

# SPANISH, PHD

The degrees offered are the master of arts and doctor of philosophy in Spanish. In addition, the department offers a doctoral minor in Spanish (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/spanish-portuguese/spanish-doctoral-minor/>) or Portuguese (<https://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/spanish-portuguese/portuguese-doctoral-minor/>).

An integrated curriculum in Spanish language, literatures, cultures, and linguistics provides training at the master's and PhD levels and assures that graduates are prepared to contribute as professionals in the fields of teaching and research. An active program of research contributes to new knowledge in Spanish. A comprehensive group of courses is offered in rotation during the academic year so that candidates may take courses in all fields. Classes are conducted in Spanish.

The department's graduate program in Spanish is consistently among the finest in the country. Teaching assistantships are offered each year to graduate candidates in Spanish and Portuguese. A full complement of courses in Spanish and Spanish American, literatures, cultures, and linguistics is offered on a regular basis.

Fellowships, scholarships, teaching assistantships, and project assistantships are available to qualified graduate degree candidates.

Students pursuing advanced degrees in this department are advised to include in their training work in other languages and literatures, art, social sciences, linguistics, film studies, and philosophy. Knowledge of other languages is required for advanced work in Hispanic fields.

## ADMISSIONS

### ADMISSIONS

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program's admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program's website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. **Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s).** Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	January 5
Spring Deadline	The program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	The program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.

English Proficiency Test	Every applicant whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not exclusively in English, must provide an English proficiency test score earned within two years of the anticipated term of enrollment. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241</a> ( <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/</a> ).
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Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

MA students in Spanish at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are admitted to doctoral studies in this department on the recommendation of the MA examining committee upon successful completion of the PhD qualifying examination.

Applicants with a master's from another institution are admitted to the doctoral program by virtue of their acceptance by the department. A minimum graduate GPA of 3.4 (on a 4.0 scale) is required.

During the registration period, the student will be asked to supply supplementary information regarding courses taken previously, experience abroad, scope of readings in Spanish and Spanish American literatures, and preparation in linguistics.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION FOR PHD APPLICATIONS

- Three letters of recommendation are required for all graduate student applicants, using the Graduate School's online application.
- Unofficial transcripts from all universities attended need to be uploaded to the application. Certified English translations should accompany all non-English transcripts.
- International degree-seeking applicants must prove English proficiency using the Graduate School's requirements (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/>).
- Reason for Graduate Study/Statement of Purpose: What are your reasons for graduate study? Describe your current degree goals and your reasons for selecting your program(s). Your statement can be either in English or Spanish. It should not exceed three single-spaced pages, or the equivalent when double-spaced.
- A writing sample in Spanish (e.g., term-paper length). It should be eight to ten pages. The topic should be as close as possible to the field you wish to specialize in for the PhD thesis.

All materials must be received electronically to the Department of Spanish and Portuguese by the fall deadline.

## FUNDING

### FUNDING GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (<https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/>) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

Prospective students should see the program website (<http://spanport.wisc.edu/prospective-grad-funding/>) for funding information.

## REQUIREMENTS

## MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (<http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext>), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

Face to Face	Evening/ Weekend	Online	Hybrid	Accelerated
Yes	No	No	No	No

#### Mode of Instruction Definitions

**Accelerated:** Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

**Evening/Weekend:** Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

**Face-to-Face:** Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW–Madison Campus.

**Hybrid:** These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

**Online:** These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

## CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

### Requirement Detail

Minimum  
Credit  
Requirement

51 credits

Minimum  
Residence  
Credit  
Requirement

32 credits

Minimum  
Graduate  
Coursework  
Requirement

33 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: <https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244> (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/>).

In practice all doctoral coursework (with the exception of some language requirements or some doctoral minors) is designed exclusively for graduate students.

Overall	3.00 GPA required.
Graduate GPA Requirement	Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203</a> ( <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/</a> ).

Other Grade Requirements

No other grade requirements.

Assessments and Examinations

Preliminary Examinations:  
The Preliminary Examination must be taken after course requirements have been met. The prelim has two parts: a written part and an oral part. The written part of the exam has two components: 1) a series of take-home exams and 2) a 5 to 10-page dissertation prospectus plus bibliography. An oral examination defense follows the written portions of the Preliminary Examination. The oral exam defense is approximately two hours long, at the discretion of the examining committee. It should cover both the take-home examinations and the dissertation prospectus. The candidate will receive a grade of pass or fail in the preliminary examination. In the case of failing the exam, it could be retaken once within a month (after consultation with the adviser). Should the dissertation prospectus be approved, the candidate will have a maximum of three months to officially defend a dissertation proposal.

