the Graduate Advisor and the Graduate Program Coordinator. Once the form is filed with Graduate Studies and approved, the student confers with the Graduate Program Coordinator to schedule the exam.
- ii) Details of the Master's Exam.* Two weeks prior to the examination, the Graduate Advisor solicits questions from the student's Comprehensive Examination committee. The Committee must consist of three faculty, one of whom is the student's major professor. The Committee will be Chaired by a faculty member who is not the student's major professor. The exam will have three sections, one from each member of the Examination committee. Each faculty member will submit two questions, and the student will choose one question from each section. The Graduate Program Coordinator will submit the questions to the student. The student will have three days to complete the MA Exam remotely, and should dedicate one day to each

section. Students should produce one 10 pages or 4,000-5,000 words per answer (not including bibliography), for a total of three 10-page papers submitted at the end of the exam.

At the end of the exam, the student will electronically submit the three papers to the Graduate Program Coordinator, who will transmit them to the Committee. The Committee decide within one week if each response meets the criteria for successful completion of the exam. Successful completion is evidenced by complete answers to each of the questions, including relevant discussion of literature in a way that evidences both understanding and critical thinking, and reflects the training provided in graduate study in NAS. Graduate Studies requires the Exam committee's unanimous vote to pass a student on the exam. Faculty members may vote for pass or no pass. If all faculty members vote for pass, the student passes the exam. If even one faculty member votes 'no pass,' the student does not pass the exam. The Committee communicates their assessment to the MA Committee Chair, who communicates the outcome to the student.

iii) Outcome of the Comprehensive Exam. If the student's performance is deemed unsatisfactory on the Comprehensive Exam, the student will be able to re-take the exam one more time. Depending on the Committee's concurrence, if the student evidenced mixed performance on the exam, the student may be directed to do either a full or a partial re-take of the exam. The partial re-take will consist of re-writing only the question(s) which s/he did not pass. The full re-take will consist of re-writing all sections of the exam. The exam may not be repeated more than once. The second exam will follow the same format as the first exam, and must take place within one quarter of the initial exam. A student who does not pass on the second attempt will be recommended for disqualification from further graduate work in the program to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Once the student has successfully passed the Comprehensive Exam and has completed all requirements for the MA degree, the Graduate Advisor reviews the [Master's Candidate Degree Completion List](#) (GS304) and signs the [Master's Report Form - Plan II](#) (GS315). The Program Coordinator then submits the Report Form to Graduate Studies. A copy of this Report Form will be retained in the student's file. Please see the Graduate Studies Calendar and Deadlines (<https://grad.ucdavis.edu/calendar>) for appropriate filing dates.

Summary for the Examination Plan. The first year and approximately two quarters of the second year are devoted to completing core coursework as approved by the Major Professor. The final quarter of the second year is devoted to preparing for and taking the comprehensive exam.

9) Normative Time To Degree. Normative time is the elapsed time that a student would need to complete all requirements for the degree, assuming that they are engaged in full-time study and making adequate progress. There are two parts to Normative Time: Normative Time to Advancement to Candidacy and Normative Time in Candidacy. For MA Plan I, Normative

Time in Candidacy represents the number of quarters that are recommended for completion of the thesis.

- a)** *MA Plan I.* Normative time to Advancement to Candidacy for the MA Plan I degree is 1 year and 1 quarter. Normative Time in Candidacy is 2 quarters. Overall normative time for completion of the MA Plan I is 2 years. Extensions beyond 3 years are strongly discouraged.

- b)** *MA Plan II.* Normative time to Advancement to Candidacy for the MA Plan II degree is 1 year and 1 quarter. Normative Time in Candidacy is 2 quarters. Overall normative time for completion of the MA Plan II is 2 years. Extensions beyond 3 years are strongly discouraged.

10) Typical Timeline and Sequence of Events

a) MA Plan I.

Year One	Fall	Winter	Spring
	NAS 200	NAS 246	200 level course
	Advanced Language Training	200 level course	100/ 200 level course
	200 level course	200 level course	200 level course
Year Two	Fall	Winter	Spring
	200 level course (if needed)	Guided study with professor	Guided study with professor
	Guided study with professor	Drafting thesis	Completion of thesis
	Thesis research	Advancement to candidacy	

b) MA Plan II.

Year One	Fall	Winter	Spring
	NAS 200	NAS 246	200 level course
	Advanced Language Training	200 level course	100/ 200 level course
	200 level course	200 level course	200 level course
Year Two	Fall	Winter	Spring
	100/200 level course (if needed)	200 level course (if needed)	Guided study with professor
	Guided study with professor	Guided study with professor	Comprehensive Exam
		Advancement to candidacy	

11) Sources of funding. MA students are typically supported by Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Research Assistantships, fellowships, and grants. Students are encouraged to confer with their Major Professor after acceptance of admission to create a funding plan. Additional information is available in the “Financial Support” section of the NAS Graduate Handbook.

12) PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee Status

Information about Planned Educational Leave (PELP) (GS338) (a voluntary, temporary, planned interruption or pause in your regular, full-time education) can be found at https://grad.ucdavis.edu/sites/default/files/upload/files/current-students/g338_pelp.pdf

Information about In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state) can be found at <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/academics/registration/absentia>, and applied for via the In Absentia Registration form (GS308): <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/sites/default/files/upload/files/current-students/g308-in-absentia-registration.pdf>

Information about Filing Fee status can be found in the Filing Fee Application (GS305) https://grad.ucdavis.edu/sites/default/files/upload/files/current-students/g305_filingfeeapp.pdf, as well as in the “UC Davis Policies on Course Registration, Enrollment, and Matriculation” section of the NAS Graduate Handbook.

13) Transition from the MA Program to the PhD Program. The MA is a terminal degree and does not provide automatic advancement to the PhD program. Any MA student who wishes to be considered for the PhD program should notify the Graduate Program Chair and the Graduate Advisor in writing no later than the end of their fourth quarter of study by completing a Petition for Change of Graduate Major, Degree Objective, Multiple Graduate Majors, or Multiple Degree Objectives form (choose “Plan to complete current degree” and “Multiple Degree Objectives” options on petition). This petition may be found here: <https://ucdavis.app.box.com/v/PetitionforChange>. Applicants will then submit an application packet by the deadline listed on the program website, including a transcript, a proposal for PhD research, and proposed major professor and committee members. The packet and the petition will then be considered in the following academic year, at the same time as the applications from prospective students, and following the same considerations as outlined in the previous section entitled “Admissions Committee.” If the student’s petition is approved, the student will be required to complete their MA before starting the PhD program (Petition asks: “Do you intend to complete your present degree objective?” Answer: Yes). Students who enter with the MA as their degree objective and then are approved to transition to the PhD must complete the MA exam, along with all the PhD students who elect to obtain an MA on the way to earning a PhD. Students who enter as terminal MA students, complete the [Petition for Change of Graduate Major, Degree Objective, Multiple Graduate Majors, or Multiple Degree Objectives \(GS301\)](#) prior to earning a terminal MA degree, and are accepted into the PhD program, may count classes completed for the MA degree toward the course requirements for the PhD.

If a terminal MA student applies to the PhD program and is not accepted, that student may appeal the decision to the Native American Studies Graduate Program following UC Davis Graduate Studies Policy on the Implementation of Admission Requirements and Exceptions GS2014–04 (<https://ucdavis.app.box.com/v/policy-gs2014-04>) Appeal of Admission Denial. The appeal should be submitted within 30 days, in the form of a letter that provides a detailed discussion of the basis for the appeal along with any supporting evidence. Should the program decide to uphold the denial, applicants may make a final appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies within 30 days of being notified by the program that their admission denial was upheld. The appeal should take the form of a letter that provides a detailed discussion of the basis for the appeal, along with any supporting evidence. The Dean will forward the appeal to the Administrative Committee of the Graduate Council for its review. The decision of the Administrative Committee is final for all appeals.

A MA student who is accepted into the PhD program in NAS may complete their MA degree following either the Plan I (thesis) or Plan II (comprehensive exam) option. If they elect to follow Plan I, their thesis will be due by the end of the summer after their second year. If they elect to follow Plan II, they will take the comprehensive examination in the spring of their second year.

Ph.D. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1) Admissions Requirements

Consideration for program admission requires a bachelor's degree, three letters of recommendation, official transcripts, a CV, and a 10-20 page writing sample, and completion of the Office of Graduate Studies' online application with fee by the stated admission deadline. There are no other prerequisites other than possession of a Bachelor's degree. The online application can be found here: <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/apply>. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required for consideration.

Admissions decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Meeting some or all of these criteria does not guarantee admission, but merely eligibility. The decision to recommend admission to the Dean of Graduate Studies will be made by the Program Admissions Committee on the basis of available space and the competitiveness of applicants compared to the eligible pool.

2) Dissertation Plan

The PhD in the Department of NAS follows Graduate Studies Plan B, in which a Dissertation Committee composed of three faculty members directs the candidate in research and passes upon the merits of the dissertation. An exit seminar is required but students are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to present their work at departmental seminars and campus events.

C. Phil.—The Candidate in Philosophy Degree

All students who are advanced to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree are eligible for the Candidate in Philosophy (C.Phil.) degree. To be eligible for this designation, the student must possess the intellectual capacity to complete the requirements for the Ph.D. The Candidate in Philosophy degree is intended as a formal indication that the student has completed the requirements for advancement to candidacy; it is not intended as a terminal degree or a consolation prize for not completing the Ph.D. The advantage of this intermediate degree is that students who have fulfilled their residence requirements and have advanced to candidacy will have tangible evidence of this accomplishment if they wish to complete their dissertation while holding a full-time teaching or research position. To award the C.Phil., the Chair of the program should submit a letter outlining the justification for the award to their respective Student Affairs Officer in the Office of Graduate Studies.

