

MA IN ETHNIC STUDIES



SACRAMENTO STATE

In Workflow

1. ETHN Committee Chair (clarence.george@csus.edu)
2. ETHN Chair (baker@csus.edu)
3. SSIS College Committee Chair (koss@csus.edu; mummawh@skymail.csus.edu)
4. SSIS Dean (shane.nordyke@csus.edu)
5. Academic Services (catalog@csus.edu)
6. Senate Curriculum Subcommittee Chair (curriculum@csus.edu)
7. Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate (s.storms@csus.edu)
8. Catalog Editor (catalog@csus.edu)
9. Graduate Studies (jdsmall@csus.edu; mxiong@csus.edu)
10. Registrar's Office (k.mcfarland@csus.edu)

Approval Path

1. 2026-04-29T22:01:14Z
Clarence George Iii (clarence.george): Approved for ETHN Committee Chair
2. 2026-04-30T21:33:33Z
Brian Baker (baker): Approved for ETHN Chair
3. 2026-05-15T16:48:56Z
Bao Lo (lo): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
4. 2026-05-15T16:50:40Z
Emily Wickelgren (wickelgr): Approved for SSIS Dean

History

1. Apr 5, 2024 by Bao Lo (lo)
2. Apr 11, 2024 by Janett Torset (torsetj)

Date Submitted: 2026-04-22T20:17:43Z

Viewing: MA in Ethnic Studies

Last approved: Thu, 11 Apr 2024 20:49:27 GMT

Last edit: 2026-05-15T16:46:09Z

Changes proposed by: Bao Lo (102091858)

Academic Group: (College)

Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

Academic Organization: (Department)

Ethnic Studies; African Studies

Catalog Year Effective:

2027-2028 Catalog

Individual(s) primarily responsible for drafting the proposed degree major program:

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Bao Lo	lo@csus.edu	(916) 278-6646

Program Snapshot

Type of Program:

Major

Program Change Type:

Non-Substantive

Title of the Program:

MA in Ethnic Studies

Designation: (degree terminology)

Master of Arts

Delivery Mode:

Fully Face to Face

Please see the CSU/CIP Code Crosswalk: https://www.calstate.edu/csu-system/administration/academic-affairs/academic-programs-innovation-and-faculty-development/Documents/CSU_Codes_to_CIP_2020.pdf

TMC Templates: <https://c-idsystem.org/transfer-efforts/>

Is this a pilot program?

No

Establishment of a master's degree program should be preceded by a national professional accreditation of the corresponding bachelor's degree major program.

Provide a clear, concise overview of the program proposal (new or change) and provide a justification. For NEW programs describe the purpose and focus of the program, identify the target student population(s), and highlight key strengths and distinguishing features of the program.

Changes are being made to the Admission Requirements, as recommended by the Department's MA Admissions Committee, to provide more clarity for applicants to submit the required materials for their application review. Specifically, research statement replaces "statement of purpose" and more specific guidelines are provided to ensure applicants discuss clear research interests/goals and how they align with the program. From the Committee's review of applications, applicants confuse personal statement with the statement of purpose. Changes are also being made to the GPA requirement, to a 2.5 cumulative GPA to consider an applicant's overall academic achievement. Edits are also made to the letters of recommendation to ensure there is evaluation of the applicant's academic potential. ETHN 599 (zero-unit course) will be developed and is available to students who require additional (unsupervised) time to complete their theses or project. This is included as a footnote to the culminating experience under program requirements.

University Learning Goals

Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:

Disciplinary knowledge
Communication
Critical thinking/analysis
Information literacy
Professionalism
Intercultural/Global perspectives

Will this program be required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?

No

Curriculum Alignment and Assessment

Program Learning Outcomes

Provide measurable, program-specific learning outcomes that reflect the most important competencies students will demonstrate upon completion of the program. Programs are expected to assess and use PLOs for continuous improvement.

Program Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome

PLO 1: Effectively communicate and defend thesis or community project findings and conclusions.

PLO 2: Critically analyze systems of power and marginalization and the ways communities of color respond such as social movements, resistance, and coalition building in the U.S. and globally to address social issues.

PLO 3: Find, evaluate, and synthesize the interdisciplinary theories, concepts, methodologies of the discipline of Ethnic Studies to develop an original thesis or community project.

PLO 4: Apply the ethical standards of the discipline while conducting research in communities and networking with future employers and colleagues.

PLO 5: Articulate the complexity of disciplinary theories, perspectives, and concepts (such as institutional racism, imperialism, white supremacy, decolonization, racial capitalism, and/ or intersectionality,) within and across indigenous communities and communities of color nationally and/or globally.

Learning Outcomes Display

Course Code	PLO 1	PLO 2	PLO 3	PLO 4	PLO 5
ETHN 203					
ETHN 204					
ETHN 205					
ETHN 206					
ETHN 207					
ETHN 208					
ETHN 210					
ETHN 211					
ETHN 212					
ETHN 213					
ETHN 214					
ETHN 299					
ETHN 500A					
ETHN 500B					

Catalog Description (catalog copy):

Total units required for MA: 30 units

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Ethnic Studies prepares students

- for advanced study toward the Ph.D. degree
- to teach in community colleges
- with the content knowledge necessary to teach Ethnic Studies in secondary and elementary schools for credentialed teachers
- to work in the public and private sectors, tribal governments, and NGOs (non-government organizations) as culturally and community responsive leaders.

