

Master of Arts in Spanish  
Sonoma State University

Curriculum

The program takes a generalist approach. Whereas most programs only allow students to specialize in one area or another, ours requires students to study at least three courses in literature, two in linguistics, one in pedagogy, and furthermore provides a mentored teaching practicum experience or internship.. Students will pursue their curricular interests in greater depth by taking additional elective senior or graduate level courses (of which at least 12 units must be taken). Upon completion of the program, it is anticipated that all students will be able to:

- be prepared (both in curricular and pedagogical terms) to teach any course in Spanish language, literature, or culture in secondary schools, community colleges, or among lower-division university courses,
- submit a competitive application to regionally or nationally recognized Ph.D. programs in either Hispanic literatures, linguistics, or pedagogy,
- be able to conduct original research on topics of applied or theoretical linguistic interest in Spanish, and
- be able to conduct original research on topics related to Hispanic literature with a solid grounding in the literary canon.

Course Calendar

An attractive feature of the program is the fact that all of the graduate courses will be taken during three summer sessions; the academic year course load will be relatively light and thus students will be able to finish the courses within a 26-month time span while maintaining full time employment; students from out of the area may take elective courses during the academic year at other institutions with approval of the graduate advisor. The program fees are projected to be \$355 per unit, making it affordable and indeed, competitive with other programs in the region.

Admissions Requirements

A student shall: (1) have completed a four-year college course of study and hold an acceptable baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association, or shall have completed equivalent academic preparation as determined by appropriate campus authorities; (2) be in good academic standing at the last college or university attended; (3) have attained a grade point average of at least 2.5 (A=4.0) in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units attempted; and (4) satisfactorily meet the professional, personal, scholastic, and

other standards for graduate study as determined by the Spanish Program Graduate Admissions Committee.

All graduate and postbaccalaureate applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose native language is not English and whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English must demonstrate competence in English. Those who do not possess a bachelor's degree from a postsecondary institution where English is the principal language of instruction must receive a minimum score of 213 or higher on the computerized Test of English as a Foreign Language (550 on the paper form).

Students previously enrolled at Sonoma State University but not registered for two or more semesters must file an application for readmission. Students missing only one semester need not reapply.

Students will be admitted in an annual cycle in time for each year's summer program courses. Students may begin program courses at any time on a provisional basis.

#### Academic preparation required for admission

To be considered for admission, candidates must meet one of the following three options:

**a)** Have a BA in Spanish from an accredited institution, or

**b)** Have a bachelors degree in another discipline from an accredited institution and have completed the following SSU courses (or their equivalents at another institution):

SPAN 301  
SPAN 304  
SPAN 305  
SPAN 306  
SPAN 307  
SPAN 400  
SPAN 401  
SPAN 402, or

**c)** Have a bachelors degree in another discipline from an institution where Spanish is the primary language of instruction and have completed the following SSU courses (or their equivalents at another institution):

SPAN 400  
SPAN 401  
SPAN 402.

Courses used to fulfill admission requirements may not be counted toward the MA in Spanish program requirements (e.g. if a student takes SPAN 401 prior to being admitted to the graduate program, it may not be counted toward the MA unless it is repeated with a different topic).

In some cases, one or more courses required for admission to the program may be waived based on demonstrable professional or academic experience. Consult with the Graduate Advisor for details.

### Program Content

Academic Year Courses:	12 units
Summer-term Courses:	18 units
Practicum / Internship:	<u>4 units</u>

**Total: 34 units**

#### Unit distributions (graduate courses)

- Literature:	9
- Linguistics:	6
- <u>Pedagogy:</u>	<u>3</u>
- <b>Total:</b>	<b>18</b>

#### Academic Year courses (electives)

- Elective Units	<b>12</b>
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Practicum/Internship **4**

- **Total: 34**

The Spanish Program will ensure that some of the 400-level courses offered during the academic year begin after 4:00 p.m. to facilitate dual-listed enrollment by working professionals enrolled in the MA program.

### Other Program Requirements

In order to ensure that graduate students possess the ability to communicate effectively in written English, advancement to candidacy will be contingent upon fulfillment of the Written English Proficiency Test (WEPT).

All courses applied to the program must be completed with an overall GPA of 3.00, and no course for which a final grade below C is assigned may be used to satisfy this requirement. Graduate programs must be completed in no more than

7 years, which is computed as 14 semesters.

Advancement to candidacy is required and should be done when the student enters the final phase of the program.

At least 21 semester units shall be completed in residence.

No more than 30 percent of coursework shall be allowed in transfer.

No credit toward a master's degree will be given for student teaching in a credential program.

At the discretion of the department, up to one-third of the total program units may be in a nontraditional grading mode (credit/no credit).

No classes completed as an undergraduate may be used except those granted provisional graduate credit prior to award of the baccalaureate degree.

The candidate must complete a comprehensive exam as required by the department.

### Course Calendar

All Graduate Courses will be completed during the months of June and July. The 2008 Calendar is as follows:

#### Session I

Monday, June 16 – Thursday, July 3 (3 weeks, total 12 class days)

#### Session II

Monday, July 14 – Thursday, July 31 (3 weeks, total 12 class days)

### **SPAN 500**

#### ***Spanish Second Language Pedagogy***

A course in second language acquisition theory and second language pedagogy in which participants learn to understand and apply models of proficiency-oriented and standards-based language instruction. 3 units.

### **SPAN 501**

#### ***Teaching Practicum / Internship***

This course is a participatory experience for students in the MA program. Students will participate in the instruction of a Spanish class at SSU. Spanish program faculty will collaborate with and mentor students in class activities, creating an inclusive atmosphere, and working with diverse populations of students. Alternatively, students may collaborate with program faculty to design an internship experience that provides a practical dimension to research or learning obtained through the program. 4 units. Prerequisite SPAN 500.

### **SPAN 502**

#### ***Advanced Linguistics***

A course in Spanish linguistics that will analyze the form, meaning, and function of linguistic units; including, but not limited to, phonetics/phonology, morphology, and syntax. Requires completion of a research project. 3 units.

### **SPAN 503**

#### ***Practical Linguistics***

A course in the significant elements of Spanish linguistics as applied in areas such as translation and interpretation, the pragmatics of oral and written discourse, including literary texts. Requires completion of a research project. 3 units.

### **SPAN 504**

#### ***Hispanic Literature I***

This survey course examines the literature of Spain and the Americas written before 1700 in a variety of genres and styles. Methods of literary analysis and historical contexts will be covered. This course will require the reading of *El Quijote* among other texts. 3 units.

### **SPAN 505**

#### ***Hispanic Literature II***

This survey course examines the literature of Spain and the Americas written in the XVIII and XIX centuries. Methods of literary analysis and historical contexts will be covered. 3 units.

### **SPAN 506**

#### ***Hispanic Literature III***

This survey course examines the literature of Spain and the Americas written since 1898 in a variety of genres and styles. Methods of literary analysis and historical contexts will be covered. 3 units.

### **SPAN 595**

#### ***Special Topics***

Directed, individual study on a particular topic. Course may require completion of an upper-division undergraduate course in Spanish or in a discipline related to the student's program of study (only 400-level Spanish courses may be used as Special Topics courses), which may include additional readings, assignments, or projects. All courses other than 400-level Spanish courses must be approved in writing by the Graduate Advisor prior to registering for the course. May be repeated for credit. 4 units.

#### Faculty

Program faculty will include both SSU Spanish faculty and visiting faculty from other institutions teaching in their area of specialization.

For further information contact:

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