

Spanish and Portuguese

Chair

Amber E. Brian

Undergraduate major: Spanish (BA)

Undergraduate minors: Latin American studies; Spanish; Portuguese

Undergraduate certificate: Latin American studies

Graduate degrees: MA in Spanish; MFA in Spanish creative writing; PhD in Spanish

Faculty: <https://spanish-portuguese.uiowa.edu/people>

Website: <https://spanish-portuguese.uiowa.edu/>

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers courses for the GE CLAS Core world language requirement; an undergraduate major, minors, and certificate; and three graduate degree programs: MA and PhD in Spanish and MFA in Spanish Creative Writing.

Faculty in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese specialize in language pedagogy, literary and cultural studies, creative writing, linguistics, and Spanish for the professions. Coursework prepares students to be multilingual global citizens, providing them with diverse cultural perspectives; critical and creative thinking skills; opportunities to develop language abilities; and awareness of contemporary and historical issues related to the Hispanic and Lusophone world. Spanish and Portuguese language courses are open to any student who has satisfied the course prerequisites. Beyond the GE CLAS Core world language courses, the department offers a wide range of courses on literature, writing, linguistics, and culture that serve as the foundation for the Spanish major. Additionally, the department offers a wide range of elective courses on topics such as Spanish for the professions (medicine and business), translation, and interpretation. The department also participates in multiple study abroad programs.

Undergraduate students in all majors may satisfy the World Languages requirement of the GE CLAS Core with courses in Spanish or Portuguese. The department also offers courses taught in English that are approved for other areas of the GE CLAS Core.

Related Certificates and Minors

Minor in Translation for Global Literacy

The minor in translation for global literacy encourages undergraduate students to explore translation as a crucial dimension of global literacy and communication. The Department of Spanish and Portuguese offers several courses that count toward the minor. See the minor in translation for global literacy in the catalog for more information.

Certificate in International Business

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business offer the Certificate in International Business. The program requires courses on global business and its political, environmental, and cultural contexts. It also includes a cultural immersion requirement, which can be satisfied with a fourth semester-level world language course.

For more information, see the Certificate in International Business in the catalog.

Study Abroad

The department strongly encourages its students to seek opportunities for summer language study and study abroad to accelerate the language acquisition process. Many students participate in summer, semester, and year-long study abroad programs in Latin America, South America, and the Iberian Peninsula. In many cases it is possible for a student to study abroad and still complete the Four-Year Graduation Plan. There are many resources available to fund research and study abroad. It may also be possible for students to apply University of Iowa financial aid to their study abroad programs. Interested students should contact a study abroad advisor at International Programs Study Abroad or see Study Abroad (University College) in the catalog.

Latin America

The department highly recommends but does not require that students with a minor or certificate in Latin American studies have an in-depth Latin American cultural experience, usually through study abroad, before completing their undergraduate requirements.

In cooperation with International Programs Study Abroad, faculty members facilitate student participation in programs in many Latin American countries. Programs range from intensive language study to group programs with a special focus. The University of Iowa cosponsors these programs through various consortiums.

Study abroad courses may be counted toward requirements for the certificate and the minor with prior approval from the department.