

HISPANIC STUDIES (BA/MA)

The accelerated BA/MA program offers well-qualified Spanish majors an opportunity to earn both a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Hispanic Studies. Select high-performing Spanish majors are invited to join the program, spending a total of five years examining issues of culture, language, and power as they traverse the Hispanic world.

Students in the BA/MA program receive comprehensive training in the languages and cultures of the Hispanic world, increasing their knowledge of diverse, globally relevant issues in literary, cultural, and linguistic studies.

With a focus on social justice, the program fosters intellectual debate, interdisciplinary academic dialogue, and high-level research in areas including social inequality, race, gender, class, and ethnicity. Students graduate equipped to succeed as academic researchers, educators, and in a wide range of other professional roles.

Related Programs

Major

- Spanish (BA) (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/modern-languages-literatures/spanish-ba/>)

Minor

- Spanish Language Minor (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/modern-languages-literatures/spanish-language-minor/>)
- Spanish Language and Literature Minor (<https://catalog.luc.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/modern-languages-literatures/spanish-language-literature-minor/>)

Curriculum

Requirements for the BA Degree in Spanish (30 Hours)

Students are required to take or have credit for the following courses:

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
SPAN 250	Composition & Conversation I	3
SPAN 251	Composition & Conversation II	3
SPAN 270	Introduction to Critical Analysis in Spanish	3
SPAN 271 or SPAN 272	Introduction to Iberian Literature and Culture or Introduction to Spanish American Literature and Culture	3
Select any six courses at the SPAN 300-level, one of which must be a Latin American topic course and one of which must be an Iberian (Spain) topic course		18
Total Hours		30

(10 courses for a total of 30 credit hours)

Requirements for the MA Degree in Spanish (30 Hours)

Students are required to complete:

- ten graduate-level courses
- a two-part comprehensive exam, written and oral
- or nine graduate-level courses and a Masters thesis

The following exceptions apply, and are dependent upon approval of the Graduate Program Director:

- students may transfer up to two graduate-level classes (six credit hours) from another institution toward their LUC degree
- students may take up to two LUC graduate seminars (six credit hours) in another department
- students who have the Graduate Program Director's permission to write a Masters thesis will complete nine courses, or 27 hours of course work, plus the credit-bearing thesis research course, SPAN 501 Thesis Research, for three credit hours (please see the department's Thesis Guidelines)

Suggested Sequence of Courses

The below sequence of courses is meant to be used as a suggested path for completing coursework. An individual student's completion of requirements depends on course offerings in a given term as well as the start term for a major or graduate study. Students should consult their advisor for assistance with course selection.

Schema of how students progress through this program in four and a half or five years by earning 30 hours for the B.A. and 30 hours for the M.A. in Hispanic Studies:

Suggested Sequence of Courses (Completing in 4 ½ Years)

Student enters LUC with credit for SPAN 250 Composition & Conversation I & SPAN 251 Composition & Conversation II

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Fall		
SPAN 270	Introduction to Critical Analysis in Spanish	3
Hours		3
Spring		
SPAN 271 or SPAN 272	Introduction to Iberian Literature and Culture or Introduction to Spanish American Literature and Culture	3
Hours		3
Second Year		
Fall		
SPAN 300-level course	Latin American topic course	3
Hours		3
Spring		
SPAN 300-level course	Iberian/Spain topic course	3
Hours		3
Third Year		
Fall		
SPAN 300-level course		3
Hours		3
Spring		
SPAN 300-level course		3
Hours		3
Apply to begin the ABM (BA/MA) in Spanish		
Hours		3

Fourth Year**Fall**

SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
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SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
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Major accomplished / all further credits apply to M.A.		
Hours		6

Spring

SPAN 400-level course		3
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SPAN 400-level course		3
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Hours		6
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Summer

SPAN 400-level course	independent study	3
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Credits can be earned on the main campus or through study abroad		3
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Hours		6
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Fifth Year**Fall**