#### The Doctoral Dissertation:

The final oral examination for the PhD (the dissertation defense) will concentrate solely on the dissertation and generally does not exceed two hours in length. The examining committee is composed of a minimum of four members, at least one of whom must be from outside the student's program in Spanish, and at least three of whom, including the dissertation director, should be designated as readers. This examination is held at least two weeks after the dissertation is submitted.

Language Requirements

Knowledge of other languages is essential for doctoral research. Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in either one or two languages appropriate for their area of research, to be decided in consultation with their advisor. Students are urged to fulfill the language requirements as early as possible in their doctoral studies. In any event, these must be fulfilled prior to the Preliminary Examination.

While any language may be used to fulfill the language requirement, the most common ones are those with regular course offerings or reading knowledge exams like Spanish (for candidates in Portuguese) or Portuguese (for candidates in Spanish), French, Italian, Latin, German, Arabic, Hebrew, Quechua and Yucatec Maya. Proficiency is defined as the level reached in any of the courses or pairs of courses listed below (or their equivalent), with the grades indicated, or a score of "Advanced High Pass/High Pass" on the UW Extension Reading Knowledge Exam if it is offered.

Graduate School Breadth Requirement	<p>All doctoral students are required to complete a doctoral minor or graduate/professional certificate. Refer to the Graduate School: Breadth Requirement in Doctoral Training policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200</a> (<a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1200/</a>).</p> <p>If choosing a minor, the doctoral candidate must present a minor in work done outside of Spanish. The minor should be in an area related to the major field of interest. Portuguese, French, Comparative Literature, and Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Studies are among the most common minors. Distributed minors (for a minimum of 9 credits) must be approved by the advisor. Requirements for the minor are established by the respective department. Since the minor should complement the student's major area of concentration, the student should arrange their program with the minor department as early as possible in the doctoral career. For a minor in Portuguese, the student should have a minimum of 9 credits beyond PORTUG 301/PORTUG 302. Also, courses taken to fulfill the language requirement cannot count toward the minor in Portuguese. Similarly, courses taken for a minor in Educational Psychology, Curriculum &amp; Instruction, or Second Language Acquisition cannot also be counted as Research Design courses.</p>
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## REQUIRED COURSES

Students select a major area and two supporting fields: literature or linguistics. The major is the area of specialization; the student is expected to have a thorough knowledge of the currents, primary works and critical bibliography pertaining to it.

The program provides multiple opportunities for the development of analytical skills, and integrated with those skills an extensive knowledge of theoretical issues. The selection of the major and supporting fields is made by the beginning of the second semester of doctoral studies.

### Independent Study

With prior department approval and when courses are not available, up to 3 credits of SPANISH 899 Independent Reading may be applied towards degree requirements.

In the semester before taking the Preliminary Examination, a student may apply SPANISH 899 Independent Reading designed to work toward the dissertation proposal as one of the two courses, as long as another course is taken in the department. This exception may only apply once, even in the case that the Preliminary Examination is postponed.

### Spanish PhD with a Concentration in Literature<sup>1</sup>

Students are expected to know the most significant writers and works and the most important currents and developments. Student must also have a good knowledge of critical bibliography.

This pathway is based on **six** literary areas:

1. Medieval Literature
2. Golden Age Literature
3. Modern Peninsular Literature
4. Spanish American I Literature (Colonial to 1900)
5. Spanish American II Literature (20th and 21st Century)
6. Latinx Studies

With advisor approval, linguistics field may be used as a supporting field only.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core</b>		
Students must complete the following course.		
SPANISH 770	Introduction to the Profession	3
<b>Major Area</b>		<b>12</b>
<b>Advanced Courses</b>		<b>Minimum of 5 courses</b>
In consultation with advisor, students must complete at least five courses numbered 600 or above. An additional course is required if a student completed their master's at another institution. At least two of these courses must be in the major. With advisor approval, students may complete one advanced course outside of the department.		
<b>Electives/Research</b>		<b>Variable</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>51</b>

<sup>1</sup> These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names do not appear in the Graduate School admissions application, and they will not appear on the transcript.

### Spanish PhD with a Concentration in Linguistics<sup>1</sup>

Students are expected to know the most significant linguistic schools and approaches and the most important currents and developments. Students must also have a good knowledge of critical bibliography.

