

SPANISH, MA

The degrees offered are the master of arts and doctor of philosophy in Spanish. In addition, the department offers a doctoral minor in Spanish or Portuguese, consisting of nine credits of graduate study.

An integrated curriculum in Spanish language, literatures, cultures, and linguistics provides training at the master's and PhD levels and assures that graduates are prepared to contribute as professionals in the fields of teaching and research. An active program of research contributes to new knowledge in Spanish. A comprehensive group of courses is offered in rotation during the academic year so that candidates may take courses in all fields. Classes are conducted in Spanish.

The department's graduate program in Spanish is consistently among the finest in the country. Teaching assistantships are offered each year to graduate candidates in Spanish and Portuguese. A full complement of courses in Spanish and Spanish American, literatures, cultures, and linguistics is offered on a regular basis.

Fellowships, scholarships, teaching assistantships, and project assistantships are available to qualified graduate degree candidates.

Students pursuing advanced degrees in this department are advised to include in their training work in other languages and literatures, art, social sciences, linguistics, film studies, and philosophy. Knowledge of other languages is required for advanced work in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian fields.

ADMISSIONS

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Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	January 5
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
English Proficiency Test	Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a

Letters of Recommendation Required 3

This program is designed for individuals to finish their academic career with an MA and for those who decide to pursue the PhD. Its general, non-specialized approach is beneficial to both types.

Applicants must have an undergraduate degree in Spanish, an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and a GPA in Spanish courses of at least 3.25. Exceptions to these requirements may be made by the admissions committee.

Admitted applicants will be asked to supply supplementary information regarding courses taken previously, experience abroad, scope of readings in Spanish and Spanish-American literatures, and preparation in linguistics.

All new admitted applicants will write a sample essay during the orientation week of their first semester of study. If the department determines that an admitted applicant needs to improve their written Spanish, they will be asked to meet several times during the semester with their selected advisor to work on composition skills.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR MA APPLICATIONS

- Three letters of recommendation are required for all graduate student applicants, using the Graduate School's online application.
- Unofficial transcripts from each institution attended. International academic records must be in the original language accompanied by an official English translation. Official transcripts will only be requested by the Graduate School upon program recommendation for admission.
- Reason for Graduate Study/Statement of Purpose: What are your reasons for graduate study? Please describe your current degree goals and your reasons for selecting your program(s). Your statement can be either in English or Spanish. It should not exceed three single-spaced pages, or the equivalent when double-spaced.

FUNDING

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

The Bursar's Office provides information about tuition and fees associated with being a graduate student. Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Prospective students should see the program website (<http://spanport.wisc.edu/prospective-grad-funding/>) for funding information.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum degree requirements (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#requirements>) and policies (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policies>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

Mode of Instruction Definitions

Accelerated: Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

Evening/Weekend: Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

Face-to-Face: Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

Hybrid: These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

Online: These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

Requirement Detail	
Minimum Credit Requirement	32 credits
Minimum Residence Credit Requirement	16 credits
Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement	18 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/).
Overall Graduate GPA Requirement	3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/).
Other Grade Requirements	No other grade requirements.

Assessments and Examinations	Students must submit a research portfolio consisting of three term papers from graduate courses in this program. Students submitting portfolios shall be allowed, but not required, to include in their portfolio a brief statement (approximately 1000 words) explaining their anticipated doctoral research agenda. Each term paper included in the portfolio shall represent a different curricular area. Before submitting their portfolio pieces, students should revise them in accordance with the corrections and comments provided by their course professors during the initial evaluation of those materials. Students must submit their portfolio by March 1, and the portfolio review committee will bring their recommendations to the Departmental Committee for discussion and final decision at the committee's March meeting.
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Language Requirements	No language requirements beyond English and Spanish. However, candidates who expect to go on to the doctoral program are urged to acquire the basic reading knowledge of a second foreign language before completing the portfolio. It should be another Romance Language, Latin, Arabic, or German. Other languages may be considered, with the approval of the department.
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REQUIRED COURSES

Students are introduced to Spanish and Spanish-American literature, literary criticism and linguistics. All departmental graduate courses are considered advanced courses with the exception of survey courses. First-year students must have advisor permission and instructor consent to enroll in a seminar course.

Courses in an outside department may satisfy minimum credit requirements if approved by the Chair. This is not allowable if the student receives advisor approval for up to six credits in non-Spanish language coursework.

Spanish MA with a Concentration in Literature ¹

This pathway is based on **six** literary areas:

1. Medieval Literature
2. Golden Age Literature
3. Modern Peninsular Literature
4. Spanish-American Literature I (Colonial through Modernismo)
5. Spanish-American Literature II (From Modernismo to the present)
6. Latinx Studies

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses ²		21
The following course is required for all new teaching assistants:		
SPANISH 770	Introduction to the Profession	
<i>Area Coursework</i>		
Students must complete one course in each of the six literary areas.		
<i>Advanced Courses</i>		
Students must complete at least 6 credits in advanced courses (numbered 600 and above).		
Coursework can be completed from the following courses:		
³		

SPANISH 801	Seminar-Spanish American Literature
SPANISH 802	Seminar-Spanish American Literature
SPANISH 851	Seminar in Golden Age Prose: Cervantes Don Quijote
SPANISH 852	Seminar in Golden Age Prose
SPANISH 861	Seminar-Modern Spanish Literature
SPANISH/ A A E/ANTHRO/ C&E SOC/ GEOG/HISTORY/ LACIS/POLI SCI/ PORTUG/ SOC 982	Interdepartmental Seminar in the Latin-American Area

Electives

Students must complete 11 credits of electives. Credits typically taken in literature areas. 11

Language Courses

Students may take up to 6 credits of language courses other than Spanish or English. 0-6

Total Credits 32

- ¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.
- ² SPANISH 320 Spanish Phonetics and SPANISH 770 Introduction to the Profession **do not** satisfy any of the literary or linguistic areas.
- ³ Other courses may be used to satisfy these requirements with advisor approval.

Spanish MA with a Concentration in Linguistics¹

This pathway is based on **four** linguistics areas:

1. Phonetics & Phonology
2. Syntax
3. Language Variation & Change
4. Applied Linguistics & Second Language Acquisition

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses²		15

The following course is required for all new teaching assistants:

SPANISH 770 Introduction to the Profession

Advanced Courses

Students must complete at least 6 credits in advanced courses (numbered 600 and above).

Area Coursework

Choose 3 credits from each of the following areas:

Phonetics & Phonology

Syntax

Language Variation & Change

Applied Linguistics & Second Language Acquisition

Coursework can be completed from the following courses:

³

SPANISH 446 Topics in Spanish Linguistics

SPANISH 630	Topics in Hispanic Linguistics
SPANISH 899	Independent Reading

Electives

Students must complete 17 credits of electives. Credits typically taken in linguistics areas. 17

Language Courses

Students may take up to 6 credits of language courses other than Spanish or English 0-6

Total Credits 32

- ¹ These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.
- ² SPANISH 320 Spanish Phonetics and SPANISH 770 Introduction to the Profession **do not** satisfy any of the literary or linguistic areas.
- ³ Other courses may be used to satisfy these requirements with advisor approval.

POLICIES**GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES**

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) serve as the official document of record for Graduate School academic and administrative policies and procedures and are updated continuously. Note some policies redirect to entries in the official UW-Madison Policy Library (<https://policy.wisc.edu/>). Programs may set more stringent policies than the Graduate School. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES
PRIOR COURSEWORK**Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions**

Master's students are not allowed to transfer in graduate credits from other institutions.

Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

No credits from undergraduate courses from an undergraduate degree are allowed to fulfill degree requirements. But students who have taken graduate level courses are allowed to petition with their advisor's consent up to a maximum of 7 credits.

Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

Credits Earned as a University Special student at UW-Madison

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 6 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW-Madison University Special student. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a master's degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

Students must take a minimum of two graduate-level courses in Spanish and/or Portuguese for credit each semester, exclusive of independent reading courses and audited courses. A student who is not in compliance with this requirement is not making good progress toward the degree, and will therefore be deemed not in good academic standing. Advisors should be aware that only the Graduate Studies Committee may grant exemptions.

