DEGREE(S)

- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Spanish
- Minor in Spanish

ABOUT THE FACULTY

Scholarly interests of the faculty include applied psycholinguistics, first and second language acquisition, the interaction of technology in learning processes, Latin American history and Latin American, peninsular and Spanish literature. The full-time faculty members are eager to assist students as academic mentors, advisers and resources.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Spanish program at Saint Louis University prepares students for careers that require proficiency in Spanish or for graduate work in Spanish. The Spanish division encourages all students majoring in Spanish to spend one year at Saint Louis University’s campus in Madrid. Besides the traditional courses in Spanish language, culture and literature, students at the Madrid campus may select from a wide variety of offerings in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. Many courses are taught in English as well. This experience abroad has proven to be an invaluable asset in competing for career opportunities.

At the Language Lab Center, all students have access to a wide range of multimedia technology designed to enhance the development of language and cultural proficiency. These include live satellite transmissions with news broadcasts; interactive video, film and multimedia; and a variety of computer programs.

In order to promote cultural awareness concerning Spanish and Hispanic issues, the department regularly organizes extracurricular activities. These activities range from movie nights, cultural talks, social service workshops and dance demonstrations to dinners and parties.

The annual graduate and undergraduate department of languages, literatures, and cultures student symposium attracts more than 100 participants from local and neighboring universities. This intellectual forum provides upper-level Spanish students insight into critical research and life in academia. Spanish majors who choose to write a senior thesis present their work at this event.

CURRICULUM

The bachelor’s degree in Spanish concentrates on advanced language training as well as cultural and literary studies. A total of 30 credit hours in Spanish is required for the major. Twelve credit hours must consist of advanced language courses, such as SPAN 3010, SPAN 3020, SPAN 3030 and SPAN 3040. Eighteen credit hours must consist of upper-division literature, linguistic and culture courses. In addition to the 30 required credit hours, students must choose one of the two following options to complete the requirements for the major: an additional upper-level Spanish course or a senior inquiry research paper.

The minor in Spanish requires 18 credit hours beginning with SPAN 3010 and includes SPAN 3020, SPAN 3030, SPAN 3040 and two upper-division courses in literature, linguistics or culture. Students seeking the Spanish minor must complete 18 credit hours of coursework for the minor regardless of the level of proficiency at which they begin.
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.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

+ The Spanish program at SLU offers exciting classes in Spanish language, Spanish linguistics, Spanish for specific fields as well as Spanish literature, film and culture. Most of our students study abroad in programs all over Spain (SLU-Madrid) and Latin America (Ecuador, Peru, Chile, Mexico and many more).
+ Spanish is the second most used language in the United States, spoken at home by more than 50 million people. Spanish is spoken around the world, by more than 460 million speakers on four continents and in 21 countries. It is one of the six official languages of the United Nations and one of the official languages of the European Union.
+ Based on the growth of the Hispanic population and the increase of Spanish-speakers worldwide, bilingual English/Spanish ability and cross-cultural understanding are valued assets within all fields but especially within the business world, health care fields, government, education, cultural as well as international studies, social work and law enforcement. In addition, it is reported the need for foreign language teachers will increase 20 percent over the next 10 years in the US.

A Spanish major is a valuable asset for a variety of careers, especially when students combine their Spanish studies with a second major. The rapidly evolving political climate and the international marketplace make knowledge of languages and cultures especially desirable. Saint Louis University students have the opportunity to complete an internship that utilizes their knowledge of the Spanish language at one of the many businesses, companies or community outreach facilities in St. Louis.

A major in Spanish, complemented by a second major such as international studies, uniquely qualifies students to compete in careers with an international orientation. Graduates may pursue careers in international law, business, economics, government work, foreign service or scientific research.

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.

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Graduate Programs
+ Master of Arts (M.A.) in sociology
For a full listing of graduate programs, visit graduate.slu.edu.