

Requirements for M.A. in Spanish Saint Louis University

Our MA program seeks to give the student a generalist foundation in the areas of Spanish Peninsular and Latin American Literature as well as in the area of Teaching and Linguistics. Students are therefore encouraged to take a balanced number of courses in all areas in addition to their required courses. A maximum of 9 credit hours may be taken at the 400 level under special circumstances and with permission from the Director of the Graduate Program. Use the following chart to plan your MA career in Spanish and to keep track of your progress.

For a Master's degree in Spanish you must fulfill each of the following categories:

1. Required Courses (two of the following)

_____ SP A 504 Methods and Technology for the Teaching of Spanish

_____ SP A 520 Introduction to Literary Criticism

_____ SP A 508 Contemporary Spanish Culture and Civilization

_____ SP A 509 Contemporary Latin American Culture and Civilization

2. 24 Hours of 500 Level Graduate Courses

_____ (3 hrs.)

_____ (3 hrs.)

_____ (3 hrs.)

_____ (3 hrs.)

_____ (3 hrs.)

_____ (3 hrs.)

_____ (3 hrs.)

_____ (3 hrs.)

3. General Written Examination

_____ (date of exam)

4. Written Examination of Area of Specialty or Thesis

_____ (specific area of concentration for exam
and date of exam)

5. Oral Examination

_____ (date of exam)

3. General Written Examination

This is a four-hour exam in which the student must answer one of two questions posed about Peninsular literature, one of two questions about Latin American literature, and one of two questions about applied linguistics. The subject matter of the exam comes from the general [reading list](#). The questions are written and evaluated by the three faculty members appointed by the Graduate Committee in consultation with the student. (Rules are slightly different for students admitted before Spring 2010. Please consult with your mentor about these policies.)

4. Written Examination on Area of Specialty or Research Paper (Thesis)

Typically on the day following the general written exam, a three-hour block of time is scheduled for the student to answer two of the three questions posed to him or her by the examination committee. These questions are based on the [reading list](#) for the chosen area of specialty.

Students may instead opt to write a thesis. The research paper should be between 30 and 40 pages in length. The subject matter is chosen by the student and must be approved by all of the committee members. The committee consists of three members (a chair and two readers) chosen by the student in consultation with the Graduate Program Director. Two out of three votes are necessary for approval of the research paper. (See [Research paper procedures](#).)

5. Oral Examination

The subject matter of the oral examination is the courses that the student has taken. An evaluation committee is composed of three members of the faculty, appointed by the graduate committee in consultation with the student. These members may or may not be those chosen for the written examination. The oral examination will not be scheduled until the student presents an acceptable written examination. The student must pass the oral examination in order to receive the Master's degree. (See MA exam expectations and procedures.)

Please refer to the [MA Retake Policy document](#) for all questions on regulations about retaking the MA Written and Oral exams.

6. Other Graduate School Regulations

According to the Graduate School Catalog:

- The last semester that the student is enrolled, he/she must fill out an Application for Degree at the **beginning** of the semester.
- A graduate student must maintain a GPA of minimum 3.0 to remain in good standing with the Graduate school. Otherwise, the student will receive an academic warning and will be put on probation.
- To be eligible for a Teaching Assistantship, a student must maintain a GPA of 3.0 minimum.
- A maximum of six semester-hours of course work may be approved for transfer toward fulfillment of degree requirements. (See regulations for Transfer of credit).
- A maximum of 9 credit hours at the 400 level is allowed toward the MA.
- Students who have completed coursework and are preparing for their exams must register for zero-credits (SPA 595, Special Study for Exams) in order to remain in good standing with the Graduate School.
- If a student does not plan to enroll for a semester during his/her graduate work, he/she must enroll for 0 credits in SPAN 5CR-90 ("continuous enrollment") to avoid any penalties from the Graduate school. The penalty for failing to enroll when not taking classes is \$100.

Please contact the graduate school for further questions.