



**SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Testing Policy for Ancestors, Cultural Items, and Objects of Cultural Patrimony which are housed in SF State's Repository and which are SF State's Legal Responsibility:

Statement

San Francisco State University (SFSU) acknowledges the ancestral homelands of the Ohlone and Coast Miwok Peoples. Here, we extend this to acknowledge the multiple fraught histories of this land. We recognize that what we are returning is not in its original form and in some cases may be unusable which may, in part, have been caused by contamination within our facilities.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Program at SFSU is dedicated to returning ancestors, cultural items, and objects of cultural patrimony to their designated homelands. Today, we are working diligently with tribal nations to ensure that the repatriation process is done in a respectful manner.

Purpose

- The intent of SF State's contamination and testing policy is to facilitate respectful and timely repatriation of NAGPRA and California NAGPRA (Cal NAGPRA) subject Ancestors, cultural items, and objects of cultural patrimony to Native American Tribes/ Tribal Nations. Some of these Ancestors and cultural items may have been exposed to contamination via curatorial or storage practices while in the care of SF State. Based on the availability of funds, if a consulting Tribe requests contamination testing in order to have the information necessary to take appropriate safety measures, if needed, during the repatriation process then SF State will pay for the costs associated with reasonable and culturally sensitive testing to the extent feasible. The University has allocated funding for this purpose for the 2023 fiscal year as a pilot project and will consider doing so in future years based on the results of this pilot project, and to the extent that funds are available.

Notice

- SF State has a potential contamination notice posted on its website and inside the NAGPRA Repository. Notice of potential contamination will also be provided to the consulting Tribe(s) at the beginning of the consultation process, along with any information available about the potential exposure to contamination of the relevant collections and the potential hazards to individuals coming in contact with contaminated objects of cultural patrimony within collections. Upon request, the Tribe will be given information on preservation methods, test results, and the collection's chemical exposure timeline that are available. This information will also be available upon request to anyone visiting the NAGPRA Repository.

Written Permission

- No testing on NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA subject Ancestors, cultural items, or objects of cultural patrimony will be conducted without written permission from the consulting Tribe(s).

Research

- SF State does not allow research or educational usage of any kind, including but not limited to testing, on any NAGPRA or Cal NAGPRA subject Ancestors, cultural items, or objects of cultural



**SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

patrimony that are the legal responsibility of SF State, without written permission from the consulting Tribe(s) before conducting research or testing.

Testing Scope and Process

- When testing is requested, SF State will seek detailed input from the consulting Tribe(s) regarding the desired level of testing, as well as any culturally appropriate measures to be taken during testing. All SF State Staff and SF State Vendors will be required to honor and defer to the culturally appropriate measures requested by the consulting Tribe(s) when handling Ancestors, cultural items, or objects of cultural patrimony.
- Any testing reports shall be provided to the consulting Tribe(s)

Costs

- SF State's Tribal Nation Hospitality Policy applies to visits by Tribe(s) related to testing.
- Based on the availability of funds, SF State will pay for reasonable costs related to testing to the extent feasible.
- SF State will provide the consulting Tribe(s) with a list of potential testing vendors to choose from. If the consulting Tribe(s) have a preferred qualified vendor that request will be accommodated to the extent feasible, based on the availability of funds.
- The testing vendor can contract with SF State or the consulting Tribe(s). If SF State provides funding or contributes to funding, to the extent feasible and based on the availability of funds, for a testing vendor contracted through the consulting Tribe(s), SF State will require a copy of the testing results and any reports for its records.

Testing and Repatriation

- If requested by the consulting Tribe(s), any testing materials and testing data will be included when the NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA subject items are repatriated.

Treatment

- If requested by the consulting Tribe(s) in writing, SF State will work collaboratively with Tribe(s) to seek reasonable treatment methods for NAGPRA/CalNAGPRA subject items based on the availability of funds.

Protective Gear

- Protective gear such as disposable masks, gloves, and shoe covers will be provided by SF State.

NAGPRA Regulations Update

When the updated regulations for NAGPRA or CalNAGPRA are finalized, this Policy will be promptly updated to comply with the new regulations. This policy will also be reviewed by SF State every three years



**SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

to determine if it needs to be updated for purposes of legal compliance or to address input from Tribe(s) and the American Indian Studies Department.

Testing Policy for Ancestors, Cultural Items, and Objects of Cultural Patrimony which are housed in SF State's Repository and which are the legal responsibility of another entity:

- SF State will request that the legally responsible entity follow SF State's Contamination and Testing Policy.
- Based on the availability of funds, reasonable testing costs for contamination that is known to have occurred while NAGPRA subject items were housed at SF State will be borne by SF State, to the extent feasible.