3) Course Requirements – Core and Electives (48 units)

Successful completion of a PhD Degree requires knowledge at the graduate level of the following subject areas listed below. Students may have fulfilled this requirement prior to admission. Otherwise, relevant coursework will have to be taken at Davis.

- Native American history (North, Central, or South America)
- Native American religion and philosophy
- Native American government, politics, environment, and society
- Native American/Indigenous art (visual sovereignty)
- Native American performance

- Native American literature
- Native American women
- Native American language or linguistics

A full listing of all Native American Studies courses offered at UC Davis is available on-line here: <https://ucdavis.pubs.curricunet.com/Catalog/nas>. There are also courses outside of NAS that will be of interest to NAS graduate students. Students are encouraged to review the registrar's schedule of upcoming classes, and to contact professors and departmental administrators to learn about relevant coursework that may not be part of the regular NAS offerings.

a) Core Courses (8 units)

- NAS 200 (4) Basic Concepts in NAS
- NAS 246 (4) Native American and Indigenous Research Methodologies

b) Elective Courses (40 units)

Options for elective courses include but are not limited to:

- NAS 202 (4) Advanced Topics in NAS (may be repeated for credit)
- NAS 207 (4) Leadership Skills and Strategies in California Language Documentation & Revitalization
- NAS 212 (4) Indigenous Community Development for Sovereignty and Autonomy
- NAS 213 (4) Native Criminality and Deviance
- NAS 217 (4) Public Law 83-280: Colonial Termination
- NAS 220 (4) Colonialism, Neoliberalism and Indigenous Self-Determination
- NAS 224 (4) Performance in the Americas
- NAS 233 (4) Visual Sovereignty
- NAS 237 (4) Native American Art Collections and Museums
- NAS 240 (4) Native American Public Health: Topics and Issues
- NAS 250 (4) Indigenous Critique of Classic Maya Ethnographies
- NAS 254 (4) Native American Literature
- NAS 257 (4) Indigenous Religious Traditions in the Americas
- NAS 280 (4) Ethnohistorical Theory and Method
- Graduate courses in a related discipline, i.e., Critical Theory; Cultural Studies; Anthropology; Human Rights; History; Music; Performance Studies; and Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies

c) English Language Requirement

Students who have not obtained an undergraduate or graduate degree at an approved English-medium institution, or who have not demonstrated strong English language proficiency through the TOEFL or IELTS exam are required to take appropriate English language courses, as described in Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language (GC-2018-02). Courses taken in satisfaction of this requirement do not count towards the total number of units (30 for MA Plan I) required for graduation.

Summary. The PhD requires a minimum of 12 courses (48 units), excluding 298's and 299's. Two of the 12 courses are core courses. Students should complete the two core courses, NAS 200 and NAS 246, with a grade of B+ or better or they will be required to repeat the course. The other ten courses (40 units) are electives, all must be letter-graded courses, and eight (32 units) must be in the 200 series (graduate level). Five of the elective courses (20 units) must be in NAS. With the permission of the student's major professor and the instructor of record, two upper- division undergraduate course may be taken to fulfill the 48- unit course minimum. Undergraduate courses should not duplicate a course taken for the bachelor's degree. The undergraduate course can fulfill one of the graduate subject areas noted above if the professor works with the student to add additional unit of 299. Up to four units of graduate coursework completed during MA studies at UCD or another institution may be applied to the PhD. This does not apply to MA students who are approved to transition into the PhD degree objective (please see MA Degree Requirements, "Transition from the MA Program to the PhD Program," for guidelines for students admitted as NAS MA students who decide by the end of the first year to apply to the PhD program—if their application is approved, the courses they have taken for their MA will count toward the PhD).

The choice of courses must be made in consultation with the Major Professor. A minimum course load is 12 units each academic quarter. Per UC regulations, students cannot enroll in more than 12 units of graduate level courses (200) or more than 16 units of combined undergraduate and graduate level (100, 200, 300) courses per quarter.

4) Special Requirements

a) Non-English Language Requirements for the PhD Degree

The graduate program in Native American Studies recognizes the importance of Indigenous languages to an in-depth understanding of Native American/ Indigenous cultures. All students seeking the PhD degree are required to demonstrate competence in a Native American/ Indigenous language in one of the following ways:

1. A student who comes to the program with a high degree of proficiency in a Native American/ Indigenous language may compose a 500-word text in the language (either in writing or by audio recording) without the help of a dictionary. This option is normally reserved for people who are native speakers of the language or who have other relevant background, such as advanced coursework or extensive experience living in communities where the language is spoken. A native speaker, or a qualified linguist or language teacher, may act as a consultant for purposes of judging language competence. In the event of failure, a student may repeat an examination after one month. In the event of two successive failures, the student may be required to enroll in a language course designated by the Graduate Adviser.
2. Complete 8 units of coursework or independent study, in which the student examines some aspect of a Native American/ Indigenous language relevant to their research.

