Spanish, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in Spanish requires a total of at least 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Ph.D. students choose from two tracks: one is dedicated to Hispanic literatures, the other to Hispanic linguistics. The literature track trains students in textual analysis and literary history, criticism, and theory. The linguistics track provides training in linguistic analysis and theory.

The literature track requires a minimum of 66 s.h. of course work (22 courses), of which 30 s.h. may have been earned for an M.A. in Spanish at the University of Iowa or at another institution, as approved by the director of graduate studies.

The linguistics track requires a minimum of 57 s.h. of course work (19 courses), of which 30 s.h. may have been earned for an M.A. in Spanish at the University of Iowa or at another institution, as approved by the director of graduate studies.

Both tracks also require 6 s.h. earned in SPAN:6999 Thesis, to complete the 72 s.h. required for the Ph.D.

No credit is awarded for course work completed after the M.A. is granted and prior to entrance into the Ph.D. program. If, in the course of doctoral study, the advisory committee recommends a student take course work at another institution, the student may petition the director of graduate studies for approval of up to 9 s.h. of transfer credit well in advance of enrollment in the courses. The Graduate College requires 39 s.h. of the 72 s.h. required for the degree be resident credit (course work taken at the University of Iowa).

Students who hold a teaching assistantship in the department are required to take WLLC:5000 Teaching and Learning Languages, a course in foreign language teaching methods. Those who have not earned their M.A. degree at the University of Iowa, and who want to request that this requirement be waived because of previous course work in foreign language teaching methods, should consult the director of the Spanish language general education program for approval. Students receive no credit toward their degree if the requirement is waived.

Course requirements for each track are as follows.

Literature Track

Courses

Students must complete at least 36 s.h. (12 courses) beyond the master’s degree (or 22 courses beyond the bachelor’s degree). The following courses are required; courses taken for the M.A. may be used to meet part of this requirement.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPAN:6110</td>
<td>Spanish Phonology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:6120</td>
<td>Spanish Syntax</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN:6150</td>
<td>Topics in Spanish Language Acquisition</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:6190</td>
<td>Topics in Comparative Romance Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPAN:6999</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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All of these, with at least one course in pre-1700 literature:

- Three courses in Spanish literature: 9
- Three courses in Spanish American literature: 9

Each student’s plan of study is tailored to the chosen area of emphasis and must be approved by the student’s advisory committee. Ph.D. course work in Spanish (taken after the M.A.) must be numbered 6000 or above, except the Romance literature course taken for the language tool requirement.

Language and Literature Tool Requirement

Before the comprehensive examination, students must complete the equivalent of three years of college-level study in another Romance language and become well acquainted with its literature in limited areas of specialization; the study of Luso-Brazilian literature is highly recommended. This requirement may be satisfied only through course work at the University of Iowa or another accredited university.

Students also must complete the equivalent of one year of college-level study of another approved foreign language. Students who do not fulfill the Romance language requirement with Portuguese must use it to satisfy this requirement. Students who will write dissertations on topics in Spanish or Portuguese literature before 1700 are strongly encouraged to select Latin, Arabic, or an Amerindian language to satisfy this requirement; students should consult specialists in their field to determine which language is most appropriate. Students may take more than two languages, earning more than the 72 s.h. required for the degree, if their literary course work permits.

Students may satisfy the language tool requirement by examination or by course work at the University of Iowa or at another accredited university; language tool course work does not count toward the 72 s.h. required for the degree. Courses taken to fulfill the language tool requirements may be taken pass/nonpass. If the language tool requirements are satisfied by examination, the exam results must be documented in the student’s file. Courses taken to fulfill the second Romance literature requirement must be taken on a graded basis and may be counted toward the degree.

Linguistics Track

Courses

Students must earn at least 27 s.h. (9 courses) beyond the master’s degree (or 19 courses beyond the bachelor’s degree). The following courses are required; courses taken for the M.A. may be used to meet part of this requirement.

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<td>Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
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</table>

- Introduction to Syntax: 3
- Introduction to Phonology: 3
- Syntactic Theory: 3
One additional course in the dissertation research area 3
One course in historical linguistics, sociolinguistics/language variation, or language acquisition/psycholinguistics 3
One Hispanic linguistics seminar numbered 7000 or above 3

The additional course in the dissertation research area (phonology, syntax, language acquisition, language variation) must be taken in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese or the Department of Linguistics.

Each student’s plan of study is tailored to the chosen area of emphasis and must be approved by the student’s advisory committee. Ph.D. course work in Spanish (taken after the M.A.) must be numbered 6000 or above, except for some courses offered by the Department of Linguistics and the required third-year-level course in Portuguese (see “Language Tool and Additional Requirements” below).

Language Tool and Additional Requirements

Students in the linguistics track must complete the equivalent of three years of college-level study of Portuguese, and the equivalent of one year of college-level study of each of two other languages. For students specializing in historical linguistics, one of those two languages must be Latin.

Students may satisfy the language tool requirement by examination or by course work at the University of Iowa or at another accredited university. Courses taken to fulfill the language tool requirements may be taken pass/nonpass. If the language tool requirements are satisfied by examination, the exam results must be documented in the student’s file. The language tool course work does not count toward the 57 s.h. of pre-thesis course work required for the degree, except the third-year-level course work in Portuguese, which may be counted with the faculty advisor’s approval if the student took it for a grade.

Students also must write two extended research papers and give two colloquium presentations based on these papers. The first paper must be in an area distinct from the intended dissertation research; it must be approved by the student’s advisory committee by the end of fall semester of the second year of Ph.D. course work in order for the student to continue in the track. The second paper must be in the dissertation research area, must be of publishable quality, and must be approved by the student’s advisory committee no later than the beginning of the semester in which the student takes the comprehensive exam.

