Spanish, M.A.

Requirements

The Master of Arts program in Spanish requires 30 s.h. of graduate credit. Students choose one of two emphases: literature, which provides training in literary analysis and broad knowledge of representative works in principal areas of Hispanic literature; or linguistics, which provides training in linguistic analysis and argumentation and broad knowledge of the principal subfields of Hispanic linguistics. Applicants to the M.A. program should have completed the equivalent of the undergraduate Spanish major with a g.p.a. of at least 3.00 in course work for the major.

A maximum of 9 s.h. of graduate credit in approved courses may be transferred from other institutions toward the 30 s.h. required for the M.A.

The M.A. with a major in Spanish requires the following 10 courses.

Literature Emphasis Courses

This course:
WLLC:5000/SPAN:5000 Teaching and Learning Languages 3

All of these:
One course in Spanish linguistics numbered SPAN:4000 or above 3
Two courses in Spanish (peninsular) literature numbered SPAN:4000 or above 6
Two courses in Spanish American literature numbered SPAN:4000 or above 6
One course in literary theory 3
Three electives 9

At least eight of the ten literature emphasis courses must be taken in Department of Spanish and Portuguese courses numbered 5000 or above. The remaining two may be taken in Department of Spanish and Portuguese courses numbered 4000 or above or in courses offered by related departments, subject to approval by the director of graduate studies.

Linguistics Emphasis Courses

This course:
WLLC:5000 Teaching and Learning Languages 3

All of these:
One course in Spanish or Spanish American literature numbered SPAN:4000 or above 3
Two courses in syntax 6
Two courses in phonetics/phonology 6
One course in history of the Spanish language or language variation 3
One course in applied linguistics or language acquisition 3
Two electives 6

At least six of the ten linguistics emphasis courses must be taken in Department of Spanish and Portuguese courses numbered 5000 or above. The remaining four may be taken in Department of Spanish and Portuguese courses numbered 4000 or above or in Department of Linguistics courses (prefix LING).

Language Tool Requirement

Students must complete the equivalent of one year of college-level study of any approved second foreign language; Portuguese is highly recommended. They may satisfy this requirement either by examination or through courses taken at the University of Iowa or another accredited university; such course work does not count toward the 30 s.h. required for the M.A.

Examinations

The comprehensive examination includes written and oral components. The written portion consists of a two-hour examination in each of three areas; an oral examination follows, usually lasting 90 minutes. The examining committee is composed of four departmental faculty members.

Students in the literature emphasis may choose to be examined in three literature areas or in two literature areas and one linguistics area. At least one literature area must be in Spanish literature and at least one must be in Spanish American literature. If three literature areas are chosen, at least one must represent literature written before 1700 (peninsular or Spanish American).

Students in the linguistics emphasis may choose to be examined in three linguistics areas or in two linguistics areas and one literature area. At least one of the linguistics areas must be in syntax or phonology. For students in both emphases, the third examination area may be a film area.

For reading lists, contact the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Graduate Study Loads

Maximum course registration for all graduate students is 15 s.h. of graduate-level course work in fall or spring semesters and 12 s.h. of graduate-level work in summer sessions. Students with one-quarter-time and one-third-time teaching assistantships are permitted to register for the maximum study loads. Students who hold one-half-time assistantships are permitted to register for a maximum of 12 s.h. in fall and spring semesters and 6 s.h. in summer sessions. Students must have approval from the Graduate College to register for additional semester hours.

The minimum course registration is 2 s.h. for all graduate students. Students who fail to register for 36 months must apply for readmission to the Graduate College.

Financial Support

Teaching and research assistantships are available to qualified graduate students. Usually, two years of support are available for completion of the M.A. degree. Applications for financial support should be made directly to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Career Advancement

The Pomerantz Career Center offers multiple resources to help students find internships and jobs.