3. Participate in a language internship program in which at least one quarter is spent off-campus doing language study in an Indigenous community, or taking classes in an Indigenous language through a Tribe, or a college or university or other accredited institution.

Competence in a non-Indigenous language other than English may also be required of some students if it is necessary for their proposed dissertation project – for example, in order to engage with a substantial scholarly literature written in another language, to access information in archival resources, or to facilitate communication while working in communities where English is not commonly spoken. The Graduate Adviser, in consultation with a student's Major Professor and other NAS faculty, will determine whether additional languages are required of a student given their research interests and trajectory. Ordinarily, this determination will be made no later than the end of a student's fourth quarter of residence in the graduate program.

If determined necessary, students can satisfy an additional language requirement in one of the following ways:

1. Provide evidence of significant previous experience with a language (e.g., growing up in a bilingual household, participating in secondary or tertiary education where the curriculum was delivered in the target language, or at least two years of college coursework).
2. Take a departmental reading competence examination consisting of translating a text of approximately 500 words with the use of a dictionary. In the event of failure, a student may repeat an examination after one month. In the event of two successive failures, the student may be required to enroll in language courses designated by the Graduate Advisor.
3. Enroll in an upper-division or graduate-level course which is conducted primarily in the target language, earning a grade of B or above.
4. Complete four quarters of lower-division coursework in the language. Courses can be taken on an S/U basis.
5. Placing above the 4th quarter of language study through a placement exam at the Davis Language Center.

b) Designated Emphasis

A student may pursue a Designated Emphasis (DE) in a related field. Students who participate in a DE program benefit in several ways:

- Coursework for the Designated Emphasis provides analytical tools that enhance their research.
- The DE accords graduate students the opportunity to network with students and faculty across the UC Davis campus, thereby providing a larger

audience for their research and work and increasing access to information about career opportunities.

- DE students have a larger pool of professors to draw from when forming their Qualifying Examination and dissertation committees.

The NAS Graduate Program is currently affiliated with the following Designated Emphases:

- Feminist Theory and Research <https://gsws.ucdavis.edu/designated-emphasis>
- Human Rights: <https://human-rights.ucdavis.edu/designated-emphasis>
- Second Language Acquisition: <https://sla.ucdavis.edu/designated-emphasis-second-language>
- Studies in Performance and Practice: <https://arts.ucdavis.edu/performance-studies-de>
- Writing, Rhetoric, and Composition Studies: <https://wracs.ucdavis.edu/>
- Study of Religion: <https://religionsgrad.ucdavis.edu/designated-emphasis-rel>
- [Environmental Humanities](https://grad.ucdavis.edu/programs/designated-emphases/gdeh): <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/programs/designated-emphases/gdeh>
- Science and Technology Studies <https://sts.ucdavis.edu/graduate>

In order to complete a DE in one of the above fields, the student will follow the explicit instructions to meet the requirements of that DE (see links to each program, provided above). These requirements must be completed prior to the Qualifying Exam.

There are two forms related to the DE, the Graduate Studies Designated Emphasis Application (GS323), which should be filed during the first year of study so that the student may be formally enrolled in the DE; and the Graduate Studies Designated Emphasis Report Form Final Verification (GS324), which should be filed when all degree requirements for the DE have been met.

5) Committees

- a) Admissions Committee.** Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee consists of all NAS graduate program faculty. Each faculty member reads each application and ranks applicants. The review considers factors including preparation for graduate study in NAS, research objectives and goals for graduate school, potential for faculty mentorship, and competitiveness for internal and external fellowships. Faculty then meet as a group to discuss individual rankings and consider all applicants in the context of Departmental, individual mentor, and financial capacity to support applicants. Based on a holistic review process that incorporates both individual and collective Departmental considerations, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant's request for admission. That recommendation is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies. Applications are accepted through December 1 of the previous year for the next Fall entering class.

- b) Course Guidance or Advising Committee.** The student's course guidance committee is composed of their Major Professor (assigned by the faculty at time of admission, but subject to change by student via petition) and the Graduate Advisor. The student will select a preliminary list of courses and bring that list to the Major Professor and Graduate Advisor for consultation and approval at the beginning of the Fall quarter of the first year, and again during every subsequent Spring quarter, to formulate the plan of study for the following year.
- c) Qualifying Exam Committee.** By the seventh quarter, the student is expected to work with their Major Professor to nominate four members of a Qualifying Examination committee. Upon approval of the Committee nominations from the Graduate Advisor, the student files the Application for Qualifying Examination (QE Application) with the Office of Graduate Studies. This application can be printed from the Graduate Studies website, <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/current-students/forms-information>. The QE Application must be signed by the NAS Graduate Advisor prior to filing it with Graduate Studies. If the student has completed a Designated Emphasis (DE), the Director of the DE must also sign the QE Application, confirming that the student has completed all of the requirements of the DE. Graduate Studies formally appoints the Committee members upon approving the student's QE Application.