Independent Study

Only 3 s.h. earned for post-M.A. independent study may be applied toward the 72 s.h. required for the degree; the department discourages students from including independent study as a part of their course work. Exceptions may be made under extraordinary circumstances, but must be preapproved by the director of graduate studies. For consideration of a request for independent study credit, students must complete the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Independent Study Contract for Graduate Students form, obtain the approval of the director of graduate studies and the chair of the department, and submit a copy of the form to the graduate student academic coordinator before the first day of the semester. Only students in good academic standing may enroll in an independent study course.

Comprehensive Portfolio

By the end of the fourth semester, students should have completed all of their required course work. They should develop the various parts of the comprehensive portfolio in conjunction with their Ph.D. course work. The two broad area reading lists (see “Reading Lists” for the literature or linguistics track below) can be developed while enrolled in graduate-level courses in the department, and the article should be based on a research paper written in a seminar-level department course.

Comprehensive Examination

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to determine whether a student has gained sufficient breadth and depth of research knowledge in Hispanic literatures or linguistics to enter the profession as a teacher-scholar. The examining committee is composed of five departmental faculty members or four departmental faculty members and a fifth faculty member from a related department.

Graduate students planning to take the examination must file the departmental Notification of Intent to Take M.A. or Ph.D. Exams form with the graduate student academic coordinator by the third week of the relevant semester. Students presenting the comprehensive exams cannot have more than one course work requirement left to be completed, including courses for the fulfillment of the language tool requirements, after the semester in which the exams are presented. Generally, students either have finished their course work requirements prior to presenting the comprehensive exams or they are completing them in the semester of their exams.

The Graduate College requires that written and oral exams be completed within a 15-week period. The research essay and position paper should be given to the Comprehensive Examination Committee at least one month before the oral exam, after approval by the faculty supervisors. The two written examinations are typically scheduled over a two-week period and must be finished at least one week before the oral exam. Between the time of the written exams and the oral exam, examining faculty individually evaluate and discuss the exams with the candidate. The information provided in the evaluation guides the candidate in final preparation for the oral component of the examination; although, it does not include specific questions to be asked in the oral exam, nor does it limit the questions that may be asked.

Students normally present their Ph.D. comprehensive examination in their fifth semester. They are encouraged to complete their comprehensive examinations before October 15 (in the fall semester) or March 15 (in the spring semester) and to present and defend their dissertation prospectus before the end of the same semester.

Students must be registered during the semester in which they take their comprehensive examinations. If all course work has been completed prior to that semester, then students should register for 2 s.h. in SPAN:6999 Special Work with their advisor, on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Students may not register in SPAN:6999 Thesis during the semester of their comprehensive examination.

Literature Track

The literature track’s comprehensive exam has written and oral components. The oral exam lasts two hours, with approximately half of the exam devoted to the two broad areas and half to the article and the position paper.
The written component includes four elements: two broad areas, one specialized area, and one article. Each element is supervised by a different committee member.

**Reading Lists**

The two broad areas comprise lists of approximately 40 readings, with each list covering an established historical period that is tied to the student's Ph.D. course work (one Peninsular, the other Spanish American). The lists must be approved by the supervisor before distribution to the rest of the committee. Each area is evaluated with a three-hour written exam, which is discussed during the student's oral exam.

The specialized area’s reading list includes 25-40 secondary works that define the area and are related to the dissertation. The area is examined via a 15-20 page position paper, which is a critical synthesis of the secondary readings and normally becomes part of the dissertation introduction. The list and the paper must be written in consultation with a faculty supervisor and must be approved by the supervisor at least one month before the oral exam.

The article is a 20-25 page research essay, usually a revised version of a paper written for one of the two required seminars numbered 7000 or above. The article should be written in consultation with the professor who taught the seminar and with a faculty supervisor; if the professor who taught the course also supervises the area, the student must consult with at least one more professor. The article must be approved by the supervisor at least one month before the oral exam.

**Oral Examination**

The oral examination provides the opportunity for further development of the written examinations as well as examination of the position paper and research essay. At the end of the oral exam, the candidate is asked to leave the exam room in order for the committee to determine its evaluation. The candidate is then invited to return to the room to learn of the committee's evaluation, including an appraisal of specific areas of strength and/or weakness and recommendations for future academic work. The official evaluation of the exam is reported to the Graduate College. Each area is evaluated with a three-hour written exam, which is discussed during the student's oral exam.

**Linguistics Track**

The comprehensive exam for the linguistics track includes written and oral components. The written component comprises two weekend take-home exams consisting of linguistic analysis in two subdisciplines distinct from the subdiscipline of the intended dissertation research. The two-hour oral exam consists of one hour devoted to discussion of the second research paper and the other hour devoted to follow-up questions on the written exams.

**Dissertation**

After the comprehensive examination is completed, the candidate submits a dissertation prospectus for the dissertation committee's approval. The dissertation committee is composed of five faculty members; at least four committee members must be from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

The dissertation, complete and in final form, must be submitted in the required electronic format at the Graduate College office by the first-deposit deadline date of the session in which the degree is to be conferred. The final deposit of the approved dissertation in electronic format must be deposited at the office by the appropriate deadline in a student's graduation semester.

Students must adhere to the Graduate College regulations regarding preparation of the dissertation copy; consult the Graduate College. For information on the dissertation and final examinations, see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College on the Graduate College website.

**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 1 s.h. for all graduate students. Doctoral students who have passed the comprehensive examinations typically register for 1 s.h. of thesis work to satisfy the minimum registration requirement. 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, four years of support are available beyond the receipt of the M.A. for the Ph.D. 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.