The M.A. in Ethnic Studies is designed to advance students' knowledge and understanding of indigenous communities and communities of color through analyses and application of the theories, concepts, methodologies, and practices of the discipline. The program centers the resilience and resistance of communities of color in the U.S. and globally in response to the historical and contemporary marginalization of these communities. The Ethnic Studies Masters Program can be applied in sectors that work with diverse populations, with emphasis on community engagement and advocacy of historically underrepresented and underserved communities, to support professionals in these sectors to work more effectively with these communities.

Admission and Continuation Requirements (catalog copy): minimum GPA and prerequisites (if applicable), required coursework or preparation, portfolio, test scores, and/or letters of recommendation. For graduate programs: expectations for a relevant bachelor's degree (required or preferred disciplines, prerequisite knowledge, or equivalent experience), include evidence that program requirements conform to the minimum requirements for the culminating experience, as specified in Title 5 Section 40510 The Master's Degree and Section 40511 The Doctoral Degree.

Admission Requirements

Admission as a classified graduate student in Ethnic Studies requires:

- a baccalaureate degree in Ethnic Studies or related field awarded by a regionally accredited university;
- a minimum 2.5 GPA cumulative;
- three letters of recommendation from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's potential for successful graduate study. At least one of the three letters of recommendation should come from an individual who can evaluate the applicant's academic potential;
- research statement: (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced) that explains the following: a) applicant's proposed research topic; b) field(s) their research will contribute; and c) goals of pursuing a master's degree in Ethnic Studies. The statement should outline the applicant's academic interests and proposed area(s) of study. The statement should describe the research questions or topics the applicant wishes to pursue, relevant theoretical or methodological approaches, and how the applicant's research goals align with the program. The applicant may also briefly discuss any prior research experience that has prepared them for graduate study;
- personal statement (maximum 2 pages, double-spaced) that describes how the applicant's personal background and experiences influenced the applicant's decision to pursue a graduate degree, including any of the following: community work, leadership, and challenges and achievements that prepare the applicant for success in the graduate program;
- CV or resume that reflects relevant professional and/or community experience; and
- a writing sample (written, analytical, and research skills) that demonstrate the applicant's potential for successful graduate study (**1 paper of at least 10 pages; 2500 words**).

Students with an undergraduate major in **any** subject may be accepted; no minimum number of units in Ethnic Studies is required.

NOTE: AI cannot be used to generate application materials.

Admission Procedures

All prospective graduate students, including Sacramento State graduates, must file the following with the Office of Graduate Studies (<https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/future-students/>):

- an application for admission;
- one set of official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended (other than Sacramento State);
- research statement;
- personal statement;
- CV or resume;
- writing sample; and
- three reference letters.

For more admissions information and application deadlines please visit the Office of Graduate Studies website (<https://www.csus.edu/graduate-studies/future-students/>).

Minimum Units and Grade Requirement for the Degree

Units required for the MA: 30

Minimum Cumulative GPA: 3.0

Advancement to Candidacy

Each student must file an application for Advancement to Candidacy prior to enrollment into the culminating requirement courses. This procedure should begin as soon as the classified graduate student has:

- removed any deficiencies in admission requirements;
- completed at least 12 units of 200-level courses in the graduate program with a minimum 3.0 GPA;
- completed a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course in their discipline within the first two semesters of coursework at California State University, Sacramento;
- selected a Thesis or Project committee; and
- obtained the committee's approval of a proposal for the thesis or project.

Advancement to Candidacy forms are available on the Office of Graduate Studies website. The student will complete the Advancement to Candidacy form after planning a degree program in consultation with an advisor and members of the student's thesis/project committee from the Department of Ethnic Studies. The completed form is then submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for approval.

Program Requirements (catalog copy):

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Units
Required Core Courses (18 Units)		
ETHN 203	Contemporary Issues in Ethnic Studies	3
ETHN 204	Foundations of Ethnic Studies: Theory and Praxis	3
ETHN 205	Indigenous Communities and Communities of Color 	3
ETHN 206	Ethnic Studies Research Methods	3
ETHN 207	Applied Ethnic Studies Research Methods	3
ETHN 208	Ethnic Studies: The Discipline and Profession	3
Electives (6 Units)		

Select two of the following:		6
ETHN 210	Asian American Studies	
ETHN 211	Foundations of Chicana/o/x and Latina/o/x Studies	
ETHN 212	Native American Studies	
ETHN 213	Pan African Studies	
ETHN 214	Intersectionality	
ETHN 299	Special Problems/Individual Study ¹	
Culminating Requirement (6 Units) ²		
ETHN 500A	Culminating Experience	3
ETHN 500B	Culminating Experience	3
Total Units		30

¹ Instructor approval required

² ETHN 599 is available to students who require additional (unsupervised) time to complete their theses or project.

Fiscal Impact to Change an Existing Program

Indicate programmatic or fiscal impact which this change will have on other academic units' programs, and describe the consultation that has occurred with affected units:

None

Provide a fiscal analysis of the proposed changes:

NA

How will the above changes be accommodated within the department/College existing fiscal resources?

NA

Will the proposed changes require additional resources?

No

What additional space, equipment, operating expenses, library, computer, or media resources, clerical/technical support, or other resources will be needed?

None

Estimate the cost and indicate how these resource needs will be accommodated:

NA

Key: 544