The qualifying exam committee will consist of four members, one of whom is the student's Major Professor. At least three members must be faculty from within NAS. The qualifying exam committee cannot be chaired by the student's Major Professor. One member must be from outside of the Department of NAS (this faculty member may be someone with whom the student has had relevant coursework or from whom the student has received relevant research mentorship). Members of the qualifying exam committee must hold a PhD or equivalent terminal degree and be members of the UC academic senate. Certain titles from the Academic Federation are allowed to serve on this committee. In the event that the student has taken coursework with or received relevant research mentorship from an individual with a PhD or equivalent terminal degree who is not a UC Senate member, the student may request an exception to policy so that this individual can be on the qualifying exam committee. In such case, the student must fill out the External Committee Membership Application (GS311).

- d) Dissertation Committee.** The Dissertation Committee is a three-member committee identified by the student, in consultation with the Major Professor. In completing the application for Advancement to Candidacy, the student formally proposes the members of the Dissertation Committee. The Major Professor normally chairs this committee, and the majority of the committee should be from program. Upon approval of the student's Advancement to Candidacy form, the Dean of the Graduate Division formally appoints the Committee.

The role of the Dissertation Committee is to direct the student in their research topic and methods, guide the preparation of the dissertation, and review the final completed dissertation for acceptance. Students are expected to meet with the Chair of their

dissertation committee regularly. Dissertation committee members are expected to read and comment on a dissertation within four weeks from its submission. This time limit policy does not apply to summer periods for faculty holding nine-month appointments. The student and faculty will coordinate a timeline for the student to present the dissertation to the dissertation committee. This timeline must allow all dissertation committee members enough time to fulfill their responsibilities within the four-week deadline.

6) Advising Structure and Mentoring

The **Major Professor** is the NAS faculty member who supervises the student's research and thesis; this person serves as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee. During admission deliberations, faculty elect to serve as Major Professor to incoming students.

The **Graduate Advisor**, who is nominated by the Chairperson of the Native American Studies Graduate Group and appointed by Graduate Studies, is a resource for information on academic requirements, policies and procedures, and registration information.

The **Graduate Program Coordinator (staff)** is the main staff support person in charge of various aspects of the administration of the program. The graduate program coordinator assists students with navigating departmental and general university policies.

The **Mentoring Guidelines** are posted on the NAS Department website:

<https://nas.ucdavis.edu/mentoring-guidelines>

7) Advancement to Candidacy

Before advancing to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have satisfied all requirements set by the graduate program, must have maintained a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all course work undertaken (except those courses graded S or U), and must have passed a Qualifying Examination before a committee appointed to administer that examination. Normally, students advance shortly after passing the Qualifying Exam by the end of the 9th quarter. There are no additional course requirements for the student after they pass the qualifying exam. The student must file the appropriate paperwork with the Office of Graduate Studies and pay the candidacy fee in order to be officially promoted to Ph.D. Candidacy. Refer to the Graduate Council website for additional details regarding the Doctoral Qualifying Examination at <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/policies>.

8) Preliminary Examination, Qualifying Examination and Dissertation requirements:

a) Earning an MA on the way to the PhD

PhD students who wish to earn an MA on the way to the PhD may either complete a thesis (see MA requirements: Thesis, Plan I) or take an MA exam (see MA requirements: Comprehensive Exam, Plan II). A MA student who is accepted into the PhD program in NAS may complete their MA degree following either the Plan I (thesis) or Plan II (comprehensive exam) option. If they elect to follow Plan I, their thesis will be due by the end of the summer after their second year. If

they elect to follow Plan II, they will take the comprehensive examination in the spring of their second year.

For students who are pursuing the MA Plan I on their way to the PhD, the thesis should not be reproduced in the dissertation.

Once this decision is made the first step is for the student to complete a [Petition for Change of Graduate Major, Degree Objective, Multiple Graduate Majors, or Multiple Degree Objectives \(GS301\) Petition for Change in Degree Objective Form \(GS301\)](#) for the multiple degree objective option and then submit this form to Graduate Studies. The format for the MA exam will follow the format described in the MA Plan II section of the NAS degree requirements.

b) Qualifying Examination

i. General Information

All students will complete all course requirements before taking their Qualifying Examination. Passing this exam makes the student eligible for advancement to candidacy. The qualifying exam should be taken by the end of the 9th quarter after admission to the Ph.D. program. This timeline is the same for the MA students that transition into the PhD.

The primary purpose of the Qualifying Examination (QE) is to validate that the student is academically qualified to conceptualize a research topic, undertake scholarly research, and successfully produce the dissertation required for a doctoral degree. The QE must evaluate the student's command of the field, ensuring that the student has both breadth and depth of knowledge, and must not focus solely on the proposed dissertation research. In addition, the QE provides an opportunity for the committee to provide important guidance to the student regarding their chosen research topic. The QE consists of both written and oral examinations, both of which draw from the preparatory written requirements: the comprehensive reading list, annotated bibliographies, and dissertation prospectus.

