



# Graduate Certificate in Tribal Governance

The Graduate Certificate Program in Tribal Governance at Western Michigan University provides a comprehensive understanding of the legal and cultural history of the treaty tribes, tribal peoples, communities, business entities, and governments and how they relate to local, state, and federal governments. It also develops hands-on skills to assess and address the economic, managerial, and societal challenges of tribal governance.

The goal is to provide continuing professional education for members of tribal communities and for those interested in working with tribal communities, tribally-owned businesses, non-profit organizations, governments, and organizational networks. This also provides excellent preparation for the Master of Public Administration program.



Synchronous Online  
Course Delivery

**Admission is rapid and requires completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.**



## **Collaboration**

Our collaboration with the Gun Lake Tribe, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomí Indians; Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi; and Pokagon Band of Potawatomi extends to program development, marketing, and ongoing program delivery.

Implementing a certificate program in collaboration with three tribal nations allows the opportunity to apply tribally endorsed resources to build community capacity. Students can engage with various Tribal entities through subject matter experts and content endorsed by each tribal nation. We are currently planning cohorts that will include government, gaming, and economic development corporations within each tribal nation, yet we expect many non-tribal members will be interested in this program as well.

## **Curriculum**

The graduate certificate requires 12 credit hours divided into 6 credits of required courses and 3 credits of elective courses from each of two categories.

### ***Required Courses (take both)***

- PADM 6301—Foundation of Federal Indian Policies
- PADM 6302—Tribal Sovereignty through Self Determination

### ***Community & Economic Development (select one)***

- PADM 6303-Tribal Economic Development & Diversification
- PADM 5825-Managing Community Growth and Development
- PADM 5810-Social Entrepreneurship & Innovation

### ***Management, Financial, & Leadership Skills (select one)***

- PADM 5270-Human Resources Administration
- PADM 6290-Leadership & Supervision
- PADM 5890-Strategic Planning & Performant Management
- PADM 5120-Public Budgeting & Accounting
- PADM 6890-Third Party Governance & Contracting

# Graduate Certificate in Tribal Governance (TGVC)

Advisor: Udaya Wagle, Matthew S. Mingus  
220E Walwood Hall

The Graduate Certificate Program in Tribal Governance provides a comprehensive understanding of the legal and cultural history of the treaty tribes, tribal peoples, communities, business entities, and governments and how they relate to local, state, and federal governments. It also develops hands-on skills to assess and address the economic, managerial, and societal challenges of tribal governance. The goal is to provide continuing professional education for members of tribal communities and for those interested in working with tribal communities, tribally-owned businesses, non-profit organizations, governments, and organizational networks. This provides excellent preparation for the Master of Public Administration program.

## Admission Requirements:

1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.

## Program Requirements

The Graduate Certificate in Tribal Governance certificate consists of 12 credit hours, 6 credit hours of required courses and 3 credit hours of elective courses from each of two categories: “community and economic development” and “management, financial, and leadership skills.” The courses are:

### Required Courses

- PADM 6301 - Foundations of Federal Indian Policies **Credits:** 3 hours
- PADM 6302 - Tribal Sovereignty through Self Determination **Credits:** 3 hours

AND

Community and Economic Development. Choose **one** of the following courses:

- PADM 6303 - Tribal Economic Development and Diversification **Credits:** 3 hours
- PADM 5825 - Managing Community Growth and Development **Credits:** 3 hours
- PADM 5810 - Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation **Credits:** 3 hours

AND

Management, Financial, and Leadership Skills. Choose **one** of the following courses:

- PADM 5270 - Human Resources Administration **Credits:** 3 hours
- PADM 6290 - Leadership and Supervision **Credits:** 3 hours
- PADM 5890 - Strategic Planning and Performance Management **Credits:** 3 hours
- PADM 5120 - Public Budgeting and Accounting **Credits:** 3 hours
- PADM 6890 - Third Party Governance and Contracting **Credits:** 3 hours

## **Three New Public Administration Courses**

### **PADM 6301: Tribal Governance: Foundations of Federal Indian Policy**

This course will focus on the historical foundations for federal Indian policy. Reading materials will provide an overview of the legal and policy foundations for the contemporary roles of self-governing Tribal Nations, which includes several documents dating from pre-colonial to the Self-Determination Act of 1975. This course provides historical context to understand the formation and application of federal Indian policies as well as assignments and exercises revolving around the Self-determination Act of 1975 and its pre-colonial context and their application in contemporary society. The goal is to situate the operation, policies, and programs of the self-governing Tribal Nations in the larger legal and policy context of the United States.

### **PADM 6302: Tribal Governance: Sovereignty Through Self-Determination**

This course introduces theoretical and practical applications of governance from an indigenous perspective. This includes challenges faced by public administrators in understanding the sovereign status of tribal nations, which have demonstrated substantial social, economic, and political resilience since the Indian Self-Determination Act of 1975. Students will review historical trends affecting local tribal nations and articulate how roles in government-to-government relationships impact policy decision-making and administration.

### **PADM 6303: Tribal Development and Diversification**

This course examines community building and economic development within the context of tribal and indigenous communities. The course will explore the political aspects of tribal sovereignty and the continued development of self-governance as the basis for nation rebuilding and economic development, self-determination, and community sustainability. This will focus on promoting, advocating for, and understanding economic development in Indian Country and also how this relates to state and local entities. This course examines community building and economic development across tribal nations as well as the values, vision, and principles that guide the economic development and diversification efforts of tribal nations. The course provides a foundational understanding necessary to promote, advocate for, and contribute to diversifying the economic development in tribal nations.