

Furman University Study Away Program: Program Expectations

Program Title: Indian Country: Indigenous Culture and Religion in the Southwest, US

Locations: Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico

Dates: May 14-June 4, 2025

Guide. Under the dark sky of Chaco Canyon, stargaze with the ancients who religiously and accurately studied the movement of the sun and the moon. Learn about ancient Pueblo life and participate in a dig at Crow Canyon. Talk with a genuine Medicine man and learn about Peacemaker Court from tribal elders. Watch native craftspeople weave baskets, blow glass, and make pottery and talk about its meaning. Pueblo Villages, Santa Fe restaurants and museums, and the Grand Canyon are all part of the May X to Indian Country in the Southwest United States.

Academic, Environmental, Physical & Health Expectations for Participation

Below is a list of academic, environmental and physical expectations and requirements for participation in this study away program. The list captures most, but not all, requirements. If you have questions about the expectations and requirements, please check with the study away office or the program directors. Students requiring a physical or academic accommodation should contact the Student Office for Accessibility Resources (SOAR) no less than 4 months prior to the start date of the program.

	Frequency		Frequency
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional	STUDY AWAY ENVIRONMENT	Always, Sometimes, Never/ Required or Optional
Course work in a foreign language	Never	Foreign Language Environment	Not applicable (domestic program)
Course work in English	Always	Terrain (Mountains, Tropical, Forest, Desert, Hilly, Flat)	Mountains, mesa, dirt paths for hiking
Laptop Required	Optional	Population: Rural, Urban, Remote, etc.	Mostly rural and remote
Smart phone required (videos, photos, blogs)	Optional	Environment (high altitude, air pollution, dusty, sandy, humid, dry, hot, cold)	Dry, high altitude, warm and cold
Traditional Classroom	Never	Mosquito Borne Risk of Illness	No risk
Group Work	Never	Is tap water safe to drink	Safe to drink
Academic Assessments (tests, journals, presentations, essays)	Reflective journal, essay, participation	Other Risks (natural disasters, crime, pickpocketing, etc.)	
Interactions with local residents	Always	Cultural Dress Code	Modest attire required for some ceremonial events and sacred sites.
Field Work/Research	Field work	Curfew	Never
Internship/ Volunteer Work	Possible	Motion Sickness	Plane travel, long van rides, possible boat ride
Other	Cultural respect is required of all participants.	Other	Sunscreen is recommended

PHYSICAL EXPECTATIONS	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	HEALTH & DIET	Frequency
Lifting/Carrying Own Luggage	Always	Vegetarian and Vegan Options Available at all meals	Can accommodate vegetarian and vegan diets if planned ahead.
Carrying equipment or program supplies	Never	Food Allergy Accommodations	Always
Standing 60+ minutes	Always	Group Meals	Always
Ability to walk up one or more flights of stairs (elevators may not be available)	Sometimes (ability to climb ladders is also necessary)	Cooking for oneself	Never
Hiking (easy to strenuous; frequency; miles)	Some moderate hiking	Host family prepares meals	Never
Walking 3+ miles per day	Always (mileage varies)	Healthcare easily accessible	Always
Use of public transportation (buses, trams, trains, subways)	Never	Quality of Healthcare	Excellent
LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional	WATER ACTIVITIES	Always, Sometimes, Never, / Required or Optional
Host Family	Never	Swimming	Possible
Roommate	Always	Snorkeling	None
Shared Apartment	Never	SCUBA	None
Dormitory	Never	Boat, canoes or other water activities	Possible boat ride
Camping	Never	Sea sickness	Possible
Hotel	Always	Other	
Cell phone signal available	Varies		
Internet signal available	Varies		
Refrigerator Access	Not guaranteed		
Air Conditioning	In hotels and vans		
Other			