



UNIVERSITY  
of ALASKA  
SOUTHEAST

# Master of Arts in Teaching Indigenous Languages

Program Launch

- Fall 2026

Resulting Degree:

- Master of Arts in Teaching
- State of Alaska Teacher Certification

The Master of Arts in Teaching Alaska Native Languages is geared towards meeting critical needs in Alaska in the fields of Indigenous Language education. This program prepares Indigenous language teachers for certification and licensure to teach in Alaska.

All courses in the program can be taken in-person at the Áak'w Campus, or online from places with reliable internet connections. This program has a partnership with DEED to work towards teacher licensure, and with Indigenous language teacher preparation programs around the world.

Birth speaker Keiyishí Bessie Cooley writes sentences in collaboration with learners at a language camp in Carcross, Yukon.



-Ax toowú sigáo.  
-Ax toowú alik'ei.  
-Kéi nak'éin.

Language materials on display at Hale Kuamo'o Hawaiian Language Center at Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language, located at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.



Candidates should have high fluency levels appropriate to the Indigenous language they are working in, and will be discussing a wide variety of approaches to Indigenous language learning as well as discussions on social and institutional transformations needed to fuel Indigenous language reclamation movements.

This program includes placements within Indigenous language schools and programs for teacher observation and a mentored student teaching class. Students should have ideas in mind for potential placements, and be open to collaborating with teachers and programs to find the best placements possible. Candidates must complete a student teacher application for both the State and the University and, usually, the school district, as the situations warrant, before you are placed in your student teaching class

This program leads to a Master's in Teaching Indigenous Languages degree as well as a recommendation for the Alaska initial teaching certificate.

## Land Acknowledgment

Our campuses reside on the unceded territories of the Áak'w K̓wáan, Taant'á K̓wáan, and Sheetk'á K̓wáan on Lingít Aaní, also known as Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka, Alaska. We acknowledge that Lingít Peoples have been stewards of the land on which we work and reside since time immemorial, and we are grateful for that stewardship and incredible care. We also recognize that our campuses are adjacent to the ancestral home of the X̓aadas and Ts'msyen and we commit to serving their peoples with equity and care. We recognize the series of unjust actions that attempted to remove them from their land, which includes forced relocations and the burning of villages. We honor the relationships that exist between Lingít, X̓aadas, and Ts'msyen peoples, and their sovereign relationships to their lands, their languages, their ancestors, and future generations. We aspire to work toward healing and liberation, recognizing our paths are intertwined in the complex histories of colonization in Alaska. We acknowledge that we arrived here by listening to the peoples/elders/ lessons from the past and these stories carry us as we weave a healthier world for future generations.

Participants of the Voices of Our Ancestors language in 2018 at Juneau, AK. The gathering featured most of the living speakers of Lingít, X̓aad Kíl, and Sm'algyax.



