A PhD in Spanish lets you delve into a diverse and exciting range of topics related to the culture, language and literature of the Spanish-speaking world. You will receive mentorship from renowned faculty to examine and rethink subjects like gender studies, second-language acquisition, digital humanities and more.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Spanish

The School of International Letters and Cultures offers a graduate program leading to a PhD in Spanish. The program trains students for entrance into the academic profession (teachers and scholars) as well as for professions outside of academia. The Spanish doctoral program offers three literature tracks and one linguistics track.

The tracks in literature promote the study of the production, distribution and reception of texts, either written or visual (photographs, films, visual narratives, etc.); study of their linguistic, rhetorical and literary structures and functions; and study of the internal and external forces shaping literature, with an emphasis on literary theories and cultural studies. Many literature courses explore issues relating to gender, class, race, ethnicity, globalization, post-human theories and digital humanities.

The linguistics curriculum provides advanced interdisciplinary graduate training in three focus areas: second-language acquisition and teaching methodologies; heritage language research and heritage language pedagogy; and sociolinguistics, bilingualism and Spanish in the U.S.

At a Glance

- College/School: 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 will 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 of a 3.75 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.75 cumulative GPA (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 (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

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 will be 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.

Contact Information

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