The Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators (DINÉ) attaches great importance to the process of writing curriculum units. This process includes completing significant background reading, an initial summary of the curriculum idea (called a prospectus), and two drafts before submitting the full, complete curriculum unit. The curriculum unit must be original and the product of the current year’s seminar. By writing the curriculum unit, you are planning to teaching your students about the seminar subject.

This process for writing the curriculum unit allows Teacher Fellows to develop their ideas with feedback from the Seminar Leader and other Teacher Fellows in their seminar group. Because of the importance of this process, it is imperative that Fellows meet all deadlines. Curriculum Units that have not been prepared according to this process cannot be accepted by the DINÉ. Each assignment should be submitted through the seminar BBLearn shell and also as an attachment via email to dineteachersinstitute@nau.edu by the due dates. Seminar Coordinators and Seminar Leaders are available by appointment and through email to answer any questions you may have.

Throughout the reading and writing process, Teacher Fellows should remember the importance of aligning their work to local, state, and Common Core standards as well as to Diné culture and character building standards. Diné language and culture must be integrated to ensure all curriculum units are relevant to students in schools on the Navajo Nation.

**Curriculum Unit Topic and Personal Reading List**

Due: ________________

This is a one-paragraph description of your curriculum unit topic, and a list of related readings that you will complete as background research for your topic. The paragraph should be 100-300 words. The reading list should include 10-20 items that you plan to read.

**Prospectus**

Due: ________________

This is a 1,000- to 2,000-word essay that describes what you think the curriculum unit will contain. This is your first attempt at a summary and overview of your curriculum unit.

**First Draft of Curriculum Unit, and First Draft of the Synopsis**

Due: ________________

This is a 5,000- to 7,000-word prose statement of the curriculum unit’s context and rationale, content objectives, and teaching strategies. This should consist of paragraphs of sustained narrative, exposition, or argument.

You should also include the first draft of the synopsis of your curriculum unit. This is a 200-word description of your curriculum unit that informs other teachers who might want to use the
curriculum unit you develop. This should be on a separate page and should have a page heading that reads “Synopsis: title of your curriculum unit”. Remember to submit the entire document in the “assignments” section of BBLearn and also as an attachment to an email sent to dineteachersinstitute@nau.edu

Second Draft of Curriculum Unit, and Second Draft of Synopsis  Due: ______________

This draft is a revised version of your context and rationale, content objectives, and teaching strategies, based on the feedback you received on your first draft. This draft should also contain the first writing of the examples of classroom activities, student assessment plan, the discussion of how your unit aligns with state and Diné standards, and the annotated list of resources. This draft should be prepared in accordance with the criteria for the final curriculum unit, including any images, full citation information, and accurate formatting as described in the Mechanical Specifications for DINÉ Curriculum Units document. It should be 8,000-12,000 words total, and it should conform to all specifications of APA Style. The bibliography should be fully annotated.

You should also include a revised version of your synopsis, based on the feedback you received on your first draft of the synopsis. This should be on a separate page and should have a page heading that reads “Synopsis: title of your curriculum unit”. Remember to submit the entire document in the “assignments” section of BBLearn and also as an attachment to an email sent to dineteachersinstitute@nau.edu

Final Curriculum Unit, and Synopsis  Due: ______________

This is the final, completed version of the entire curriculum unit.

The final, completed version of your synopsis should be included as the last page of the document with a page heading that reads “Synopsis: title of your curriculum unit”

This document must be prepared in accordance with the criteria for the final curriculum unit, including any images, full citation information, and accurate formatting as described in the Mechanical Specifications for DINÉ Curriculum Units document. It should be 8,000-12,000 words total, and it should conform to all specifications of APA Style.

The Elements of a DINÉ Curriculum Unit:

After reading widely about your chosen topic and participating in the DINÉ seminar, you should complete a curriculum unit consisting of:

1. Context and Rationale – A narrative description of your reasons for creating this particular curriculum unit. This should include a brief description of the grade level, content area, and any other pertinent characteristics of the class(es) for which the curriculum unit is developed. This should also include a brief description of how the
curriculum unit fits in with your general teaching schedule and/or the time of year for which the curriculum unit is best suited.

2. Content Objectives – A clear statement of the subject matter the unit covers, including essential background ideas and/or concepts.

3. Teaching Strategies – A unified, coherent teaching plan for the content objectives.

4. Classroom Activities – Three or more detailed examples of actual teaching methods or lesson plans.

5. Student Assessment Plan – A specific description of how you will assess student learning of the curriculum unit’s content. This should include the method(s) you will use, along with any pertinent documents (i.e., test questions, activity instructions, etc.).

6. Alignment with Standards – A clear statement of the particular state curriculum standards and Diné standards your unit addresses. You must align your curriculum unit to both state standards and Diné standards.

7. Resources – three distinct annotated lists of resources that you have reviewed and recommend for (a) teacher background reading, (b) student reading, and (c) materials for classroom use. You should explain how these resources relate to the content objectives.

The first three sections (Context and Rationale, Content Objectives, and Teaching Strategies) must consist of paragraphs of sustained narrative, exposition, or argument. These three sections together should be between 5,000 and 7,000 words. Outlines, lists, and worksheets (if included) belong in the section devoted to classroom activities. The classroom activities section should include a variety of methods and activities that you developed. The Student Assessment Plan should be 500-1,000 words and should include specific methods you will use to assess student learning related to the content of your curriculum unit. The sixth section (Alignment with Standards) should be 500-1,000 words and should indicate which specific state and Diné standards your curriculum unit addresses and explain how your curriculum unit is aligned to those standards in a significant way.

********************************************************************************

Use of Copyrighted Material:

If you want to include in your curriculum unit images or excerpts from copyrighted material, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner. If use of such material is not granted free of charge, you must obtain advance approval from the DINÉ for paying any fees that you are not prepared to pay. Copyrighted material must be properly credited in an end note. The Diné Institute for Navajo Nation Educators cannot accept units that contain copyrighted material for which you have not obtained prior authorization. Because of the delays you may encounter in obtaining permission from copyright owners, you should seek such permission well in advance of completing your unit. We suggest you request such permissions while preparing your first draft. For further information, consult the detailed instructions and forms provided for obtaining copyright permissions.