

School of Arts and Sciences

HISPANIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

www.pitt.edu/~hispan

The undergraduate program in Hispanic languages and literatures at the University of Pittsburgh is designed to be flexible and diverse in order to meet the needs of students with varying interests and career goals. The major offers a balanced combination of courses designed to strengthen oral and written language skills, and courses that introduce students to the study of Spanish and Latin American literatures and cultures. Majors also have the unique opportunity to enroll in the minor in Portuguese Language and Luso-Brazilian cultures, thereby opening channels of communication with millions of people around the world, including Brazil, Latin America's largest and most heavily populated country. We encourage majors to include at least a semester of study abroad in a Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking country and offer a study abroad program. Students interested in going to graduate school should strongly consider the honors major; those who want to teach Spanish can obtain a teacher certification through the School of Education. The department also offers courses taught in English for non-majors interested in Hispanic, Latin American, Luso-Brazilian, or U.S. Latino cultures. Students can take advantage of the non-curricular activities organized by the department, which include conversation clubs and films series.

Required Courses for Majors

The Spanish major requires the completion of a minimum of 38 credits, distributed as follows. Before declaring the major students must complete four courses of Spanish to gain the indispensable skills to effectively read, write and discuss in a foreign language. Students with some previous knowledge of Spanish must take a placement test. *Please note that a grade of B+ or higher in SPAN 0004 is required to declare the major.*

Basic level courses

SPAN 0020 Conversation
SPAN 0025 Grammar and Composition

Mid Level Courses

SPAN 0050 Hispanic Civilizations
SPAN 0055 Introduction to Literature and Cultural Studies
SPAN 1400 Latin American Literatures
SPAN 1600 Spanish Literature
SPAN 13XX course except SPAN 1303
PORT 0001 Elementary Portuguese

Upper Level Courses

SPAN 1303 Seminar in Language and Culture
And three from the following course or series
SPAN 13XX
SPAN 14XX
SPAN 16XX
SPAN 17XX
SPAN 18XX
PORT 0002

These courses include, for example, Advanced Composition, Colonial Literatures and Cultures, Latin American Novel, U.S. Latino Literature and Film, African Presence in Hispanic Literature and Culture, Don Quixote, Modern Spanish Novel and Film, etc.



Grade requirements

Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 or higher in departmental courses. No course with a grade below C will count toward the major requirements.

Satisfactory/No Credit option

Students may take one required course on an S/NC basis.

Writing (W) requirement

SPAN 0055 satisfies the W-course requirement for the major.

Related area

A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department to fulfill graduation requirements. The completion of an Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Honors major requirement

Honors in Spanish is granted if in addition to fulfilling all requirements for the major, the student:

- maintained a GPA of 3.5 or above in departmental courses;
- maintained an overall GPA of 3.0 or above; and
- completed a senior thesis of 25-30 pages written under the supervision of a faculty member whose research is related to the topic of the thesis.

At least one semester of study abroad is recommended.

Students should declare their intention to pursue the Honors major no later than at the beginning of their senior year. The thesis will be evaluated by the advisor and two other faculty members in the department. Students may take an independent study with their supervisor that will fulfill the requirement of one upper level course. For further information, consult with the director of undergraduate studies.

For more information about the Hispanic languages and literatures major, contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Gonzalo Lamana
1309-F Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-2055
E-mail: lamana@pitt.edu

For information on other majors, contact:

University of Pittsburgh
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260-6601
412-624-PITT
E-mail: oafa@pitt.edu
www.oafa.pitt.edu

University of Pittsburgh
Carina González
1401-B Cathedral of Learning
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
412-624-0136
E-mail: cfg9@pitt.edu

Special Programs and Opportunities

Latin American Studies Certificate

Certificate programs allow you to complete a concentrated area of study in addition to your major. They consist of 18–24 credits of course work and in many cases can be used to fulfill the “related area” requirement of the A&S degree. You will begin your work for the Latin American studies certificate in the University Center for International Studies through the related concentration in Latin American studies. The concentration requires 15 credits of Latin American area studies courses and two terms of college-level Spanish and Portuguese. Once you are involved in the related concentration program you can opt to complete a certificate program. The certificate program consists of on-campus area courses and language proficiency, plus a study abroad program.

University Honors College (UHC)

UHC offers many resources for talented, active students—unique courses, special degrees, opportunities to perform independent research or teach, supplemental advising, and a social and academic community of similarly motivated students. UHC courses offer a more in-depth treatment of the material covered in a nonhonors course. Students work more problems, write more, read more, and discuss topics in greater depth. Although UHC does not have a formal membership and does invite all

students to participate in honors courses, there are certain qualifications that must be met to be eligible to take UHC courses. Entering freshmen are automatically considered for UHC participation on the basis of their admissions applications. A minimum quality point average (QPA) of 3.25 is required for current Pitt students.

Teacher certification

Students who plan to teach Spanish after completing the major should consult with their advisor or the director of undergraduate studies in the department as well as with Kenneth Pawlik the advisor for Pennsylvania Teaching Certification and Masters of Arts in Teaching Programs, in the School of Education (kpawlik@pitt.edu, 5504 WWPH, 412-648-7413).

Double majors, dual degrees, and CLAS certificates

Students who have declared an additional major or pursue a dual degree need to take only three upper-level courses, one of which must be SPAN 1303. The CLAS Field Trip to Latin America can be taken in lieu of one of the upper-level courses.

Study Abroad

Study abroad is encouraged. The department will work with students, the Study Abroad Office, and the Center for Latin American Studies to facilitate your study abroad experience. We offer a study abroad program in Spain that is matched directly with basic and mid-level major requirements. A program in Latin America is being developed. To learn about the variety of other programs available, contact the Study Abroad Office at 412-648-7419, 802 WPU, abroad@pitt.edu, or Julian Asenjo in CLAS at 412-648-7392, 4207 WWPH, juasenjo@ucis.pitt.edu.

Spanish writing center

This center provides free, individual help to students enrolled in language, grammar and literature courses. Students may also stop by to practice their conversational skills. The Spanish Writing Center is staffed by TAs and/or TFs from the department, and it is located at CL 1302-B. The center will be open from September to May, and schedules are announced at the beginning of each semester.

Spanish and Portuguese clubs

These two clubs will offer activities over the academic year. Check the department's Web site for details about *Mesas de conversación*, *Movie Nights*, and *Brazil Nuts* events.

