PhD
in Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies

The UO and the Pacific Northwest

Nestled in the Willamette Valley, the University of Oregon sits near the majestic Willamette and McKenzie Rivers, one hour away from both the stunning Oregon Coast to the west and the snowy Cascade Mountains to the east.

We are located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. The IRES department recognizes the dispossession of the Kalapuya people whose descendants are the citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon.

The UO is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU). As a research-intensive university, the UO has outstanding libraries and research centers, including:

- Oregon Humanities Center
- Center for Latina/o and Latin American Studies
- Center for the Study of Women in Society
- Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics.

Admission Requirements

- A bachelor’s degree or master’s degree in ethnic studies or affiliated field from an accredited college or university
- Undergraduate and graduate official transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose (1,000–1,500 words)
- Writing sample (8–10 double-spaced pages)
- A CV or résumé

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A Dynamic Community

Graduate students in the Department of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies join a diverse and dynamic community of scholars dedicated to pursuing transformative knowledge through original research and community engagement. We train scholars in transdisciplinary, intersectional, and creative scholarship. Students receive a comprehensive course of study grounded in the lives of Indigenous communities and people of color. We seek highly motivated students interested in engaging research with direct academic and social impact.

A Tailored Curriculum

Graduate students work closely with faculty mentors to customize a program of study that enables a comprehensive breadth and depth within core fields of ethnic studies, and prepares students for their post-PhD careers. Areas of specialization may include: women of color and indigenous feminisms, queer race studies, Latinx and Chicanx studies, media and sports studies, literary and cultural studies, carceral studies, environmental justice, geography, indigenous and racial formations, comparative race studies, and social justice activism.

All incoming students receive financial support for five years, including salary, tuition, and fees. Support includes various teaching, research, and/or fellowship assignments, with chances for students to develop their own courses in their last two years. Graduate student employees are unionized under the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers.