

MASTERS OF ARTS IN SPANISH



**GRADUATE STUDENT
HANDBOOK**

The Department of World Languages
<http://languages.usf.edu/graduate/spanish/masters/>



The Hispanic/Latino Section of the Department of World Language Education offers the

Masters of Arts in Spanish

M.A. students may choose one of two options:

- 1) Languages and Cultures
- 2) Literatures and Cultures

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN SPANISH

The Hispanic/Latino section of the Department of World Languages supports a broad, intellectually driven approach to teaching language, culture and literature in higher education. Languages and cultures are complex, multifunctional phenomena that link an individual to other individuals, to communities, and to national cultures. The graduate program in Spanish offers students academic and practical training in the languages, literatures and cultures of the Spanish-speaking communities of Spain, Latin America, and the United States. Due to its focus on global perspectives and transcultural competence, the Masters of Arts in Spanish from the Department of World Languages at USF prepares students to either continue studies leading to the Ph.D., or pursue careers in related fields such as in the teaching profession, in translation, in government and civic service and agencies, legal and paralegal services, or in foreign and domestic business enterprises.

USF REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Students are required to meet the admission requirements of both the USF Graduate School and the M.A. program in Spanish. For additional information concerning the admission to the USF Graduate School, please visit their website at <http://www.grad.usf.edu>.

SPANISH PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

The requirements for acceptance into the Spanish M.A. program are:

- Application for admission to USF <https://secure.vzcollegeapp.com/usf/>
- A Bachelor's degree with a major in Spanish or in a related field from an accredited U.S. University, with a minimum 3.0 GPA, on a 4.0 scale; or a comparable degree from an international university for international students.
- The approval of the Graduate Director for students who hold a degree other than in Spanish.
- Two to three letters of recommendation.
- A statement of purpose, written in Spanish, of two to three pages in length.
- An oral interview in Spanish, either in person, over the phone, or via SKYPE. In order to be admitted, applicants are expected to be proficient in the Spanish language, and must be able to understand, speak, read, and write standard Spanish.
- A satisfactory TOEFL score for international students, or for students whose native language is not English. Consult the Graduate Catalog for specifics concerning minimum test scores and accepted alternatives <http://www.grad.usf.edu/catalog.php>
- Program admission dates:

FALL	FEBRUARY 15TH
SPRING/SUMMER	OCTOBER 15TH

Prospective students whose undergraduate major (BA) was not in Spanish may be required to take 3000 and 4000 level courses as non-degree seeking students in order to prepare for acceptance into the M.A. program.

M.A. REQUIREMENTS

A) Languages and Cultures Option

—FOW 6085, Bibliography and Research Methods (1 semester hour course)

— SPW 6806: Introduction to Hispanic Graduate Studies (3 semester hours course)

—Students must have taken, or plan to take, an Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics course, or equivalent, prior to or during their M.A. studies in Spanish. This requirement must be fulfilled before taking the M.A. comprehensive exam.

—33 semester hours of SPN/SPW 5000-6000 level courses (or 27-30 semester hours in Spanish and 6-9 semester hours in another related area, as approved by the Graduate Director). Two 4000 level courses (BA) can count towards the degree, provided the student is enrolled in the M.A. program and had a prior arrangement with the Graduate Director.

— Out of 33 units, students are required to take 3 seminars in Peninsular literature (9 units) and 3 seminars in Latin American literature (9 units). NOTE: Transatlantic or courses that are comparative in nature may count as either Peninsular or Latin American, but not both.

—Successful completion of a Comprehensive Examination at the end of coursework (typically, in the second semester of the second year). This exam is based on the M.A. reading list.

B) Literatures and Cultures Option

—FOW 6085, Bibliography and Research Methods (1 semester hour course)

—SPW 6806: Introduction to Hispanic Graduate Studies (3 semester hours course)

—Students must have taken, or plan to take, an Introduction to Hispanic Linguistics course, or equivalent, prior to or during their M.A. studies in Spanish. This requirement must be fulfilled before taking the M.A. comprehensive exam.

—Proficiency in a second language: The second language requirement can be satisfied by having completed the second semester of a language other than Spanish within the last 2 years, or by taking a placement test and placing into level III of that language, or by taking the second semester of another language other than Spanish while pursuing the Spanish Masters. In special cases, a translation and brief oral interview can be arranged in place of these requirements.

—33 semester hours of SPN/SPW 5000-6000 level courses (or 27-30 semester hours in Spanish and 6-9 semester hours in another related area, as approved by Graduate Director). Two 4000 level courses (BA) can count towards the degree, provided the student is enrolled in the M.A. program or had a prior arrangement with the Graduate Director.

— Out of 33 units, students are required to take 3 seminars in Peninsular literature (9 units) and 3 seminars in Latin American literature (9 units). NOTE: Transatlantic or courses that are comparative

in nature shall count as either Peninsular or Latin American, but not both. Students who have not completed the SPW 4100-4101 and SPW 4130-4131 course sequence are encouraged to do so.

— Students are strongly encouraged to undertake M.A. Thesis work. If a student selects this option, he/she must complete 27 semester hours of SPN/SPW 5000-6000 level courses (or 21-24 semester hours in Spanish and 6-9 semester hours in another related area, as approved by Graduate Director). Two 4000 level courses (BA) can count towards the degree, provided the student is enrolled in the M.A. program, or had a prior arrangement with the Graduate Director. In addition, 6 semester hours of SPW 6971 must be completed. Students must also enroll in a minimum of 2 thesis credit hours during the semester of graduation. Due to Graduate School deadlines earlier in the semester, the thesis should be completed at the beginning of the last semester of studies in order to allow for sufficient time for the committee members to read and approve the thesis. If a graduate student decides to write an M.A. Thesis, s/he is encouraged to consult all graduate faculty before choosing an advisor. The M.A. Thesis committee consists of an advisor and two readers, one of who may be from another department. The student chooses the committee members in consultation with the advisor. The M.A. Thesis shall be between 40-60 pages and follow the Graduate School's format and submission guidelines. The thesis must contribute to the discipline by advancing scholarly discussion and offering new knowledge. An oral defense shall be scheduled upon completion of the M.A. thesis. Students may not register for more than a total of 9 semester hours on thesis work.

—Successful completion of a Comprehensive Examination at the end of coursework (typically, in the second semester of the second year). This exam is based on the M.A. reading list.

*NOTE: Students must elect one of the two options by the end of their first year.

M.A. COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

The M.A. comprehensive exam is administered in early April and early November. Requests for Summer term examinations must be made in writing and shall be granted only in exceptional cases. The Graduate Faculty shall make the final decision on the request.

Format:

Day 1 (4 hours): Students shall answer 4 questions out of 6 on Spanish literature.

Day 2 (4 hours): Students shall answer 4 questions out of 6 on Latin American literature.

Grading: Students must receive a passing grade in seven out of the eight questions. Students must answer each question at a "B" level or higher to obtain a passing grade. The results of the exam may be: Pass with recommendation to Ph.D. Studies; Pass; Fail.

A student who fails the M.A. examination may ask to be reexamined. The second exam shall be only on the section(s) that did not receive a satisfactory grade on the first exam. Such retaking will be offered no earlier than the following semester after the failed examination. Exam retaking is limited to one attempt.

Oral Exam Option: Students may be offered the opportunity to take an oral exam instead of the re-take, should the Examination Committee decide that more than one question was answered in a

borderline (fail-low pass) manner. The decision to provide this opportunity is left to the discretion of the Examination Committee. This oral examination may only address questions insufficiently answered in the written exam and is conducted in Spanish, in the presence of the Examination Committee. Students have the right to decline the opportunity for an oral exam. In this case, the exam is considered failed and may be retaken the following semester, as stated above.

At the time of the examination, the student must be registered for at least 2 semester hours.

NOTE: Exceptional circumstances may prevent a student from taking a scheduled MA exam. These circumstances must be appropriately documented and must be explained in writing. The Graduate Faculty makes the final decision on the request. Students in need of academic accommodations for a disability may consult with the office of Students with Disabilities Services to arrange appropriate accommodations. Students are required to give reasonable notice prior to requesting an accommodation. Contact SDS at 974-4309 or www.sds.usf.edu.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE M.A. DEGREE

If a student receives a “C” grade or lower in a course applicable for the M.A. in Spanish, s/he will be placed on academic probation. An additional “C” may be cause for dismissal from the program. Mid-term evaluations conducted by the graduate faculty will assess the linguistic and analytic abilities of students. Evaluations will take place in the Spring of the first year of attendance. The Graduate Director will inform students of their progress based on these evaluations.