## Mission

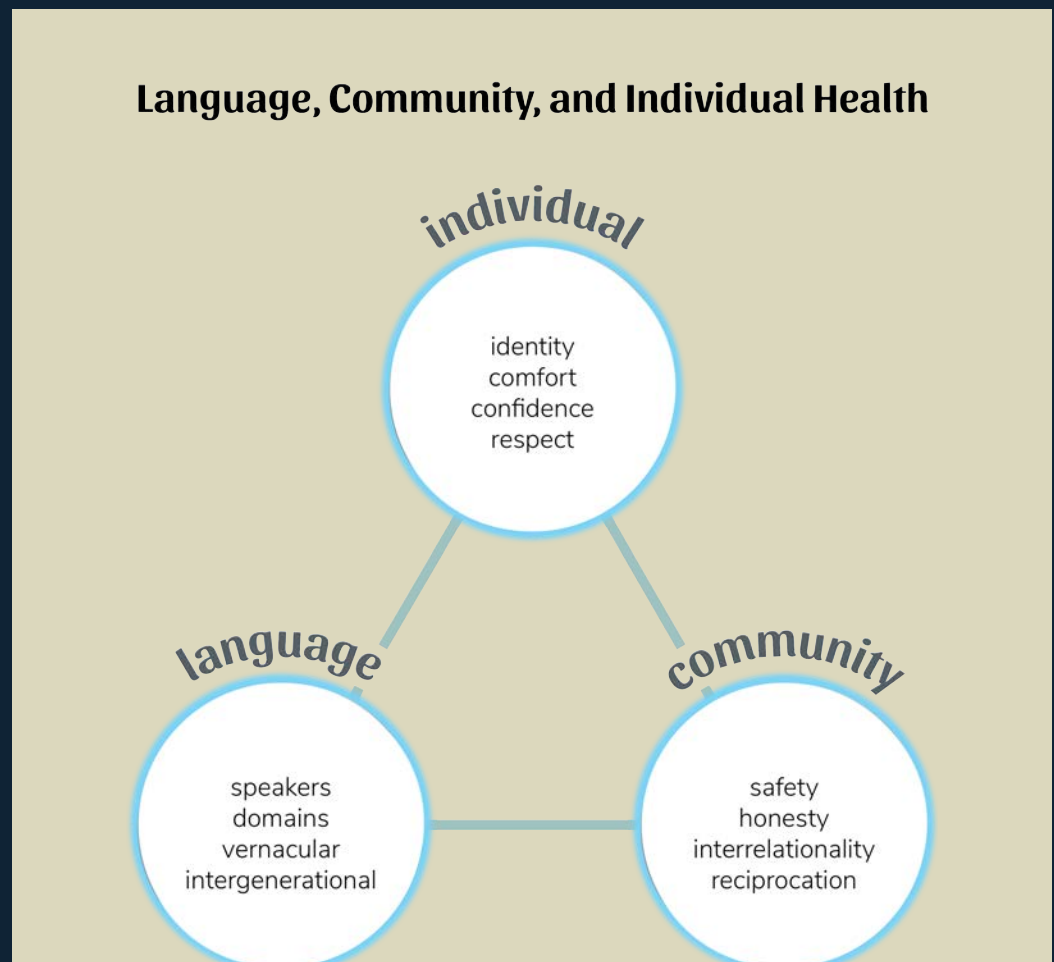
The Master of Arts in Teaching Indigenous Languages provides a clear and attainable pathway to pursuing teacher certification and licensure in Indigenous languages. In partnership with the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) and the UAS School of Education, we aim to prepare teachers who are ready to contribute to the creation of new speakers and the establishment or maintenance of Indigenous language programs, immersion events, and medium education systems.

## Program Vision

The Master of Arts in Teaching Indigenous Languages is committed to the health and stability of Indigenous languages. Our program seeks to ensure that existing speakers are protected, new speakers are created, and that Indigenous languages are ones of power and use. Our faculty and students commit to ensuring that educational systems are made equitable to the languages that are Indigenous to the lands on which those systems reside.

The approach of this program is to collaborate on strategies that increase Indigenous language social power and use. This requires social transformation and Indigenous empowerment in community planning and education.

Our program also takes into consideration the widespread impacts of historical traumas and the ways that Indigenous languages can contribute to healing and the individual and community levels.



## Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the Master of Arts in Teaching Indigenous Languages degree fulfill program objectives by demonstrating the ability to:

1. Develop and maintain courses that teach Indigenous languages or teach through Indigenous languages with one of the following goals: language stabilization, language revitalization, or language revival.
2. Articulate and maintain a philosophy of education for the language within which they are working, whether that be for a course, program, school, or language department within an Indigenous entity.
3. Develop transformational methods of Indigenization within the curricular structures of educational systems with a solid understanding of effective transformational efforts that have taken place in Hawai'i, Aotearoa, Six Nations, and Wisconsin.
4. Develop and implement systems of assessment, educational level determination, and curriculum development for Indigenous language medium schools, dual language schools, and community programs.
5. Demonstrate the ability to teach Alaska Native Languages through reflection, knowledge of learner development, differences, and learning environment content knowledge, collaborative planning and instructional design, implementation, and assessment, ethically in P-12 educational systems.

## Program Overview

The M.A.T. in Teaching Indigenous Languages is for candidates who are seeking initial certification in teaching Indigenous languages in Pk-12 grade levels. Successful candidates must demonstrate that they meet criteria for student teaching as well as AKL acquisition. All courses must be passed, key assessments must be passed and uploaded to Live Text to complete the program. Students must purchase Live Text.