Satisfactory progress depends on: maintaining a GPA of at least 3.0, adhering to the rule whereby students must take two courses within the department (or have the rule waived by petition), and fulfilling all academic requirements. Students who are not in good standing will not be given sections to teach as Teaching Assistants, and those whose GPA goes below 3.0 are put on academic probation. If a semester of 3.0 is not attained during the subsequent semester, the student may be dismissed from the program.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

An advisor is assigned to incoming students when they join the program. The student and the advisor will plan a program that takes into account the candidate's interest, strengths and deficiencies. If, for example, the student has a strong undergraduate background in a particular period of literature, the advisor will not recommend further exposure to the same field. Likewise, a student with extensive experience abroad and/or undergraduate preparation in composition or conversation may not need further study in these areas.

All students must have a substantial meeting with their advisor every semester to review their progress and work out the best strategies for future coursework and degree progress.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credit maximum. Refer to the Graduate School: Maximum Credit Loads and Overload Requests (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1228/>) policy.

TIME LIMITS

The MA/PhD portfolio is submitted in the fourth or fifth semester of the MA program, very rarely beyond that.

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
 - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)

- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (<https://osas.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

L&S POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC APPEALS

Graduate students have the right to appeal an academic decision related to an L&S graduate program if the student believes that the decision is inconsistent with published policy.

Academic decisions that may be appealed include:

- Dismissal from the graduate program
- Failure to pass a qualifying or preliminary examination
- Failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress
- Academic disciplinary action related to failure to meet professional conduct standards

Issues such as the following cannot be appealed using this process:

- A faculty member declining to serve as a graduate student's advisor.
- Decisions regarding the student's disciplinary knowledge, evaluation of the quality of work, or similar judgements. These are the domain of the department faculty.
- Course grades. These can be appealed instead using the L&S Policy for Grade Appeal (<https://kb.wisc.edu/lis/22258/>).
- Incidents of bias or hate, hostile and intimidating behavior (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>), or discrimination (Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>), Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/eo-complaint/formal-investigations/>)). Direct these to the linked campus offices appropriate for the incident(s).

Appeal Process for Graduate Students

A graduate student wishing to appeal an academic decision must follow the process in the order listed below. Note time limits within each step.

1. The student should first seek informal resolution, if possible, by discussing the concern with their academic advisor, the department's Director of Graduate Studies, and/or the department chair.
2. If the program has an appeal policy listed in their graduate program handbook, the student should follow the policy as written, including adhering to any indicated deadlines. In the absence of a specific departmental process, the chair or designee will be the reviewer and decision maker, and the student should submit a written appeal to the chair within 15 business days of the academic decision. The chair or designee will notify the student in writing of their decision.
3. If the departmental process upholds the original decision, the graduate student may next initiate an appeal to L&S. To do so, the

student must submit a written appeal to the L&S Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Academic Affairs within 15 business days of notification of the department's decision.

- a. To the fullest extent possible, the written appeal should include, in a single document: a clear and concise statement of the academic decision being appealed, any relevant background on what led to the decision, the specific policies involved, the relief sought, any relevant documentation related to the departmental appeal, and the names and titles of any individuals contributing to or involved in the decision.
 - b. The Assistant Dean will work with the Academic Associate Dean of the appropriate division to consider the appeal. They may seek additional information and/or meetings related to the case.
 - c. The Assistant Dean and Academic Associate Dean will provide a written decision within 20 business days.
4. If L&S upholds the original decision, the graduate student may appeal to the Graduate School. More information can be found on their website: Grievances and Appeals (<https://grad.wisc.edu/documents/grievances-and-appeals/>) (see: Graduate School Appeal Process).

OTHER

Guaranteed funding through teaching assistantships. Many additional sources of funding are available on a competitive basis, including the Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, summer research Mellon fellowships, one-semester dissertation fellowships, Title VI FLAS fellowships for summer and year-long foreign language study, Nave summer research travel grants, and numerous others.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Articulates, critiques, and elaborates the theories, methods, and terminology of the field of study
2. Identifies and pursues promising avenues of inquiry, finds and makes use of appropriate bibliography, evaluates or synthesizes pertinent information and analyzes evidence
3. Demonstrates breadth of knowledge and understanding the field of study in a historical, sociocultural and global context.
4. Develops speaking and writing skills and communicates fluently and clearly in Spanish in ways appropriate to the field of study.
5. Develops academic professionalization through participation in conferences and other extracurricular activities in preparation for a career path related to the field.
6. Develops effective teaching skills (for beginning and intermediate classes).