INDEPENDENT STUDY COURSES

Directed Research courses require the authorization of the Director of Graduate Studies before registration. The purpose of directed research is to allow students to explore topics in a field for which no regular graduate courses may be available. Directed research may also be allowed in exceptional cases not contemplated in the description above. However, directed research cannot be considered a substitute for regular coursework. Independent study is a service provided by members of the faculty in addition to their regularly assigned courses; the decision to honor requests for independent study is entirely at the discretion of a particular faculty member. If necessary, a student may take no more than 3 semester-hours (1 class) of independent study. Exception to this rule must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in advance. A contract for directed study must be submitted and approved by the Graduate Director and the Department Chair before the student registers for the course.

TIME LIMITS FOR THE M.A.

All work leading to the Master’s Degree (courses, comprehensive examination, second language proficiency, thesis if applicable) must be completed within five years, according to university regulations, which read as follows: “All requirements for master’s degrees must be completed within five (5) calendar years from the student’s date of admission for graduate study. In the event that a student nears the end of the time limitation as specified above, but the student needs more time to

complete the degree, the student may submit a request for an extension using the *Time Limit Extension Request Form*, available at http://www.grad.usf.edu/newsite/forms/grad_forms.asp Requests must include the reasons for the delay in completion, the anticipated time needed for completion, and endorsements from the graduate faculty advisor, graduate program, and College Dean or designee, prior to submission to the Graduate School for approval. Students who exceed the time limitations may have their registration placed on hold until a request for extension has been approved. Students who are temporarily unable to continue the program should submit a Leave of Absence Request, which extends the time limit for the duration of the approved Leave". This five-year limit has no bearing on the four-semester limit stipulated for teaching assistantships.

GRANTS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Grants and fellowships are available through different university programs. Please refer to the appropriate academic unit or program. For Spanish M.A. students, a limited number of Teaching Assistantships are available. Teaching Assistants typically teach one or two courses of Beginning Spanish in return for a stipend and a percentage of their tuition. They, in turn, must take a minimum of 9 semester hours of courses applicable to their M.A. degree each semester, not counting summers. Teaching Assistantships are only awarded for four semesters of the regular academic year, not counting summers.

FACULTY AND COURSES

The success of our graduate program rests on our professors who represent universities across the United States, Spain and Latin America and deliver a diversified curriculum while maintaining a high level of one-on-one contact with graduate students.

Pablo Brescia (Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara, pbrescia@usf.edu) Latin American short fiction; 20th and 21st Century Mexican and Southern Cone literatures and cultural histories; Colonial Mexico; philosophy and literature; film and literature.

Madeline Cámara (Ph.D., State University of New York, Stony Brook, camaram@usf.edu) Contemporary Latin American Literature; Cuban culture; race and gender issues; literary theory.

Carlos Cano (Ph.D., Indiana University, cano@usf.edu) Spanish American literature; Hispanic cinema; Spanish American civilization.

David Arbesú (Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, arbesu@usf.edu) Medieval and Golden Age Spanish literatures and culture; palaeography and codicology; early history of Florida (16th-17th centuries) .

Heike Scharm (Ph.D., Brown University, heikescharm@usf.edu) 18th-21st Centuries Spanish literature, literature and film; transatlantic studies; philosophy and literature; modernisms and discourses on Modernity.

Sonia Ramírez Wohlmuth (Ph. D., University of Florida, swohlmuth@usf.edu) Hispanic Linguistics.

Sample Graduate Courses:

Latin America

Literary Criticism and Theory; Modern Spanish American Civilization; Caribbean Culture and Literature; Southern Cone Culture and Literature; Mexican Culture and Literature; Colonial Spanish American Literature; *Modernismo* and the Avant-garde; The Boom in Spanish American Narrative; Fantastic and Science Fiction Literature in Spanish America; The Spanish American Short Story; Latin American Women Writers; Latino Writers in the United States.

Spain

Medieval Literature; Cervantes; Golden Age Poetry and Drama; Golden Age Novel; Science (in) Fiction; Historical Memory in Literature and Film; Spanish Culture through Theatre; The Novel from Democracy to the 21st Century; Transatlantic Avant-garde Movements.

Linguistics

Spanish Linguistics; History of the Spanish Language; Phonology and Dialectology.