LATIN AMERICAN, CARIBBEAN, AND IBERIAN STUDIES, B.S.

The Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Program is one of the major US centers for research about Latin America. This program is for those who seek a multidisciplinary education on Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain, and Portugal. It offers a wide range of courses in fields such as anthropology, business, economics, geography, history, journalism, music, political science, sociology, Spanish and Portuguese, and indigenous languages such as Yucatec Maya or Quechua.

The aims of the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian studies major are to provide:

1. a broad exposure to Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian studies by requiring students to take area and language content courses;
2. basic working knowledge in Spanish and/or Portuguese;
3. flexibility which allows students to take courses of interest, study abroad, and develop innovative academic projects; and
4. career-related advice and opportunities including volunteer work and internships with international organizations.

Students should contact the undergraduate advisor to determine which courses may satisfy major requirements. A minimum of 40 credits is required for the LACIS major. Upon declaration of the LACIS major, an assessment file is opened for each student which will include:

1. the development and submission of an ‘area of concentration,’
2. writing samples,
3. results of a language proficiency exam, and
4. an exit survey.

HOW TO GET IN

Students should contact the LACIS undergraduate (https://lacis.wisc.edu/people/peoplestaff/) advisor to declare the major.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world. Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetestudytext) section of the Guide.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics

Two (2) 3+ credits of intermediate/advanced level MATH, COMP SCI, STAT

Limit one each: COMP SCI, STAT

Foreign Language

Complete the third unit of a foreign language

Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth

• Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
• Social Sciences, 12 credits
• Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include 6 credits in biological science; and must include 6 credits in physical science

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework

108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work

60 intermediate or advanced credits

Major

Declare and complete at least one (1) major

Total Credits

120 credits

UW-Madison Experience

30 credits in residence, overall

Minimum GPAs

2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison

2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and

General Education

• Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
• Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
• Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
• Communication Part A & Part B *
• Ethnic Studies *
• Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.
degree requirements above. Please note that the following special
degree programs are not considered majors so are not available to
non-L&S-degree-seeking candidates:

• Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics (Bachelor of
  Science–Applied Mathematics, Engineering and
  Physics)
• Journalism (Bachelor of Arts–Journalism; Bachelor of
  Science–Journalism)
• Music (Bachelor of Music)
• Social Work (Bachelor of Social Work)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

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Language Requirement  12-16

Students must either complete or test out of the fourth
semester of Spanish or Portuguese.

Students must also take an additional four courses in
Spanish and/or Portuguese language, literature, and
civilization above the 220 level. ²

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**Area of Concentration**  
15-20

Students must take at least five courses in an area of concentration that the student self-selects. The concentration may be disciplinary (history, anthropology etc.) or topical (poverty, gender, social justice etc). The courses in the area of concentration CAN NOT be Spanish or Portuguese language or literature courses.

- **A A E/ENVIR ST 244** The Environment and the Global Economy
- **A A E/AGRONOMY/INTER-AG/NUTR SCI 350** World Hunger and Malnutrition
- **A A E/INTL ST 373** Globalization, Poverty and Development
- **A A E/INTL ST 374** The Growth and Development of Nations in the Global Economy
- **A A E 375** Special Topics (LACIS-related topic only)
- **A A E/ECON/INTL BUS 462** Latin American Economic Development
- **AFRICAN/PORTUG 451** Lusophone African Literature
- **AFROAMER/ANTHRO/C&E SOC/GEOG/HISTORY/LACIS/POLI SCI/SOC/SPANISH 260** Latin America: An Introduction
- **AFROAMER/HISTORY 347** The Caribbean and its Diasporas
- **AFROAMER/AFRICAN 413** Contemporary African and Caribbean Drama
- **AFROAMER/ART HIST 643** Selected Topics in African Diaspora
- **AFROAMER/AFRICAN 413** Art History (LACIS related topic)
- **AGRonomy 377** Cropping Systems of the Tropics
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<td>Special Topics in Counseling and Guidance (LACIS related content)</td>
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<td>CURRIC 243</td>
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<td>The Humid Tropics: Ecology, Subsistence, and Development</td>
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<td>LITTRANS 252</td>
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<td>MEDIEVAL/Spanish 414</td>
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<td>MEDIEVAL/Spanish 504</td>
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<td>POLI SCI 652</td>
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<td>Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Global Health and Disease</td>
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<td>Portuguese Civilization</td>
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<td>Brazilian Civilization</td>
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<tr>
<td>PORTUG 364</td>
<td>Historical and Cultural Traditions of Brazil</td>
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</table>
**Science and Culture, B.S.**

