

ACADEMIC PLAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
February 6, 2004

**I. New Programs/Minors/Tracks/Courses/Other Initiatives**

The major new initiatives in the AIS long range plan include the development of a minor in museum studies (in collaboration with History's public history minor), a minor in oral tradition/folk lore (in conjunction with ETL) and a program focus with PSPA on federal policy and tribal government.

Additionally we would like to offer more AIS classes at the graduate level. At present, we offer one, but would like to have at least two more in the next five years.

Over the last few years, ideas for a conference hosted by UNCP on a major topic in the field have been discussed. Due to limited resources this has not gone beyond the discussion stage. However, we anticipate sponsoring either a statewide or national conference by the Spring of 2005.

**II. Related Themes**

We see the long range goals of the American Indian Studies department specifically related to two themes: (a) viewing the liberal arts as the basis for critical thinking, ethical decision making and life long learning skills and (2) enriching the intellectual and cultural life of the region, including both knowledge of and appreciation for the arts and UNC Pembroke's unique Native American and southern heritage.

**III. Resources required to implement**

At the present, AIS does not need additional personnel. For the next year, further planning and implementation may be done through release time by a current faculty. In 2002-03, a new full time tenure track position was added to the department. Dr. Jay Vest was hired to fill that position. With his expertise with oral tradition and folklore, he will be able to assist in that area. With the museum studies minor, we will work with History and use adjuncts as necessary. The area of federal policy and tribal government is more difficult; it will require more planning and coordination with regional tribal communities and tribal government. When that program is completely developed and ready for implementation, a new position will likely be needed. The following chart summarizes our anticipated needs:

2004-06	Release time for current faculty (planning and coordination)
2006-08	1-2 adjunct faculty (museum studies, federal policy/tribal gov't)
2008-09	1 new full time position (federal policy/tribal gov't program)

The appropriate resources that accompany adjunct and full time faculty will be required, e.g. office space, computer , secretarial assistance, etc.

**IV. New departmental structure or organizational change proposed.**

None

**V. Anticipated student demand.**

AIS is seeing a small but steady increase in majors, minors and particularly academic concentrations. We anticipate that the more our program and curriculum expand, the greater the interest in American Indian Studies as an academic field will be. With the increase in the general student enrollment, there are more students who elect AIS courses to meet general education requirements as well as electives. In Spring 2004, we are offering 11 different courses; eight of which are cross listed with other departments. Hopefully there will be more of these as our collaboration with other programs increases.

The creation of a federal policy/ tribal government program is directed not only at students but to tribal administrators/council members as well. Both formal and informal requests have come to the university expressing a need for these types of courses to be made available to current as well as potential (students) tribal leaders.

**VI. Interdisciplinary collaboration involved.**

As previously indicated, AIS has collaborative relationships with a number of departments on campus through the cross listing of courses in our curriculum. With PSPA we are working with Dr. Liz Normandy to analyze current offerings in both departments and determine what new courses may be needed for a federal policy/tribal government oriented minor. Fall 2003, a special topics course was taught in federal Indian law for credit in either department. Summer school 2002, another special topics course was offered in museum studies, cross listed with both History and AIS. The department chairs are considering joint efforts to combine museum studies with a public history minor. Dr. Vest (AIS) and Dr. Peters (AIS/ETL) have both taught courses in Native American oral tradition. Dr. Vest will be working with ETL concerning the development of a minor in American Indian folklore/oral tradition. AIS 505, Contemporary Issues in American Indian Studies, is offered in conjunction with the graduate program in social studies education.