Spanish, PhD

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in Spanish requires a total of at least 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.00.

In this research-oriented degree, PhD students choose from two different tracks: literatures/cultures and Spanish linguistics. The literatures/cultures track trains students in textual analysis and literary history, criticism, and theory. The linguistics track provides training in linguistic analysis and theory. All courses taken to fulfill the semester hour requirement for the degree must be taken on a graded basis; no graduate credit is awarded for a grade lower than C-minus.

Both tracks require a specified number of semester hours of coursework, of which up to, but not more than, 30 s.h. (10 courses) may be counted from the MA in Spanish or the MFA in Spanish creative writing at the University of Iowa or elsewhere, as approved by the director of graduate studies. The PhD also requires 3–15 s.h. for the thesis, SPAN:6999 Thesis. The degree also requires the successful completion and defense of a dissertation representing original research or creative work.

No credit is awarded for coursework completed after the MA is granted and prior to entrance into the PhD program. If, in the course of doctoral study, the advisory committee recommends a student take coursework at another institution, the student may petition the director of graduate studies well in advance of undertaking the coursework, for approval of up to 9 s.h. of transfer credit. At least 39 s.h. of the 72 s.h. required for the degree must be in coursework 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. A student who has not earned the MA in Spanish or the MFA in Spanish creative writing at the University of Iowa may request that this requirement be waived because of previous coursework in foreign language teaching methods. The decision to waive the requirement is made by the Spanish CLAS Core director; no transfer credit is awarded toward the 72 s.h. required for the degree.

Course requirements for each track are as follows.

Literatures/Cultures Track

Literatures/Cultures 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 MA may be used to meet part of this requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All of these:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN:6110</td>
<td>Spanish Phonology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPAN:6999</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:3005</td>
<td>Articulatory and Acoustic Phonetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:5010</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:5020</td>
<td>Introduction to Phonology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING:6010</td>
<td>Syntactic Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>One additional course in the dissertation research area</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>One course in historical linguistics, sociolinguistics/language variation, or language acquisition/psycholinguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
Undergraduate courses may be taken on a nongraded basis. Courses taken to fulfill the language tool requirement may be taken at another accredited university. Courses taken to fulfill the language tool requirement 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.

The oral examination provides the opportunity for further development of the written examinations as well as a review of the position paper and research essay. At the end of the oral exam, the student is asked to leave the exam room in order for the committee to determine its evaluation. The student 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 as satisfactory, reservation, or unsatisfactory. If reservations are imposed, the examination committee must send a letter to the student specifying the reservations to be met and the deadline for their removal; copies are sent to the student's file, the director of graduate studies, and the Graduate College.
Students must be registered during the semester in which they take their comprehensive examinations. If all coursework has been completed prior to that semester, then students should register for 2 s.h. in SPAN-6998 Special Work with their advisor, on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Students may not register for SPAN-6999 Thesis during the semester of their comprehensive examination.

**Literatures/Cultures Track Comprehensive Exams**

The comprehensive examination has written and oral components. The written component includes four elements: two broad areas, one specialized area, and one article, each under the supervision of a committee member.

The elements of the written component are as follows.

- Two 2-hour written examinations, one for each of two broad areas of literary history, one Spanish and one Spanish American. The broad area lists should consist of approximately 35 readings. Selection of the two broad areas should be tied to a student's PhD coursework, particularly the courses taken after admission to the PhD program. The lists must be developed in consultation with the advisory committee and approved by the broad area supervisors before they are submitted to the rest of the committee for final approval. The written examination may include questions of textual analysis and aesthetics as well as historical periodization and literary criticism.

- One position paper in a specialized area related to the thesis. The specialized area list should include approximately 10–15 works that define the area. The narrow area is examined via a 10–15 page position paper that is a critical synthesis, particularly of the secondary readings. The list and position paper should be written in consultation with a faculty supervisor and must be approved by that supervisor at least one month before the date of the exam. The position paper is expected to form part of the introduction to the dissertation.

- One research essay. This part of the examination is a 20–25 page research essay. Typically, this essay is a substantially revised version of a paper written in one of the required graduate courses. The essay should be revised in consultation with the professor who taught the course for which the paper was originally written and with a second member of the exam committee. The research essay must be approved by both faculty members at least one month before the date of the exam.

- One oral examination. The oral examination lasts for approximately two hours. Approximately one-half of the oral exam is devoted to an examination of the two broad areas and the other half examines the research essay and position paper.

**Spanish Linguistics Track Comprehensive Exams**

The comprehensive exam includes written and oral components. The written component includes 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 the 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, a student 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 to 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 the preparation of the dissertation copy; consult the Graduate College. For information on the dissertation and final examinations, see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

**Literatures/Cultures Track Dissertation**

Dissertations can present a research project within literary/historical periodization and critical reflection of 20–30 pages in length; offer a major creative project, accompanied by an in-depth theoretical and critical reflection; a critical edition of a literary work, accompanied by an in-depth theoretical and critical reflection; a translation of a literary work, accompanied by an in-depth theoretical and critical reflection. Theoretical and critical reflections for the major creative project, a critical edition of literary work, or the translation of a literary work options may be no less than 50 pages in length.

**Dissertation Prospectus**

The first step in the dissertation process is the submission and defense of the dissertation prospectus. The prospectus consists of these sections: a narrative that describes in detail the dissertation, the work done in the field previously, the research methodology and/or theoretical or creative approach, and a preliminary description of chapter divisions; a preliminary bibliography; and a timetable for completion of the research and writing of the dissertation. Typically, the entire prospectus is 35–40 pages long.

Ideally, the prospectus should be approved by the dissertation committee by the end of the semester in which the comprehensive examination was successfully completed. In order to be considered to be making adequate progress toward the degree, a student should turn in the prospectus no later than the fourth week of the semester following the comprehensive exam.

**Prospectus Defense**

After the dissertation director has given preliminary approval of the prospectus, that faculty member schedules the dissertation defense. The defense is a meeting of the dissertation committee at which the student gives a brief oral presentation of the prospectus and answers questions that the committee members may have; the committee members should receive the written prospectus at least two weeks prior to the defense meeting. At this time, two members of the dissertation committee, in addition to the director, agree to read the dissertation on a chapter-by-chapter basis. Once approved, a copy of the prospectus and the departmental
prospectus approval form are handed in to the graduate student academic coordinator by the dissertation director and placed in the student's file.

**Additional Requirements**

**Independent Study**

Only 3 s.h. earned for post-MA 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 coursework. Exceptions are 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 obtained from the director of graduate studies, then secure 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.

**Graduate Study Loads**

Maximum course registration for all graduate students is 15 s.h. of graduate-level coursework 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.