

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Diné College, established in 1968 as Navajo Community College, holds the distinction of being the first tribally controlled and accredited collegiate institution in the United States. The Navajo Nation founded the institution to empower Navajo youth to become active contributors both within their community and globally.

The Bachelor of Arts in Navajo Nation Law program was established within the School of Business and Social Science at Diné College. The curriculum is designed to offer a comprehensive understanding of Navajo Nation Law, preparing students for a variety of career paths within the field.

The Navajo Nation Law academic program is rooted in the Navajo Philosophy of Sa'ah Naagháí Bik'eh Hózhóón, which emphasizes harmony, balance, and holistic well-being. It is dedicated to supporting the Navajo Nation and other indigenous communities by advocating for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of tribal sovereignty and indigenous rights.

The program places a strong emphasis on Navajo law and how Navajo fundamental law shapes the unique legal frameworks of the Navajo Nation.

Students in the Navajo Nation Law academic program at Diné College will engage in a comprehensive study of legal theories, real-world case studies, and strategic methodologies that are pertinent to tribal law.

The curriculum covers the historical trajectory of federal Indian law, the principle of tribal self-determination, and the specific fiduciary responsibilities relevant to the Navajo Nation.



It includes immersive experiences in traditional Navajo governance practices and explores contemporary challenges and opportunities in tribal law.

Upon completion of the program, Students will not only acquire an in-depth understanding of both Navajo and Western legal systems but also the practical skills required to make significant contributions to the progress and welfare of their community. This will enable them to safeguard the ongoing strength and endurance of tribal autonomy and cultural legacy.

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BACHELOR OF ARTS IN



NAVAJO NATION LAW

Building Futures, Upholding
Values: Navajo Law Education

www.dinecollege.edu

LAW 200
Introduction to Legal Studies
Prerequisite: ENG 102

The course examines historical and current views of the theories and structures of law, and provides an overview of the economic and sociological challenges to law. This course also examines the relationships between law, social change, and dispute resolution.

LAW 205
Introduction to Legal Writing
Prerequisite: LAW 200

This course introduces students to the methods and content of legal study. This course also examines reading and writing legal structure, and prepares students for the second writing course of the program. This course is the first course of a three-part introductory legal writing sequence. All sections are required for graduation.

LAW 300
Intermediate Legal Writing
Prerequisite: LAW 205

This course builds upon the skills acquired in prior writing and legal writing courses, to include computerized research techniques, predictive writing and to prepare students for the final writing course of the program. This course is the second course of a three-part introductory legal writing sequence. All sections are required for graduation.

LAW 305
Legal Ethics and Professionalism
Prerequisite: LAW 200, LAW 205

This course examines the rules and values of professional responsibility within legal fields. Includes sources of the rules of legal ethics, ethical guidelines for attorneys, illegal practice of law, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, attorney's fees and fiduciary duties, competence, malpractice, ethical conduct issues in litigation, and professional integrity issues.

LAW 308
Legal Externship I
Prerequisite: Admission into the BA program and Junior standing.

This externship course allows students to understand the practices of law through field placements within Navajo Nation government agencies. This course is designed to create opportunities for students to learn the law and standards of law practice while comprehending the ethical situations students encounter in their field placements. You will reflect on your experiences and analyze the issues you encounter on the job, incorporating your new skills into class discussions and presentations.

LAW 310
Advanced Legal Writing
Prerequisite: LAW 300

Advanced Legal Writing is a rigorous writing course that incorporates the skills students learned in the two previous legal writing courses, using diverse assignments from transactional, litigation, and legislative practice. This course is the final course of a three-part introductory legal writing sequence. All sections are required for graduation.

LAW 315
Family Law and Domestic Relations
Prerequisite: LAW 200, LAW 205

This course will investigate the legal rules governing marriage and divorce. The course will focus on how these rules differ depending on whether the family is traditional or nontraditional, self-supporting or receiving public aid. This course will also incorporate traditional law school disciplines, such as civil, criminal, and constitutional law, while integrating Diné fundamental law.

LAW 400
Navajo Criminal Law and Processes
Prerequisite: LAW 305, LAW 310

In this course, students will explore Navajo Nation criminal law from a variety of perspectives. Students will examine and study the reasons for punishing convicted criminals, as well as the elements of crimes and the defenses that the accused might raise, specifically within tribal communities.

LAW 405
Legal Research
Prerequisite: LAW 305, LAW 310

This course will examine legal research strategies for finding and utilizing statutes, cases, regulations, legislative history, secondary sources and administrative research.

LAW 410
Legal Externship II
Prerequisite: LAW 308, Admission into the BA program and senior standing.

This course is a continuation of Externship I. This externship allows students to gain hands-on, applied legal skills while working under the direction of a licensed attorney in a Navajo Nation or related external government agency, judicial setting, non-profit or alternative dispute resolution placement.

LAW 415
Navajo Civil Law and Processes
Prerequisite: LAW 310, LAW 315

This course concentrates on the structure and function of our Navajo Nation court systems, and analyzes civil rights and civil liberties as defined by the Constitution, interpreted by the Supreme Court and upheld by the Navajo Nation.



WHY STUDY AT DINÉ COLLEGE

- Classes close to home.
- Student housing available at Tsaile campus.
- Affordable tuition.
- Financial Aid is also available from Pell Grants and The Navajo Nation.
- Full-time or part-time.
- Classes take place in the evenings, weekends, online and hybrid (online and in-person).
- Graduation rate from 13% to 17% from 2015 to 2018.
- Student body: 49% traditional students.

REQUIREMENTS

- Navajo Nation Law: 125 total credit hours

Classes include:

- Legal Writing (Intro, Intermediate, Advanced)
- Navajo Criminal Law and Process
- Navajo Nation Government
- Diné Family Traditional Law
- Navajo Fundamental Law

ENROLL NOW!