The Major Professor, the Graduate Advisor, and the qualifying exam committee must approve the comprehensive reading list, annotated bibliographies, and dissertation prospectus before the written and oral QE can take place. In preparation for the exam, the student is expected to work with all of their QE committee members, including the Major Professor and the QE committee chair. The QE cannot take place until Graduate Studies has approved the application to take the qualifying exam.

ii. Written Requirements in Preparation for the QE

Comprehensive Reading List. Beginning at least two full quarters before the quarter when the proposed exam will take place, the student must work with their Major Professor and Graduate Advisor to compile a comprehensive bibliographic list of all required course readings, readings done for seminar papers, and readings done through independent or group study. This larger reading list is separate from and in addition to the annotated bibliographies created with each individual Qualifying Exam committee member.

Annotated Bibliographies. Beginning at least two full quarters before the quarter when the proposed exam will take place, the student must work with each individual Qualifying Exam committee member to develop a substantial annotated bibliography (a minimum of 20 sources per list) based on the student's areas of study and expertise. These annotated bibliographies can include sources from the student's comprehensive reading list (see above), as well as additional readings required by Qualifying Exam committee members, readings that reflect future teaching fields, and readings and research undertaken for the dissertation.

Dissertation Prospectus. The dissertation prospectus should be 15–20 pages, and should define a dissertation problem and method(s), identify the major primary and secondary sources, and situate the project in the context of the field. The prospectus should include a preliminary overview of planned chapters and a proposed schedule of research and writing. The Major Professor and the Graduate Advisor must approve the prospectus before the written qualifying examination can be scheduled. The prospectus should be suitable for submission to a funding agency such as the Ford Foundation or the National Science Foundation.

iii. Written Exam

The written examination of the QE is administered over a period of eight business days (thus allotting approximately two days for each committee members' question). The Committee Chair will collect two questions from each committee member, based on that committee member's annotated bibliography with the student. The student will choose one question from each person. The student will be required to write one essay response (with a bibliography) to each of four questions. Students should produce one 10 pages or 4,000-5,000 words per answer (not including bibliography), for a total of four 10-page papers submitted at the end of the exam.

Once the exam is completed, the committee members have approximately one week to read and evaluate the exam. The written exam is assessed based on the quality of student responses, including such factors as: does the student's answer respond to all aspects of the question? Does the student's answer show mastery of the concepts presented in coursework required for the PhD? Do the student's responses show adequate theoretical, methodological, and conceptual preparation to do original research in NAS?

The oral exam is tentatively scheduled to take place within two weeks of the completion of the written exam, with all of the committee members present. All qualifying exam committee members meet immediately prior to when the oral exam has been scheduled to assess the written exam. If the written exam is determined to be satisfactory, the oral examination may commence as scheduled. If the written exam is determined to be unsatisfactory, the Committee will inform the student of the deficiencies, and reschedule the written and oral exams.

iv. Oral Exam

The oral portion of the qualifying exam will be 2-3 hours in length and is intended to demonstrate the student's critical thinking ability, powers of imagination and synthesis, and broad knowledge of the field of study. The committee will evaluate the student's general

qualifications for a respected position as an educator or leader as well as the student's preparation in a special area of study based upon relevant portions of the student's previous academic record, performance on specific parts of the examination, and the student's potential for scholarly research as indicated during the examination.

v. *Outcome of the Exam*

The qualifying examination committee members confer after the oral exam to evaluate the student's overall performance on both the written and the oral portions of the exam. Committee members endeavor to reach a unanimous decision on the student's qualifications for successful completion of the program. Members evaluate the student based on the following factors:

- Performance on the oral and written exam
- Potential for completing scholarly research
- Overall academic performance

Once the committee members discuss and vote on the performance, the QE committee chair then conveys to the student the committee's decision, which may be:

- "Pass" (no conditions may be appended to this decision)
- "Not Pass" (the Chair's report should specify whether the student is required to retake all or part of the examination, list any additional requirements, and state the exact timeline for completion of requirements to achieve a "Pass"), or
- "Fail"

If a unanimous decision takes the form of "Not Pass" or "Fail", the Chair of the QE committee must include in its report a specific statement, agreed to by all members of the committee, explaining its decision and must inform the student of its decision. Having received a "Not Pass" the student may attempt the QE one additional time; the QE report must list the specific conditions and timing for the second exam. In addition, the committee may require the student to undertake additional work to address deficiencies identified during the exam. It is important to note that, if the student fails the written exam, the oral exam will not take place until the student passes the written exam. Both the written and oral exams may only be attempted twice. If the student passes the written exam, but fails the oral exam, only the oral exam will be rescheduled and must be passed before the student is deemed to have "passed" the Qualifying Exam. After a second examination, a vote of "Not Pass" is unacceptable; only "Pass" or "Fail" is recognized. Only one retake of the qualifying examination (either oral or written, or both) is allowed. Should the student receive a "Fail" on the first or second attempt at the exam, the student will be recommended for disqualification from the program to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

