Bacone College is Oklahoma’s oldest continuing center of higher education and began in 1880. The College has never lost its concern for the individual student. Learning is seen as a way of life that encourages flexibility, breadth of perspective, and respect for the contributions made to the quality of human existence by those of all ages and races.

As the student body has grown and the needs of society have become more complex, the curriculum has changed to meet the needs of the students.

Bacone College's commitment to the ongoing development and expansion of this innovative model places it at the forefront of the Higher Education response to tribal language endangerment within the state of Oklahoma.
"Losing a language is a major setback for everyone, because along with the language, you will also lose all of the poems, the stories, the songs. And those things are of immense importance to all of us as human beings.

Anthony Aristar, Lakota

The Center for Tribal Languages at Bacone College places the learning of Native Languages and the teaching of Native languages at the forefront of its mission.

About the Bachelor’s of Arts in Tribal Language Degree
The innovative Bachelor’s of Arts in Tribal Languages Degree is one of only a handful of programs in the United States that provides the opportunity for young people to develop their language proficiency in their heritage languages, and the skills to teach these languages, while completing their college degree.

This Degree Program features courses designed specifically for Tribal Languages: Applied Linguistics, Teaching Methodologies, Curriculum Development, Education, and tribally specific language instruction by tribally certified language instructors. The innovative feature of this Program is the ability to earn college credits for intensive Language Internships at authorized tribal locations.

Graduates of this Program will be prepared to take their place within their tribes as Native Language Instructors, Tribal Linguists, Native Language Revitalization workers. These graduates will become the tribal leaders of the future.

Bacone College is thrilled to have Jacob Manatowa-Bailey as our founding Director of the Center for Tribal Languages. Jacob has worked in the field of language revitalization for over fifteen years and as Director of the Sauk Language Department helped pioneer the team-based Master Apprentice method for intensive language learning. His academic work has focused on effective language organizing, leadership, and program development within tribal communities. He worked closely with Bacone College to design the Bachelor’s degree and will continue to provide direction as the program expands.

Jacob Manatowa-Bailey

Cost of Attendance
Students enrolled in this concentration will be eligible for federal financial aid and a special tuition rate established for Tribal Education Initiatives.

Cultural Support
Students in this program will enjoy cultural support and programs through The Center for American Indians at Bacone College. The Center for American Indians at Bacone College stands as one of the 2 pillars of the institution to help support the mission of Bacone College. The Center for American Indians offers many programs that American Indians can be involved with to learn and grow in their cultural heritage.