SPAN 400-level course		3
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SPAN 400-level course		3
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SPAN 400-level course		3
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400-level course in another LUC dept		3
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Hours		12
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Total Hours		48
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Suggested Sequence of Courses (Standard - Completing in 5 Years)

Course	Title	Hours
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First Year**Spring**

SPAN 251	Composition & Conversation II	3
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Hours		3
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Fall

SPAN 250	Composition & Conversation I	3
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Hours		3
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Second Year**Spring**

SPAN 271 or SPAN 272	Introduction to Iberian Literature and Culture	3
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	or Introduction to Spanish American Literature and Culture	
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Hours		3
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Fall

SPAN 270	Introduction to Critical Analysis in Spanish	3
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Hours		3
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Third Year**Spring**

SPAN 300-level course		3
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Apply to begin the ABM (BA/MA) in Spanish		
Hours		3

Fall

SPAN 300-level course	Latin American topic course	3
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SPAN 300-level course	Iberian/Spain topic course (or spring)	3
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Hours		6
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Fourth Year**Spring**

SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
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SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
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Hours		6
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Fall

SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
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SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
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Hours		6
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Fifth Year**Spring**

SPAN 400-level course		3
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SPAN 400-level course		3
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400-level course in another LUC dept		3
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Hours		9
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Fall

SPAN 400-level course		3
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SPAN 400-level course		3
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400-level course in another LUC dept		3
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Hours		9
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Total Hours		51
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Guidelines for Accelerated Bachelor's/ Master's Programs

Terms

- Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs: In this type of program, students share limited credits between their undergraduate and graduate degrees to facilitate completion of both degrees.
- Shared credits: Graduate level credit hours taken during the undergraduate program and then applied towards graduate program requirements will be referred to as shared credits.

Admission Requirements

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to enhance opportunities for advanced training for Loyola's undergraduates.

Admission to these programs must be competitive and will depend upon a positive review of credentials by the program's admissions committee. Accordingly, the admission requirements for these programs may be higher than those required if the master's degree were pursued entirely after the receipt of a bachelor's degree. That is, programs may choose to have more stringent admissions requirements in addition to those minimal requirements below.

Requirements:

- Declared appropriate undergraduate major,
- By the time students begin taking graduate courses as an undergraduate, the student has completed approximately 90 credit hours, or the credit hours required in a program that is accredited by a specialty organization,¹
- A minimum cumulative GPA for coursework at Loyola that is at or above the program-specific requirements, a minimum major GPA that is at or above the program-specific requirements, and/or appropriate designated coursework for evaluation of student readiness in their discipline.²

Students not eligible for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program (e.g., students who have not declared the appropriate undergraduate major) may apply to the master's program through the regular admissions process. Students enrolled in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program who choose not to continue to the master's degree program upon completion of the bachelor's degree will face no consequences.³

Ideally, a student will apply for admission (or confirm interest in proceeding towards the graduate degree in opt-out programs) as they approach 90 credit hours. Programs are encouraged to begin advising students early in their major so that they are aware of the program and, if interested, can complete their bachelor's degree requirements in a way that facilitates completion of the program. Once admitted as an undergraduate, Program Directors should ensure that students are enrolled using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Using the plan code associated with the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program will ensure that students may be easily identified as they move through the program. Students will not officially matriculate into the master's degree program and be labeled as a graduate student by the university, with accompanying changes to tuition and Financial Aid (see below), until the undergraduate degree has been awarded. Once admitted to the graduate program, students must meet the academic standing requirements of their graduate program as they complete the program curriculum.

¹ Programs that have specialized accreditation will adhere to the admissions criteria provided by, or approved by, their specialized accreditors.

² The program will identify appropriate indicators of student readiness for graduate coursework (e.g., high-level performance in 300 level courses). Recognizing differences between how majors are designed, we do not specify a blanket requirement.

³ If students choose not to enroll in the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, they still must complete all of the standard requirements associated with the undergraduate degree (e.g., a capstone).

