The research paper is one of the two options available to students wishing to complete a Master’s Degree in Spanish at Saint Louis University. This option is only available with the written permission of the Spanish Graduate Program Director. The research paper is recommended for students wishing to continue on to a Ph.D. program. This option is not available to students in the Madrid program.

**Scheduling:**
The research paper may be written during the last year of a student’s graduate career. Typically, students write the research paper in or immediately following their last semester of coursework. The completion date for the St. Louis campus is October 15th for the Fall Semester and March 15th for the Spring Semester. The research paper is not an option for the Madrid campus.

**Length and Format:**
The completed research paper must be 30-40 pages in length. The paper must follow MLA guidelines, and be typed, double-spaced in size 12 font. The research paper must be written in Spanish.

**Content:**
The subject matter is chosen by the student in coordination with his or her Research Paper Advisor. The topics may include aspects of Language, Literature, Linguistics, and/or Culture pertaining to the Spanish language. The topic must also be approved by all members of the evaluation committee.

**Committee:**
The student will select a Research Paper Advisor to aid in the development and writing of his or her research paper. The job of the Research Paper Advisor is only to guide the student and make suggestions; the student performs all of the research and writing of the research paper.

In addition to the Research Paper Advisor, the student will choose one member of the Spanish Division Faculty to be a Research Paper Reader. The other Research Paper Reader will be chosen by the Spanish Graduate Program Director in consultation with the student.

Use this form for establishing the committee and paper topic.
**Procedure:**
Once the Research Paper Advisor and the Research Paper Readers are elected and the student’s proposed topic is approved, the student will complete the Research Paper Evaluation Petition. The Research Paper Advisor will then assign the completion date for the research paper.

The student will then write a preliminary draft of the paper. He or she will maintain contact with the Research Paper Advisor in order to make any changes deemed necessary before formal presentation of the research paper.

When the student’s Research Paper Advisor approves the final paper, the student will make two copies which the Graduate Coordinator will pass along to the readers with an evaluation form. The committee will have one week to read and write their evaluation of the research paper. The evaluation forms are then returned to the Graduate Coordinator.

If the readers suggest changes before acceptance, these will be made accordingly, and the steps are repeated. First the Research Paper Advisor approves of it, and it is then passed on to the readers a second time with a second evaluation form.

**Grading:**
After the Research Paper Advisor and the two readers evaluate the paper, one of three distinctions will be made: Accepted As Is, Accepted with Corrections, or Not Accepted. Two out of three votes are necessary in order to pass the research paper evaluation. The student must pass the research paper evaluation in order to receive a M.A. Degree in Spanish.

Once the research paper is approved, the Spanish Graduate Program Director will meet with the student to decide on a date for the oral examination. No date will be determined until the student has passed the research paper evaluation.

Document last updated 6-8-10