If the student has passed the Qualifying Exam, they are required to file with Graduate Studies the application entitled "Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Plan B," Students are strongly encouraged to bring this application to the exam, which can be found on the Graduate Studies web site, <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/forms>. NAS Graduate Advisor and the Chair of the Dissertation Committee sign this application. If the student has completed a Designed Emphasis (DE), the Director of the DE is also required to sign the application. After the application has been completed and all signatures obtained, the student is required to provide a copy to the NAS

Graduate Program Coordinator prior to filing the original with the Office of Graduate Studies, which should be done within one month of the completion of the Qualifying Exam.

According to the Graduate Council “Time to Degree Policy” (https://grad.ucdavis.edu/sites/default/files/upload/files/grad-council/time_to_degree_policy.pdf), “Students will have four calendar years after the date they pass their qualifying examination to submit their dissertation. At this time, if a student has not submitted their dissertation to Graduate Studies, the student will be placed on probation and has one year from that date to submit the dissertation. If not submitted within one year, the student will no longer be allowed to enroll the following quarter and will be dismissed. The clock is “set” from the date of passage of the Qualifying Examination, not the time the student officially advances to candidacy through submission of the form to Graduate Studies.”

A fee is charged to each student who applies for advancement to candidacy. The student is expected to print the form and pay the fee at the cashier's office where the form will be marked as paid.

c) Dissertation

i. General Requirements

Filing of a Ph.D. dissertation with the Office of Graduate Studies is normally the last requirement satisfied by the candidate. The deadlines for completing this requirement are listed each quarter in the campus General Catalog (available online at the website of the Office of the Registrar or from the Bookstore). A candidate must be a registered student or in Filing Fee status at the time of filing a dissertation, with the exception of the summer period between the end of the Spring Quarter and the beginning of Fall Quarter. The PhD. Dissertation will be prepared, submitted and filed according to regulations instituted by the Office of Graduate Studies <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/students/filing.html>. The Dissertation Committee Chair must verify satisfaction of this requirement.

The research conducted by the student must be of such character as to show ability to pursue independent research. The dissertation reports a scholarly piece of work of publishable quality that solves a significant problem in the field and is carried out under the supervision of a member of program while the student is enrolled in the program. The chair of the dissertation committee must be a member of the program and must be immediately involved with the planning and execution of the experimental work done to formulate the dissertation.

Students should meet regularly with their dissertation committee. The dissertation must be submitted to each member of the dissertation committee at least one month before the student expects to make requested revisions; committee members are expected to respond within 4 weeks, not including summer months for nine-month faculty. Informing committee members of progress as writing proceeds helps the members to plan to read the dissertation and provide feedback within this time frame. The dissertation must be approved and signed by the dissertation committee before it is submitted to Graduate Studies for final approval.

ii. *Specific Requirements.*

As appropriate to the discipline and the research project, a dissertation in Native American Studies is approximately 50,000 to 100,000 words (200-400 pages), excluding bibliography and endnotes, and is accompanied by an exit seminar. The dissertation should be based upon original research and/or creative work and include the following elements:

- Specific question or problem to be addressed
- Significance of project
- Methods
- Review of related literature(s)
- Detailed analysis and interpretation of findings
- Conclusions
- Bibliography

Creative Project

Native American Studies scholarship recognizes the value of creative and performative practice-based research. NAS scholars internationally are developing critical multi-media scholarship that reflects the multiplicity of Indigenous epistemologies and praxis. International bodies such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada are recognizing and investing in “research creation,” which they define as: “An approach to research that combines creative and academic research practices, and supports the development of knowledge and innovation through artistic expression, scholarly investigation, and experimentation. The creation process is situated within the research activity and produces critically informed work in a variety of media (art forms).”

In NAS at UC Davis, we recognize the importance of rigorous multimedia research and project development. Several of our faculty are creative scholars and practitioners and teach specific courses in creative development, including sensory studies, digital media, art studio, and creative writing. Students developing creative projects should take at least 3 quarters of either coursework or independent study with faculty with expertise in the area of the creative project. Most NAS Seminars provide opportunities for students to complete creative projects (in lieu of traditional seminar papers). Therefore, students can receive guidance from various NAS faculty on creative projects, and/or they may opt to take relevant creative and performing arts seminars outside of NAS.

Students developing creative projects should have at least two committee members who can review their creative project. These two committee members focused on the creative project must include at least one NAS faculty member in the field(s), and may include an external committee member (who may/may not be a faculty member) with expertise in the particular creative field. The latter person may be a recognized artist and/or practitioner (traditional or contemporary) with expertise in the area of creative practice. Examples of creative projects may include, but are not limited to, recordings of music and dance performances, studio art, poetry collections, and digital media. Creative projects provide faculty positions in fields such as Film Studies, Visual Studies,

Studio Art Studies, Performance Studies and Multi-media Studies, taught in dedicated departments such as American Studies or Native American Studies.

