WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

According to the UNM Native American Studies (2013) website, “A Bachelor of Arts degree in Native American Studies from University Studies is designed to give students a relatively broad background while allowing concentrated study in one of the four areas of concentration. This major provides a curriculum that critically examines the historical and contemporary experiences of minority groups in the context of U.S. society and institutions. Each major stresses the analysis of the interrelationships in the historical background, cultural patterns, and artistic expressions of each community in order to acquire a well-rounded, in-depth understanding of the contemporary interface between minority groups and U.S. society. Each major is interdisciplinary in nature and strives to incorporate various disciplines, such as anthropology, art, education, history, law, literary criticism, political science, public policy, and sociology, in its approach.”

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

A bachelor’s degree is the minimum formal education required, and is excellent preparation for entering a variety of diverse occupations that require excellent writing skills, competency in research, and strong interpersonal skills. However, depending upon the student’s career interests, some occupations may require a graduate degree (Master’s, Ph.D., J.D.). Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

The UNM Native American Studies Program offers a Bachelor of Arts and Undergraduate Minor degree. Additional information can be found at the Native American Studies website.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Government
City or town management, translation/interpretation, regional planning, public policy, intelligence, community affairs, campaigning, legislative assistance, public information, research, lobbying, conflict negotiation, program administration, general services, social services, foreign service, legislative, executive, or judicial services

Communications/Education
Public relations representative, technical writer, researcher, columnist/journalist, editor, publicationist, elementary or secondary educator, professor, principal, admissions, financial aid, academic advising, alumni affairs, international education and study abroad, career services, residence life, student activities and Greek life, orientation, leadership, multicultural student programming

Museums and Galleries
Administration, curatorial, preservation and conservation, restoration, registrarial, collections management, exhibit design/preparation, archive management, art authentication, education, publications, development, docent coordination, public relations, reproductions and retailing, museums: university, public, private, archives, historical homes, special collections, historical societies, natural history museums, living history museums, art galleries, state and local government, federal government, particularly the National Archives and Records Administration, non-profit organizations, research institutions, corporations

Research/preservation
Exhibit preparation coordinator, historical background analyst, librarian, biography creationist, preservationist, museum specialist, curator, conservator, restorer, research association

Human Services
Youth counselor, social work specialist, case worker, volunteer services coordinator, community planning specialist, community organization worker, employment counselor, parole/probation officer, development officer, welfare, investigator

Business/Nonprofit
Market research analyst, personnel officer, sales/marketing representative, investment researcher, underwriter, insurance agent, loan administrator, manpower planner, organizational planner, management trainee, campaign planner, corporation, historian/archivist, consultant/research, consultant/cultural resource management, banker,
stockbroker, account coordinator, customer supply analyst, arts council director, fundraising director, grants specialista, tour guide, foundation administrator, policy analyst, hospitals and other healthcare organizations, print and electronic media, retail stores, restaurants, hotels, manufactures

Communication
Journalism, creative writing, freelance writing, copy writing, editing, research and analysis, advertising, newspapers, magazines, broadcast media companies including television and movie industry, trade, professional, or consumer publications, Internet sites, advertising agencies, publishing house, self-employment/freelance

Student Affairs:
Administration, Greek affairs, advising, multicultural affairs, residence life, student activities

Suggested Strategies
• Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
• Consider working in multiple departments throughout campus to gain experience in areas you are interested in through work study or student employment.
• Make strong connections throughout campus organizations by networking and attending campus events and activities.
• Consider earning a second degree, minor, or pursuing additional coursework in a complementary field of study (e.g., business).
• Focus on developing “transferable skills” such as computer competency, written/verbal communication, and project management.
• Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Some positions may require an advanced degree.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Research government internship program and think about interning with a government agency to get a foot in the door, as well as building your resume.
• Make sure to research organizations’ values, so it could be congruent with yours. Knowledge about organizations is critical, because it shows to employers that you’ve done your research and committed to work for them.

WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN?
USA Jobs (official job site of the federal government) www.usajobs.gov
Idealist.org (comprehensive site of international nonprofit opportunities) http://www.idealista.org/

INFORMATIONAL/ORGANIZATIONAL WEBSITES
UNM Native American Studies http://nas.unm.edu/
Native Americans Rights Fund http://www.narf.org/donate/peta_uha_council.htm
American Indian Advisory Council http://interwork.sdsu.edu/aiac/culture.htm

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES

REFERENCES