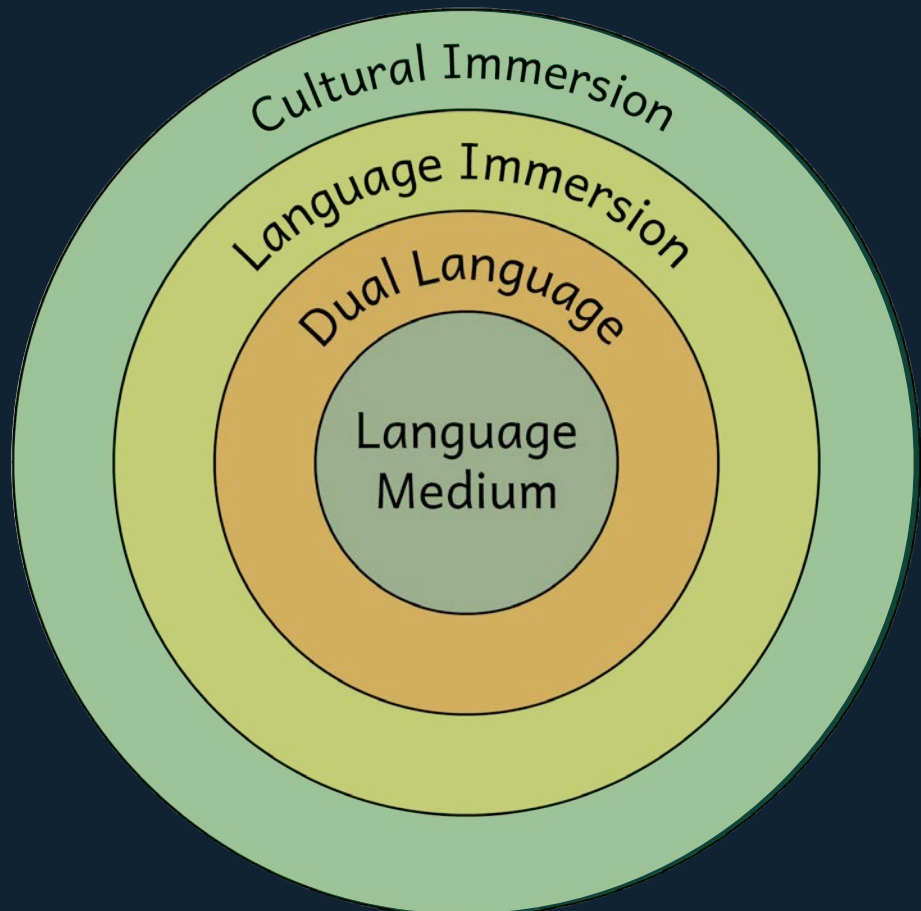
## Needed for Admission

- Formal Admissions Application
- An official transcript indicating a baccalaureate degree and GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation.
- Interested person report
- Admissions writing sample
- Passing Scores PRAXIS Basic Competency Exam (Reading, Writing, Math- multiple tests are accepted)

## Needed for Student Teaching

- Completion of 9 credits of program coursework
- Student Teaching Authorization Enrollment Form (DEED) and District
- Employment Verification or Placement within a School District for Student Teaching

The development of language schools and programs that are taught within this program focus on a movement towards language medium education. While this is the suggested method for Indigenous language education programs, every language has its own unique ecosystem that includes speaker, teacher, and administrator capacities. Our program encourages deliberate and structured implementation of education systems that are based upon effective models that produce new speakers and create areas of language use.



## Recommended Course Sequence

Courses do not need to be taken in this order, but are offered on a rotating schedule that are referred to by even and odd years, which refer to the calendar year of when the course is offered. For example, Spring 2027 is Odd Spring and Fall 2028 is Even Fall.

### Even Fall Term • up to 9 credits

- EDIL 620 Indigenous Language Revitalization • 3 credits
- EDIL 621 Foundations of Indigenous Language Education • 3 credits
- ED 680 Perspectives in Indigenous and Multicultural Education • 3 credits

### Odd Spring Term • up to 6 credits

- EDIL 624 Indigenous Language Curriculum Design & Instruction • 3 credits
- EDSE 687 Supporting Student Engagement or ED S619 Practices for Creating a Positive Classroom Community in K - 8 • 3 credits

### Odd Summer Term • up to 3 credits

- ECE 689 Early literacy: Culturally Responsive Reading Practices • 3 credits

### Odd Fall Term • up to 9 credits

- EDIL 626 Instructional Strategies • 3 credits
- EDIL 694 Practicum in Indigenous Language Education • 3 credits
- EDSE 682 Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities • 3 credits

### Even Spring Term • up to 9 credits

- EDIL 630 Indigenous Language Field Methods • 3 credits
- ED 688 Student Teaching • 6 credits

### Even Summer Term • up to 3 credits

- EDIL 692 Master's Seminar (Assessment: Portfolio) • 3 credits

## Needed for Teacher Certification

- Pass Competency Exam (Consistent Indigenous Language Proficiency Test – ACTFL- approved under current DEED regulations).
- Complete the State Verification Form (SVF) for certification. The document is initiated by the student and submitted to UAS for verification and signature before being sent to DEED for processing. UAS will send SVF directly to DEED.
- The students submit official UAS transcripts with the application for certification directly to DEED. UAS submits program verification to DEED.

