LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
+ College of Arts and Sciences

DEGREE(S)
+ Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Latin American studies
+ Minor in Latin American studies

PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Historical, cultural, economic and political relations between the Americas have made Latin American Studies an important field of inquiry for numerous disciplines. The relevance of Latin American studies continues to increase due to the importance of Latin America for the United States and the growing influence of the Hispanic population in our country. Latin America is growing in global strategic importance while remaining a region of diverse opportunities and challenges. The economic growth of the region has been sustained in the past decade, and today Brazil and Mexico represent two of the largest economies in the world. Moreover, Latin America has 15 percent of the world’s oil reserves, large stocks of minerals, a quarter of its arable land and a third of its fresh water — all these vast resources of strategic and vital importance offer the opportunity for Latin America to develop its potential to become the world’s largest provider of food, energy and water.

The Latin American studies program at Saint Louis University offers a series of courses in economics, history, political science, business, sociology, public health, criminal justice, theology as well as languages, literatures and culture studies designed to engage students with Latin America. The program exposes students to the methods, materials and tools of several academic areas that, with close mentoring, enable them to do their work from an interdisciplinary perspective, culminating in the senior inquiry course for the Latin American studies degree options.

ABOUT THE FACULTY
The Latin American studies faculty includes professors from the department of languages, literatures and cultures, along with business, political science, sociology, criminal justice, economics, history, theology and public health. The variety of faculty allows students to engage in numerous disciplines.

CURRICULUM
For the Latin American studies major, students must complete 33 credit hours of coursework composed of three required core courses, the senior inquiry course and seven electives with a concentration either in the humanities or the social sciences. A student majoring in Latin American studies must also complete a minor in Spanish.

Completion of one semester abroad and completion of at least 70 hours of community service during the semester in Latin America in coordination with the program director or Latin American studies mentor is also required for the major.

The Latin American studies minor is composed of 18 hours of coursework in Latin American studies content courses. Students pursuing a minor must complete one semester abroad with the approval of the program director, completing at least 40 hours of community service during the semester in Latin America. A student minoring in Latin American studies must also complete a minor in Spanish.

OFFICE OF ADMISSION, ONE NORTH GRAND BLVD., ST. LOUIS, MO 63103
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Graduate Programs
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:

+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

The Latin American studies major and minor requires students to spend at least one semester in a Latin American country participating actively in service-oriented programs and research projects connected with community development. Students work with less affluent communities, policy makers and/or community activists and present their work in a capstone project within their senior inquiry course.

The Latin American studies program gives students the background needed to enter the fields of international trade and finance, foreign service, teaching, publishing, international law, immigration studies, journalism and Hispanic media, and communications.

An excellent command of Spanish and an understanding of the history, culture, politics and economics of Latin American can serve as assets in the competitive U.S. job market. However, the program also prepares graduates to work in Latin American offices within government agencies, nonprofits and NGOs.

In addition, the degree option prepares students for graduate study in the fields mentioned.

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