Develop an advanced knowledge of Peninsular, Latin American and Mexican American literature and cultural production. Mentoring by renowned faculty and coursework in a number of available tracks help you develop a sound knowledge of genre, periodization and scholarly research in the field.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Spanish

The Spanish PhD program consists of two specializations in Spanish literature or culture and four tracks: early modern, linguistics, Mexican-American studies and visual cultures.

The specializations in Spanish literature or cultural studies, which are intended to be as flexible as possible, establish broad areas of competence through an individualized program of study set with the supportive guidance of the student's advisor.

In addition, the tracks in literature consist of five courses that allow for a specialization in early modern, Mexican-American studies or visual cultures.

Graduate courses in literature and cultural studies focus on the production, distribution and reception of texts and their linguistics, either written or visual (photographs, films, visual narratives, etc.), their linguistic, rhetorical and literary structure and functions, with an emphasis on literary theories and aesthetics. Many literature courses explore issues relating to gender, class, race, ethnicity, globalization, environmental humanities, disability theories, post-human theories and digital humanities.

The Spanish linguistics track offers advanced interdisciplinary graduate training that combines key areas in second language acquisition and teaching, applied linguistics, heritage language research and pedagogy, sociolinguistics, and bilingualism, with an emphasis on U.S. Spanish. In addition to taking core courses in Spanish linguistics, students can opt to specialize in one of the three following options: second language acquisition and teaching methodologies, heritage language research and pedagogy, and sociolinguistics and bilingualism. Students receive training in state of the art quantitative and qualitative research methods on the study of language from diverse perspectives.
At a Glance

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a foreign language exams, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

**Required Core (3 credit hours)**

**Track (18 credit hours)**

**Focus Area (0 or 12 credit hours)**

**Electives (27 or 39 credit hours)**

**Research (12 credit hours)**
SPA 792 Research (12)

**Culminating Experience (12 credit hours)**
SPA 799 Dissertation (12)

Additional Curriculum Information

The doctoral program in Spanish has four available tracks: early-modern Iberian studies, Spanish linguistics, Mexican American studies, and visual studies.

Students in the Spanish linguistics track are required to complete 12 credit hours in a focus area. Available focus areas are: second-language acquisition and teaching methodologies; heritage language research and pedagogy; and sociolinguistics, bilingualism and Spanish in the U.S. Students in this track complete a minimum of 27 credit hours of elective coursework.

Students in the early-modern Iberian studies, Mexican American studies, and visual studies tracks complete 39 credit hours of elective coursework and do not select a focus area.

The candidate must present an acceptable dissertation based on original investigation. The dissertation must represent a significant contribution to knowledge and demonstrate the candidate’s ability to do independent, scholarly research.

Each candidate is expected to demonstrate a reading knowledge of one language other than English and Spanish. This language requirement must be satisfied before the candidate is eligible to take the comprehensive examination.
The written and oral comprehensive examination, designed to ascertain the candidate's knowledge and orientation in the field of study and competency to proceed with the dissertation, is required at or near the end of coursework.

When approved by the student's supervisory committee and the Graduate College, this program allows 30 credit hours from a previously awarded master's degree to be used for this degree.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in Spanish or equivalent from a regionally accredited institution. Applicants from other academic backgrounds with relevant coursework in Spanish language and cultural studies also may be evaluated by the admissions committee.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. writing sample
4. personal statement
5. resume
6. three letters of recommendation
7. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

It is recommended but not required that students applying for admission to the program submit GRE scores; this is especially advisable for applicants for the Spanish Graduate Fellowship Award.

Candidates for the program are required to demonstrate a near-native oral proficiency in Spanish and to show that they have developed a high order of expository prose in English and Spanish by presenting a term paper or a chapter of the master's degree thesis as their writing sample.
Application Deadlines

Career Opportunities

Professionals with this degree can confidently move into the academic profession, careers in education (including in museums and libraries) and professions outside academia such as in the publishing industry, media, nonprofits and international relations. Skills developed through this program are valued for teaching positions, translation work or work in a larger sector such as governmental, diplomatic and international business career opportunities.

Career examples include:

- area, ethnic and cultural studies teachers and professors
- editors
- foreign language and literature teachers and professors
- instructional design coordinators
- interpreters and translators
- lawyers
- reporters and correspondents
- social and community service managers

Contact Information

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