



MA in Spanish Program: Goals and Outcomes

Reflective of its mission, Saint Louis University strives to engage its students, including those pursuing advanced degrees, in five interrelated dimensions contributing to the development of the whole person: 1) scholarship and knowledge, 2) intellectual inquiry and communication, 3) community building, 4) leadership and service, and 5) spirituality and values. The goals of the program are to immerse participants in the Spanish language and its cultures and to provide tools to achieve high standards of literary scholarship, along with an appreciation of the cultural and historical events which have shaped Spain and the Americas and their artistic and literary movements; in addition, the program is designed to enhance students' academic fluency and accuracy of expression as well as their knowledge about the Spanish language in its historical and geographical contexts, their ability to describe its linguistic structure, and to identify best pedagogical practices based on theoretical understandings of language teaching and learning.

After completing the program, students will be able to:

- Express ideas, analysis, and interpretation using clear oral and written exposition, in a register highly effective to an academic context, demonstrating effective critical thinking abilities, with concrete and appropriate examples to support ideas.
- Demonstrate considerable and solid knowledge for analysis and interpretation of literary texts.
- Use basic principles of literary and cultural theory to analyze and interpret a variety of texts and other forms expression from a range of cultural and historical periods
- Demonstrate insight into the application of this knowledge as a means of studying a significant corpus to be able to identify and cogently explain literary texts and other literary documents and films in their historical, ideological and stylistic context.
- Demonstrate specialized knowledge of selected literary and cultural works, authors and cultural producers of the Spanish Peninsular and Spanish American literary world, and express that understanding with respect to their aesthetic, historical, and social contexts.
- Analyze, interpret and evaluate the Spanish language, using academic terminology.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the main disciplines in Spanish linguistics as well as with the theoretical frameworks and the international pedagogical trends that have influenced or made an impact on the development of language learning and language teaching.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the major contributors to such theoretical frameworks and trends, cite examples of their work, make comparisons, draw conclusions and evaluate their contribution in the field.

- Provide applications of theory to practice, using the concepts of the discipline in order to explain Spanish in diverse kinds of discourse, as well as in texts from different historical, social and geographical origins.
- Conduct research in the field of (applied) linguistics using adequate methodology to obtain, classify, analyze and evaluate linguistic data.
- Demonstrate comprehension of the Spanish language as a reflection of geographical, social and cultural diversity, which deserves respect and care as human products.
- Demonstrate a professional attitude towards learning, teaching and research, able to work with peers in the fields of Spanish linguistics and its literatures, showing an ability to educate other people in these fields.
- Conduct research in conjunction with others in the fields of Spanish Peninsular and Spanish American literature and culture, and Spanish linguistics, demonstrating the results of such research combined with original thinking in academic essays and in class presentations.
- Establish a secure, cooperative and spiritual learning environment that invite all to engage freely in class participation.