



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESEARCH CENTER



Field Biology Program for Native American Students

(Notre Dame Environmental Research Center in collaboration with Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and endorsed by Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council)

Tuition, housing, and travel paid ... 3 credits/summer ... Receive a summer stipend (\$3500 East, \$4000 West)!!

First Summer: UNDERC-East: Northwoods in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Second Summer: UNDERC-West: Flathead Reservation/National Bison Range in western Montana

This program promotes understanding of environmental field biology and how field research is conducted. Native American students are prepared for advanced studies in environmental biology, so they can better manage their lands. Also, it promotes understanding of Native American attitudes towards the environment for non-Native American students, so these can be incorporated into better management. At East, students interact with the Waswagoning cultural center on the Lac du Flambeau Reservation and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, and at West with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribal cultural and natural resource departments, as well as through dialogue and collaboration among themselves.

Eligibility:

- Native American descent
- Minimum of Sophomore standing and past academic performance
- Statement of purpose and plans to obtain a degree in the environmental sciences

The program spans two summers (10 weeks/summer)

- **Year 1** at UNDERC-East (May 21– July 27): 8000 acres of lakes, streams, wetlands, and forests owned by Notre Dame and a core site in the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) that are home to abundant wildlife (including wolves, black bear, deer). Course modules include vertebrate ecology, invertebrate ecology, aquatic ecology and forest ecology with each providing background information, field research exercises, and group research projects designed by the class. Five or more weeks are spent by each student designing and conducting their own field research project under direction of faculty or graduate students. Projects have ranged from fish, insect and mammal behavior and ecology to forest, lake, and stream ecosystem ecology, to local Native American ecosystem use.
- **Year 2** at UNDERC-West (June 6 – August 15): more than a million acres on the National Bison Range and Flathead Reservation that includes grasslands, montane forests, streams and lakes that are home to abundant wildlife (including bison, elk, mountain lion, and grizzly bear). Course modules like those at UNDERC-East include wildlife ecology, grassland ecology, and montane ecology, as well as an environmental history/Native American ecology module as part of the cross-country drive to and from -West. Each student conducts an independent research project in collaboration with a faculty or graduate student advisor that is more advanced given the skills learned at UNDERC-East. Projects have ranged from avian predation to fish and wildlife habitat relationships to invasive plants to Native American harvesting of plants and wildlife.

Applications are available online (<http://underc.nd.edu>). Further information can be obtained at the UNDERC website (<http://underc.nd.edu>), or from Dr. Michael Cramer, UNDERC East Assistant Director (mrcramer@nd.edu), or Dr. David Flagel, UNDERC West Assistant Director (dflagel@nd.edu).

Application deadline is Friday, November 10, 2017 and notification of acceptance will be provided by **Monday, December 11, 2017**. Acceptance is based on past academic performance and a statement of purpose. Preference is given to students pursuing a career in environmental sciences. Applicants are required to be present for the duration of course.

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