For more information on Admissions requirements, visit here (<https://gpem.luc.edu/portal/admission/?tab=home>).

Curriculum

Level and progression of courses. The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs are designed to be competitive and attractive to our most capable students. Students admitted to Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's programs should be capable of meeting graduate level learning outcomes. Following guidance from the Higher Learning Commission, only courses taken at the 400 level or higher (including 300/400 level courses taken at the 400 level) will count toward the graduate program.^{1,2}

Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may come from 300/400 level courses where the student is enrolled in the 400 level of the course. Further, at least 50% of the credit hours for the graduate program must come from courses that are designed for and restricted to graduate students who have been admitted to a graduate program at Loyola (e.g., enrolled in plan code that indicates the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, typically ending with the letter "D").³

In general, graduate level coursework should not be taken prior to admission into the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program. Exceptions may be granted for professional programs where curriculum for the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program is designed to begin earlier. On the recommendation of the program's Graduate Director, students may take one of their graduate level courses before they are admitted to the Accelerated Bachelors/Master's program if they have advanced abilities in their discipline and course offerings warrant such an exception.⁴ Undergraduate degree requirements outside of the major are in no way impacted by admission to an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program.⁵

Shared credits. Undergraduate courses (i.e., courses offered at the 300 level or below) cannot be counted as shared credits nor count towards the master's degree. Up to 50% of the total graduate level credit hours, required in the graduate program, may be counted in meeting both the undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. Of those shared credits, students in an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program should begin their graduate program with the standard introductory course(s) for the program whenever possible. So that students may progress through the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program in a timely manner, undergraduate programs are encouraged to design their curriculum such that a student can complete some required graduate credit hours while completing the undergraduate degree. For instance, some of the graduate curriculum should also satisfy electives for the undergraduate major.

The program's Graduate Director will designate credit hours to be shared through the advising form and master's degree conferral review process. Shared credit hours will not be marked on the undergraduate record as having a special status in the undergraduate program. They will be included in the student's undergraduate earned hours and GPA. Graduate credit hours taken during the undergraduate program will not be included in the graduate GPA calculation.

¹ If students wish to transfer credits from another university to Loyola University Chicago, the program's Graduate director will review the relevant syllabus(es) to determine whether it meets the criteria for a 400 level course or higher.

² Programs with specialized accreditation requirements that allow programs to offer graduate curriculum to undergraduate students will conform to those specialized accreditation requirements.

³ In rare cases, the Graduate Director may authorize enrollment in a 400-level course for a highly qualified and highly motivated undergraduate, ensuring that the undergraduate's exceptional participation in the graduate class will not diminish in any way the experience of the graduate students regularly enrolled.

⁴ For example, if a particular course is only offered once every 2-3 years, and a student has demonstrated the necessary ability to be successful, the Graduate Director may allow a student to take a graduate level course to be shared prior to the student being formally admitted to the graduate program. See, also, footnote 3.

⁵ Students should not, for example, attempt to negotiate themselves out of a writing intensive requirement on the basis of admission to a graduate program.

Graduation

Degrees are awarded sequentially. All details of undergraduate commencement are handled in the ordinary way as for all students in the School/College/Institute. Once in the graduate program, students abide by the graduation deadlines set forth by the graduate program. Students in these programs must be continuously enrolled from undergraduate to graduate degree program unless given explicit permission by their program for a gap year or approved leave of absence. In offering the option of an Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's program, the university is making possible the acceleration of a student's graduate degree completion. It should be understood that students may not request deferral of their matriculation into the Master's degree program. If students would like to delay their graduate studies after earning the undergraduate degree, they may apply for admission to the traditional master's degree program. Any application of graduate credit earned while in the undergraduate program is subject to the policies of the graduate degree granting school.

Learning Outcomes

- Acquiring advanced knowledge in the field, producing scholarship that engages in critical thinking, and demonstrating ethical thinking and responsible conduct.