**Food, Culture, and Society**

**Latin America: An Introduction**

**Sociodemographic Analysis of Mexican Migration**

**Social Movements**

**Introduction to Hispanic Cultures**

**Spanish American Civilization**

**Topics in Hispanic Culture (The Beautiful Game, Human Rights: Argentina/Chile)**

**College Teaching of Spanish**

**International Development and Gender**

**Green Politics: Global Experience, American Prospects**

**Latin America: An Introduction**

**Latin America from 1780 to 1940**

**Social Movements**

**Introduction to Hispanic Cultures**

**Spanish American Civilization**

**Topics in Hispanic Culture (The Beautiful Game, Human Rights: Argentina/Chile)**

**Topics in Hispanic Cultures in the U.S.**

**Honors in the Major**

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the LACIS undergraduate advisor.

**Honors in the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Major Requirements**

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
- Earn a 3.400 GPA for all major courses
- Complete 18 credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better, to include:

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>HISTORY 241</td>
<td>Latin America from 1780 to 1940</td>
<td>3-4</td>
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**Area of Concentration**

Students must take at least five courses with a minimum of 25 percent Latin American, Caribbean, and/or Iberian content in an area of concentration that the student self-selects. The concentration may be disciplinary (history, anthropology, etc.) or topical (poverty, gender, social justice, etc.). The courses in the area of concentration cannot be Spanish or Portuguese language or literature courses. Study abroad courses often satisfy major requirements, but students should consult with the advisor before and during the study abroad program to ensure that the credits transfer. Courses for the concentration can be chosen from the LACIS Master Course List, or the LACIS-Approved Course List published each semester—both lists are available on the LACIS website. Note: These lists may not reflect all current offerings.

**Notes**

Students are encouraged to register in this major by the beginning of the junior year. Those considering a major in Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian studies should consult the undergraduate advisor as early as possible in their academic career since a number of L&S requirements in humanities and social sciences may be met by courses in Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian studies. Students who enter the university without previous training in Spanish or Portuguese are urged to begin language study in the freshman year.

**Sample Programs**

The following list illustrates examples of ‘area of concentration’ programs selected by Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian studies majors:

- History and Culture Emphasis
- Environment and Development Emphasis
- Media and Politics Emphasis
- Gender Studies and Human Rights Emphasis

**Residence and Quality of Work**

- 2.000 GPA in all LACIS and all major courses
- 2.000 GPA on 15 upper-level major credits, taken in residence
- 15 credits in LACIS, taken on the UW–Madison campus

Courses in SPANISH and PORTUG and major courses in ANTHRO numbered 300 and higher are considered upper level in this major.

**Honors in the Major**

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the LACIS undergraduate advisor.

**Honors in the Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies Major Requirements**

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and the following additional requirements:

- Earn a 3.300 University GPA
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</tbody>
</table>
Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies, B.S.

Senior Capstone Seminar, taken for Honors: 1-4

A two-semester Senior Honors Thesis: 6

Additional LACIS Honors to achieve 18 credits

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree: To receive a bachelor's degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency: Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. ‘In residence’ means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. ‘In residence’ credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work: Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. (Interdisciplinarity) analyzing contemporary political, economic, and cultural realities in the LACIS regions from multi-disciplinary perspectives, ideally including humanities, social sciences and sometimes natural science approaches.

2. (Depth of knowledge) mastering at the undergraduate expert level a particular disciplinary (e.g. history, anthropology etc.) or topical (e.g. poverty, gender, social justice etc.) theme in the LACIS regions by taking five courses in an area of concentration.

3. (Historical and cultural grounding) understanding the historical, political, and cultural forces and conditions that have given rise to the unity and diversity in LACIS regions today.

4. (Language knowledge) mastering at the undergraduate generalist level a particular facet of life in one or more LACIS regions by studying a foreign language to the advanced (3rd year) level and beyond.

5. (Analytical skills) demonstrating the ability to think critically and analytically, the capacity to write clearly and effectively, and the ability to identify and evaluate research methods and outcomes.

FOUR-YEAR PLAN

SAMPLE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

This Sample Four-Year Plan is a tool to assist students and their advisor(s). Students should use it—along with their DARS report, the Degree Planner, and Course Search & Enroll tools—to make their own four-year plan based on their placement scores, credit for transferred courses and approved examinations, and individual interests. As students become involved in athletics, honors, research, student organizations, study abroad, volunteer experiences, and/or work, they might adjust the order of their courses to accommodate these experiences. Students will likely revise their own four-year plan several times during college.

