

HISPANIC STUDIES (BA/MA)

ACCELERATED BACHELORS MASTERS IN HISPANIC STUDIES (ABM)

Focus: Hispanic literatures, cultures and language

Students can complete both their BA and MA in Spanish/Hispanic Studies in 4.5 to 5 years, depending on summer course work, study abroad and transfer credits.

Spanish Majors in their first four years of the combined degree program complete the required thirty hours of the undergraduate degree, including up to twelve hours of required graduate course work.

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	Introduction to Iberian Literature and Culture	3
or SPAN 272	Introduction to Spanish American Literature and Culture	
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 (<https://www.luc.edu/media/lucedu/modernlanguages/textfiles/academics/spanish/Thesis%20Guidelines.pdf>))

DEGREE PROGRESS

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:

Sample Program for Five-year ABM Degree in Hispanic Studies

Course	Title	Hours
First Year		
Spring		
SPAN 251	Composition & Conversation II	3
Hours		3
Fall		
SPAN 250	Composition & Conversation I	3
Hours		3
Second Year		
Spring		
SPAN 271 or SPAN 272	Introduction to Iberian Literature and Culture or Introduction to Spanish American Literature and Culture	3
Hours		3
Fall		
SPAN 270	Introduction to Critical Analysis in Spanish	3
Hours		3
Third Year		
Spring		
SPAN 300-level course	Apply to begin the ABM (BA/MA) in Spanish	3
Hours		3
Fall		
SPAN 300-level course	Latin American topic course	3
SPAN 300-level course	Iberian/Spain topic course (or spring)	3
Hours		6
Fourth Year		
Spring		
SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
Hours		6
Fall		
SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
Hours		6

Fifth Year

Spring

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

Fall

SPAN 400-level course	3
SPAN 400-level course	3
400-level course in another LUC dept	3
Hours	9
Total Hours	51

Sample Program for Completing the ABM Degree in Hispanic Studies 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
SPAN 400-level course	(credit for both the major and the M.A.)	3
Major accomplished / all further credits apply to M.A.		
Hours		6

Spring

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

Summer

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

Fifth Year

Fall

SPAN 400-level course		3
SPAN 400-level course		3
SPAN 400-level course		3
400-level course in another LUC dept		3
Hours		12
Total Hours		48

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).

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 4.
- 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By completing our ABM degree option, students will acquire advanced knowledge in the field, produce scholarship that engages in critical thinking, and demonstrate ethical thinking and responsible academic conduct.

Students in the Hispanic Studies ABM will begin taking graduate courses during the first semester of their senior year. Depending on how the combined program is structured, students will complete up to 12 hours for both B.A. and M.A. credit during their senior year. Just like graduates of our M.A. program, graduates of our ABM will be able to:

- demonstrate familiarity with works of Latin American and Peninsular literature
- demonstrate familiarity with the general characteristics of several traditions and trends within the literary contexts of Latin America and Spain
- use the Spanish vocabulary necessary for discussing literature critically
- understand broad historical events, cultural currents, and current academic trends as they are represented in Latin American and Peninsular literature
- read, write, and speak Spanish fluently
- demonstrate the ability to do independent, scholarly research by integrating, comparing, and evaluating ideas and materials from various sources, both literary and critical
- develop and sustain a coherent argument in both oral and written Spanish
- know how to foster a collegial, collaborative learning environment that encourages self-expression
- comprehend the social and historical function and significance of literature, culture, and art in Spain and Latin America, and more broadly
- understand and incorporate the national standards for the teaching of foreign languages into the teaching of Spanish at various levels
- understand from a task-based perspective the theoretical and practical issues of communicative language teaching for all skill areas
- demonstrate competence in a language other than English or Spanish, for the purpose of research

Graduates of this program will be well prepared to pursue a Ph.D. in Hispanic Studies or other related fields, such as Latin American Studies, to apply to a professional school, to work in professions requiring knowledge of the Hispanic world, or to seek a teaching position at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. The combined degree will allow promising and talented undergraduates to move quickly through the M.A. degree and to apply a portion of their undergraduate funding (up to 12 hours) toward the Masters degree.