



**National Center
for American Indian
Health Professions**

Health Professions
Pathway for
American Indians
and Alaska Natives



Diversity Means More
Than **HUE** at ATSU

ATSU | A.T. Still
University
FIRST IN WHOLE PERSON HEALTHCARE

National Center for American Indian Health Professions

The National Center for American Indian Health Professions (NCAIHP) is committed to supporting American Indian and Alaska Native students in pursuing careers in healthcare. It offers career advising, assistance with admissions applications, financial guidance, academic support, and more. Through its partnership with A.T. Still University's (ATSU) Dreamline Pathways™ program, NCAIHP engages with K-12 and college students from these communities to inspire them to pursue healthcare careers.

NCAIHP provides current ATSU students with academic and personal support, cultural connectivity, and mentorship. The center collaborates with all ATSU programs to help these students successfully navigate their academic and personal journeys toward graduation. NCAIHP's support extends beyond graduation by encouraging American Indian and Alaska Native alumni to mentor future students and communities, fostering culturally proficient healers.



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The center is dedicated to helping students become professionals and leaders within their communities, aligning with ATSU's mission to serve the underserved by addressing these students' needs. NCAIHP actively engages with students committed to serving their communities, offering them tools and skills to become healthcare healers and leaders from admission to graduation and beyond.



ATSU Mission

A.T. Still University of Health Sciences serves as a learning-centered university dedicated to preparing highly competent professionals through innovative academic programs. The University is committed to continue its osteopathic heritage and focus on whole person healthcare, scholarship, community health, interprofessional education, diversity, and underserved populations.

NCAIHP purpose

To inspire, support, educate, and retain American Indian and Alaska Native students in the healthcare professions to improve the health and well-being of their tribal communities by incorporating the osteopathic principles of body, mind, and spirit along with traditional healing.

ATSU academic programs

ATSU offers several master's- and doctorate-level health professions degrees in Mesa, Arizona; Kirksville, Missouri; Santa Maria, California; and online. For additional information, visit atsu.edu/learn

Doctorate-level programs

- Athletic Training (online)
- Audiology (Arizona)
- Dental Medicine (Arizona & Missouri)
- Health Administration (online)
- Health Education (online)
- Health Sciences (online)
- Osteopathic Medicine (Arizona & Missouri)
- Occupational Therapy (online)
- Physical Therapy (Arizona)

Master's-level programs

- Health Administration (online)
- Health Education (online)
- Kinesiology (online)
- Physician Assistant Studies (Arizona & California)
- Public Health (online)

Educating future healthcare professionals

The Physician Assistant Studies (PA) program provides American Indian and Alaska Native PA students with opportunities to learn at clinical sites in Indian country. The program aims to recruit students from these communities with hopes the majority will return to practice in their Native communities. The PA program, in collaboration with NCAIHP, helps applicants throughout the admissions journey and provides cultural and academic support and clinical education opportunities.

Clinical education in Indian country

ATSU's Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health (ATSU-ASDOH) sends dental students to Bethel, Alaska, and other remote Alaskan communities to provide oral healthcare and learn from tribal elders and healthcare providers.

Supporting future healers

Extracurricular opportunities

American Indian and Alaska Native students at ATSU actively participate in extracurricular events on and off campus. Opportunities include student clubs specifically for this group of students, Talking Circles sponsored by NCAIHP, cultural events, healthcare and educational events at local tribal reservations, First Fridays at the Heard Museum, and American Indian healthcare guest speakers.

Pre-Admissions Workshop

NCAIHP hosts a Pre-Admissions Workshop (PAW) on an annual basis. PAW provides students with skills and information necessary to succeed in health professions programs and the admission process. During this workshop, prospective students will have the opportunity to explore healthcare fields; network with peers, academic deans, admissions representatives, and financial aid advisors; learn and participate in mock interviews; receive one-on-one support with their personal statements; and more.

Funding resources

Graduate school is an investment in the future of the student and community. Although most graduate students take out federal loans to cover their tuition and living expenses, there are resources to specifically assist American Indian and Alaska Native students.

ATSU has an average of 10 students receiving full scholarships from Indian Health Service (IHS). IHS offers scholarships and loan repayment programs ([ihs.gov/scholarship](https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship)). The American Indian Graduate Center ([aigcs.org](https://www.aigcs.org)) is another great resource for scholarships.





A.T. Still, DO
Museum of Osteopathic Medicine,
Kirksville, Missouri [1980.406.01]

Circle of support

Andrew Taylor Still, DO Hoconethowa

Dr. A.T. Still (left), the father of osteopathic medicine and founder of ATSU, believed healing had to be a body, mind, and spirit connection, much like the philosophy of the American Indian Medicine Wheel. Dr. Still's approach to medicine was a revolutionary concept in his time that spread worldwide. He was influenced by his years of living among the Shawnee Indians. He went by "Hoconethowa," a Shawnee name given to him meaning "healer."

William C. Blueskye, DO, '54 Seneca

Dr. Blueskye was the first documented American Indian and Onöndowa'ga:' (Seneca Indian) to graduate with a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery (now ATSU's Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine). Dr. Blueskye practiced in Mentor, Ohio.



George Blue Spruce Jr., DDS, MPH Laguna/Ohkay Owingeh

Dr. Blue Spruce Jr., an enrolled member of the Pueblo Tribe (Laguna/Ohkay Owingeh), is the first recognized American Indian dentist. He was also the first American Indian dentist given the title of assistant surgeon general. Although he officially retired in 1986, he has continued to work hard to enhance the health of American Indian people and encourage Indian people to become dentists and leaders in other health professions.



In 1990, he was instrumental in founding the Society of American Indian Dentists. Today, he is assistant dean for American Indian Affairs at ATSU-ASDOH in Mesa, Arizona. Recently, ATSU renamed its hero healers speakers forum to "George Blue Spruce Hero Healer Speaker Series."

Circle of support

American Indian and Alaska Native alumni of ATSU

ATSU has more than 40 current American Indian and Alaska Native students, and since 1956, ATSU has graduated more than 200 health professionals from these communities. ATSU-ASDOH has graduated more American Indian students than any other dental program in the U.S.

NCAIHP keeps the circle of support going by connecting American Indian and Alaska Native alumni to ATSU. The NCAIHP Advisory Council includes several ATSU alumni from these communities who are invited back to campus as both honored speakers and guests for continuing education opportunities. These alumni are wonderful mentors for future generations of students who proudly celebrate their shared heritage.

NCAIHP proudly serves as a home base for not only all American Indian and Alaska Native prospective and current students, but also ATSU alumni from these communities.

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As a proud alum of the ATSU Physician Assistant Studies program and member of the PA Admissions Committee, I enjoy mentoring both prospective and current American Indian PA students at ATSU.”

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Sharron Cook Diné, PA-C, '08
A.T. Still University-
Arizona School of Health Sciences



Sharron Cook Diné, PA-C, '08

Connect with us



ATSU believes excellence
requires understanding, affirming,
and valuing human difference.

Nondiscrimination statement


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Diversity & Inclusion