Freshman

Fall Credits Spring Credits
Introductory Course for Major 3-4 Area of Concentration for Major 4
PORTUG 101 or SPANISH 101 4 PORTUG 102 or SPANISH 102 4
Communication A 4 Ethnic Studies 3
Quantitative Reasoning 3-4 Biological Science A Breadth 3

Total 15 14

Sophomore

Fall Credits Spring Credits
Declare the Major (before 86 credits) Apply for Summer Internship LACIS encourages students to consider an internship during their college career.

Area of Concentration in the Major 4 Area of Concentration in the Major (and L&S Breadth) 4
PORTUG 201 or SPANISH 203 4 PORTUG 202 or SPANISH 204 4
Quantitative Reasoning B 3-4 Communication B 4
Science Breadth 3 Physical Science Breadth 3

INTER-LS 210 1

Total 15 15

Junior

Fall Credits Spring Credits
Recommend Study Abroad Recommend Study Abroad and Apply for Summer Internship
Area of Concentration in the Major 3-4 Area of Concentration in the Major 3-4

Total 15 15
Breadth in the Major 3 Language, Literature or Civilization for the Major 4
Language, Literature or Civilization for the Major Above 220 level 3-4 I/A Level Comp Sci, Math, or Stat (if B.S.) 3
Science Breadth 3 Electives 6
Elective 3

Senior
Fall Credits Spring Credits
Breadth in the Major 3-4 Breadth in the Major 3-4
Language, Literature or Civilization for Major 4 Language, Literature or Civilization for the Major 3-4
I/A Level Comp Sci, Math, or Stat (if B.S.) 3 Electives 8
Elective 4

16 16
Total Credits 120

ADVISING AND CAREERS

Students should contact Sarah Ripp, the LACIS undergraduate advisor, at skripp@wisc.edu, to determine which courses may satisfy major requirements.

Students are encouraged to seek the assistance of SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science early in their academic career. Take advantage of all the services offered such as mock interviews, resume and cover letter review sessions, career preparation workshops, and so on.

Students interested in international internships should contact the International Internships Program (http://internships.international.wisc.edu/) office.

L&S CAREER RESOURCES

SuccessWorks at the College of Letters & Science helps students leverage the academic skills learned in their major, certificates, and liberal arts degree; explore and try out different career paths; participate in internships; prepare for the job search and/or graduate school applications; and network with professionals in the field (alumni and employers). In short, SuccessWorks helps students in the College of Letters & Science discover themselves, find opportunities, and develop the skills they need for success after graduation.

SuccessWorks can also assist students in career advising, résumé and cover letter writing, networking opportunities, and interview skills, as well as course offerings for undergraduates to begin their career exploration early in their undergraduate career.

Students should set up their profiles in Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/) to take care of everything they need to explore career events, manage their campus interviews, and apply to jobs and internships from 200,000+ employers around the country.

- SuccessWorks (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/)
- Set up a career advising appointment (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/make-an-appointment/)

- INTER-LS 210 L&S Career Development: Taking Initiative (1 credit, targeted to first- and second-year students)—for more information, see Inter-LS 210: Career Development, Taking Initiative (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/inter-LS-210-career-development-taking-initiative/)
- INTER-LS 215 Communicating About Careers (3 credits, fulfills Com B General Education Requirement)
- Handshake (https://careers.ls.wisc.edu/handshake/)
- Learn how we’re transforming career preparation: L&S Career Initiative (http://ls.wisc.edu/lsci/)

PEOPLE

The Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies (LACIS) teaching staff consists of more than 100 faculty (https://lacis.wisc.edu/people/affiliated-faculty/) who teach Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian language and area content courses.

LACIS also has a Steering Committee. (https://lacis.wisc.edu/people/lacis-steering-committee/)

RESOURCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Undergraduate students (from any major or discipline) can apply to receive one-time funds (https://lacis.wisc.edu/funding/for-undergraduates/) for internships or volunteer programs in Latin America, the Caribbean, the Iberian Peninsula. Domestic programs will be considered if the work is related to the LACIS field of study. The internships and volunteer programs will be carried out in public institutions, or well-established NGOs. Students from any nationality and citizenship are eligible to apply. Please note that preference is given to declared LACIS majors. Please check with the LACIS undergraduate advisor, Sarah Ripp (https://lacis.wisc.edu/staff/ripp-sara/), about your plans before submitting an application to ensure it meets our criteria. Read post-internship reports from former grant recipients. We also encourage our students to explore funding options available through the Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS) Awards Office (https://iris.wisc.edu/funding/).