

# Admissions Criteria and Requirements for Navajo Technical University

## PhD in Diné Culture and Language Sustainability

The PhD in Diné Culture and Language Sustainability program at Navajo Technical University is designed for individuals who have a passion for preserving and promoting the Navajo language, culture, and traditions. Overall, the PhD in Diné Culture and Language Sustainability program seeks applicants who are committed to preserving and promoting the Navajo language, culture, and traditions. The program is designed for individuals who have a strong academic and professional background in related fields, and who are interested in conducting original research that contributes to the field of Diné culture and language sustainability.

The admissions process is competitive, and meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission to the program. Admissions decisions are based on a holistic evaluation of the applicant's academic and professional qualifications, research potential, and fit with the program's goals and values.

**Due Date for FALL 2026: June 5, 2026  
Midnight**

## Requirements for Admission

Admissions to the program are highly selective, and applicants must meet the following criteria and requirements:

**Bachelor's and Master's Degrees:** Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, as well as a Master's degree in a related field, such as Education, Linguistics, Anthropology, Native American Studies, or a related field. Applicants with a Master's degree in a different field may still be considered but will need to show how their experience aligns with the program's goals.

**GPA Requirement:** A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate and graduate coursework is required. However, applicants with a GPA below 3.0 may still be updated: 4-15-2026 fs

considered if they can demonstrate substantial professional and/or academic achievements in the field of Diné culture and language.

**Proficiency in Diné and English languages** will be expected of Culture, Language & Leadership graduate students. Students will have the opportunity to increase their proficiency in the Diné language by taking courses at their proficiency level.

**Relevant Experience:** Applicants with relevant experience working in the field of Diné culture and language, such as teaching Navajo language or working in a community-based organization focused on language revitalization, will be given preference.

## Components of the application

Submit the following to: [wmartinez@navajotech.edu](mailto:wmartinez@navajotech.edu) , Wyndi Martinez, Registrar, and [ndesiderio@navajotech.edu](mailto:ndesiderio@navajotech.edu), Natalie Desiderio, Diné Graduate Studies Adm. Assistant.

**Transcripts:** Applicants must submit official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended. Transcripts should be sent directly from the institution [Jasonwright@navajotech.edu](mailto:Jasonwright@navajotech.edu) OR by mail to the Registrar's Office.

**GRE Scores:** GRE test scores from within five years of application are required. This requirement may be waived if the applicant submits three writing samples.

Submit test scores through the GRE Navajo Technical University ID#

**3242 Navajo Technical University- Graduate/Business School or Fellowship**

**Statement of Purpose:** Applicants must submit a statement of purpose outlining their research interests and career goals. The statement should explain why the applicant is interested in the PhD in Diné Culture and Language Sustainability program and how the program will help them achieve their career goals.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must submit three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant's academic and/or professional abilities and their suitability for this program. Ideally, at least one letter should be from a professor or academic advisor, and another letter should be from a professional supervisor.

**Resume/CV:** Applicants must submit a current resume or curriculum vitae (CV) outlining their academic and professional experience, as well as any relevant publications or research projects.

**Research Proposal:** Applicants must submit a research proposal outlining their intended research topic and methodology. The proposal should demonstrate the applicant's knowledge of the field and ability to conduct original research.

**Writing Sample:** Applicants must submit 3 writing samples (10 pages limit per sample) that demonstrate their ability to write at an advanced academic level. The writing sample should be a research paper or academic article that the applicant is the primary author of.

## Interviews

**Interview:** Shortlisted applicants may be invited for an interview with the program director or a faculty member. The interview will assess the applicant's academic and professional qualifications, research interests, and motivation for pursuing the PhD in Diné Culture and Language Sustainability.