The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA)—the birthplace of contemporary Indigenous American art—has been the educational home for esteemed and innovative artists, writers, filmmakers, performers, and leaders since 1962. Our graduates include 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States Joy Harjo (Mvskoke [Creek]) ’68, internationally renowned fashion designer Patricia Michaels (Taux Pueblo) ’89, fine art photographer Cara Romero (Chemehuevi Indian Tribe) ’05, and multidisciplinary artist Cannupa Hanksa Luger (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, and Lakota) ’11. Our students come from across the globe, representing nearly one hundred federally recognized tribes.

IAIA offers undergraduate and low-residency graduate programs taught from Indigenous perspectives and encourages critical inquiry, exploration, and experimentation. Our in-person and online class options make studying at IAIA convenient for working professionals and students of all ages.

“Our have come a long way from our early days as a high school funded by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to where we are now—a world-class institution devoted to creating, interpreting, and supporting ground-breaking contemporary Indigenous arts,” says IAIA President Dr. Robert Martin (Cherokee Nation).

IAIA’s state-of-the-art, 140-acre campus is in a peaceful environment surrounded by stunning views of the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, and Ortiz Mountain ranges, but only a few minutes’ drive away from Santa Fe’s many museums and cultural institutions. Among our on-campus facilities are a black box theatre; a bronze foundry; glassblowing, jewelry-making, painting, printmaking, ceramics, photography, sculpture, animation, and motion capture studios; a 90-degree articulating Digital Dome; the collections of the IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts; an extensive library; and the IAIA Research Center for Contemporary Native Arts.

IAIA is one of 37 tribal colleges in the United States and a member of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC). We are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC).

Undergraduate Degrees
- Cinematic and Arts and Technology
- Creative Writing
- Indigenous Liberal Studies
- Museum Studies
- Performing Arts
- Studio Arts

Graduate Degrees
- Creative Writing
- Studio Arts
- Cultural Administration

Certificates
- Broadcast Journalism
- Business and Entrepreneurship
- Museum Studies
- Native American Art History

Continuing Education
- Personal Growth and Enrichment
- Professional Development
- Lifelong Learning
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Our mission is to empower creativity and leadership in Indigenous arts and cultures through higher education, lifelong learning, and community engagement.

The IAIA Museum of Contemporary Native Arts (MoCNA) is often featured on “Must See” lists of Santa Fe attractions. We are the country’s premier museum for exhibiting, collecting, and interpreting both the modern and contemporary works of Indigenous artists. MoCNA’s mission is “to elevate contemporary Indigenous art through exhibitions, collections, programs, partnerships, and research.” We strive to be flexible, foresighted, and risk-taking in our exhibitions and programs, which include curator-led tours, panel discussions, film screenings, and other educational events.

To enhance our exhibitions and contribute to the narrative of Indigenous contemporary arts, MoCNA produces significant catalogs of major shows, offering critical analysis and insight into the world of contemporary Indigenous arts. These catalogs are available in MoCNA’s on-site and online stores, alongside original artworks, jewelry, apparel, and gifts produced by Indigenous artists and Indigenous-owned companies. Learn more about MoCNA—one of Santa Fe’s most vital and cutting-edge cultural institutions.