The creative project option for the dissertation should consist of the following:

- An original creative work (artistic, musical, multimedia, production, performance, etc.)
- An approximately 40,000-word (160 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font) document with comprehensive academic citations that situates the work within academic, creative, and cultural approaches, literatures, and themes. This document should include:
 - o Specific question or problem to be addressed
 - o Significance of project
 - o Methods
 - o Review of related literature(s)
 - o Critical scholarly analysis of the creative project, its outcomes, and contributions to the field of Native and Indigenous Studies.
 - o Conclusions
- A detailed bibliography of sources cited in the document (separate from and in addition to the 40,000-word document).
- A final presentation and defense

Upon the recommendation of the Major Professor and the Graduate Advisor, a committee of three faculty appointed by Graduate Studies passes on the merits of the dissertation. A dissertation can only be filed when a student is registered as a full-time student or is on filing fee, and filing fee can only be used for one quarter (please find link for filing fee here: <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/current-students/academic-services-information/filing-thesis-or-dissertation>).

The dissertation should follow the specific format for preparing, typing, filing, abstracting, and copyrighting the dissertation provided by Graduate Studies [“Preparing and Filing Your Thesis Dissertation,” located at <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/current-students/academic-services-information/filing-thesis-or-dissertation>]. It is the candidate’s responsibility to see that these requirements are met.

It is also the candidate’s responsibility to give copies of the dissertation to the members of the Dissertation Committee well in advance (at least four weeks) of impending submission deadlines to give the committee the opportunity for review and to give the student the opportunity to make any required revisions.

In addition to providing a copy of the dissertation to Graduate Studies, the Ph.D. candidate shall furnish a bound copy of the dissertation for the permanent file in the Department of NAS.

Per Graduate Studies Commencement Eligibility Policy, graduate students who have not completed all degree requirements are only eligible to participate in Spring (June) commencement if they file a Commencement Release form stating that all degree requirements

will be completed by the end of summer of the same year (usually late August). More information may be found on the Graduate Studies website regarding Commencement: [Eligibility and Registration](#).

Questions and concerns should be addressed to the Major Professor and/or Graduate Advisor.

9) Normative Time to Degree

Normative time is the elapsed time that a student would need to complete all requirements for the degree, assuming that they are engaged in full-time study and making adequate progress. There are two parts to Normative Time: Normative Time to Advancement to Candidacy, and Normative Time in Candidacy. Normative Time to Advancement to Candidacy may vary for Ph.D. students entering with Master’s degrees, versus those who pursue the Ph.D. directly after the Bachelor’s degree. Normative Time in Candidacy represents the remaining quarters that are recommended for completion of the dissertation.

The qualifying examination is normally held during the ninth quarter of residence (typically the spring quarter of the third year). Students are strongly encouraged to stay within this time frame. The Major Professor and Graduate Advisor must approve any exceptions.

Students have up to four calendar years after the date they pass their qualifying examination to submit their dissertation.

10) Typical Timeline and Sequence of Events

Year One	Fall	Winter	Spring
	NAS 200	NAS 246	200 level course
	Advanced Language training	Advanced Language training	200 level course
	100/200 level course	200 level course	200 level course
Year Two	Fall	Winter	Spring
	200 level course	200 level course	200 level course (if needed)
	200 level course	200 level course (if needed)	200 level course (if needed)
			M.A. Thesis or Exam (optional)

Year Three	Fall	Winter	Spring
	200 level course (if needed)	200 level course (if needed)	200 level course (if needed)
	Guided study with professor	Guided study with professor	Guided study with professor
	Qualifying Exam Preparation (Committee Formed)	Qualifying Exam Preparation	Qualifying Exam Preparation (Advancement to Candidacy)
Years Four-Six	Dissertation Research and Completion		

11) Sources of funding

Ph.D. students are typically supported by a combination of Fellowships (internal and external), Teaching Assistantships, Associate Instructorships (for advanced graduate students, and/or students with specific training), Graduate Research Assistantships, fellowships, and grants. Students are encouraged to confer with their Major Professor after acceptance of admission to create a funding plan. Additional information is available in the “Financial Support” section of the NAS Graduate Handbook.

12) PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee Status

Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave), In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state), and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Website: <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/registration> as well as in the “UC Davis Policies on Course Registration, Enrollment, and Matriculation” section of the NAS Graduate Handbook.

13) Leaving the Program Prior to Completion of the Ph.D. Requirements

Should a student leave the program prior to completing the requirements for the PhD, they may still be eligible to receive the Masters if they have fulfilled all the requirements (see Masters section). Students can use the Change of Graduate Major, Degree Objective, Multiple Graduate Majors, or Multiple Degree Objectives form available from the Registrar’s Office: <https://ucdavis.app.box.com/v/PetitionforChange> .