Students select a pathway from the three areas; the other two automatically become supporting fields. The **three** linguistics areas are:

1. Theoretical/Formal Spanish Linguistics
2. Language Variation and Change
3. Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Core</b>		
Students must complete the following course.		
SPANISH 770	Introduction to the Profession	3
<b>Major Area</b>		<b>12</b>
<i>Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition Area</i>		
Two graduate-level Research Design courses chosen in consultation with the student's advisor. (See "Language Requirements" above)		6
<b>Advanced Courses</b>		<b>Minimum of 5 courses</b>
In consultation with advisor, students must complete at least five courses numbered 600 or above. An additional course is required if a student completed their master's at another institution. At least two of these courses must be in the major. With advisor approval, students may complete one advanced course outside of the department.		
<b>Electives/Research</b>		<b>Variable</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>51</b>

<sup>1</sup> These pathways are internal to the program and represent different curricular paths a student can follow to earn this degree. Pathway names

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## POLICIES

### GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School's Academic Policies and Procedures (<https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/>) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

### MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

#### PRIOR COURSEWORK

##### Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions

After one semester in residence, students from other institutions may petition the Graduate Studies Committee to transfer. Students may transfer up to 9 credits (three courses) to satisfy degree requirements, except in the major field, and no more than three credits may be granted in one but not both of the student's supporting fields. Each petition must be approved by the advisor, validated by a faculty member specializing in that field, and assessed by the Graduate Studies Committee with regard to its level and appropriateness. Only in rare circumstances will exceptions be considered. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

##### Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison

No credits from undergraduate courses from a UW-Madison or an other institution's undergraduate degree are allowed to fulfill degree requirement. Students who have taken graduate level courses are allowed to petition with their advisor's consent up to a maximum of 7 credits.

##### Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/>) policy.

##### Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison

With program approval, students are allowed to transfer no more than 6 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW-Madison University Special student. Coursework earned ten or more years prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

### PROBATION

Students must take a minimum of two graduate-level courses in Spanish and/or Portuguese for credit each semester, exclusive of Independent Reading (SPANISH 899 Independent Reading) courses, with the following exceptions:

- Students may count up to three courses taken toward their PhD minor. Students must submit the appropriate form with the advisor's signature to the Graduate Coordinator each time an exception is requested.
- Audited course do not count toward the two-course minimum requirement.

- If the two-course rule impedes the student's progress toward completion of the degree, students may petition an exception, with the written support of their advisor. This regulation does not apply to students who have passed the PhD Preliminary Examination.

Satisfactory progress depends on:

- maintaining a GPA of at least 3.0, adhering to the rule whereby students must take two courses within the department (or have the rule waived by petition), and
- fulfilling all academic requirements.

Students who are not in good standing will not be given sections to teach as teaching assistants, and those whose GPA goes below 3.0 are put on academic probation. If a semester of 3.0 is not attained during the subsequent semester, the student may be dismissed from the program.

### ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

The doctoral candidates arrange their program with an assigned graduate advisor, representing one of the areas of concentration, at the beginning of their studies in this department. The advisor represents a field in which the student has expressed primary interest. The candidate may, of course, seek advice and suggestions from individual professors, but it is important to maintain frequent and ongoing contact with the regular advisor. At the beginning of the second semester in residence the academic advisor and the candidate make a detailed review of the first semester's progress.

All students must have a substantial meeting with their advisor every semester to review their progress and work out the best strategies for future coursework and degree progress.

### CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits

### TIME LIMITS

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese enforces the Graduate School policy that establishes a five-year deadline for completion and defense of the doctoral dissertation, unless they receive an extension. If the candidate does not complete the dissertation within five years of the preliminary examination, the candidate must retake this examination.

Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (<https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1221/>) policy.

### GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/>)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure>)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (<https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/>)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (<https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/>)
- Dean of Students Office (<https://doso.students.wisc.edu/>) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Employee Assistance (<http://www.eao.wisc.edu/>) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)

- Employee Disability Resource Office (<https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/>) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (<https://grad.wisc.edu/>) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departmental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/>) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (<https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/>) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (<http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/>) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (<https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/>) (for concerns about discrimination)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances. They may also contact the L&S Academic Divisional Associate Deans, the L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Administration, or the L&S Director of Human Resources.

## OTHER

Credits earned in the master's program (with the exception of SPANISH 770 Introduction to the Profession and SPANISH 323 Advanced Language Practice with Emphasis on Expository Writing) and any transfer credits used to satisfy master's requirements, **satisfy** the PhD course requirements.

Guaranteed funding through teaching assistantships. Many additional sources of funding are available on a competitive basis, including the Advanced Opportunity Fellowship, summer research Mellon fellowships, one-semester dissertation fellowships, Title VI FLAS fellowships for summer and year-long foreign language study, Nave summer research travel grants, and numerous others.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (<https://grad.wisc.edu/pd/>) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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1. (Literature / Linguistics) Articulates research problems, potentials, and limits with respect to theory, knowledge and practice within the field of study and with a view to interdisciplinarity.
2. (Literature / Linguistics) Formulates ideas, concepts, and theoretical approaches beyond the current boundaries of knowledge and practice within the field of study, and thus makes a substantial contributions to those fields.
3. (Literature / Linguistics) Develops archival and/or bibliographic research skills or other evidence-gathering techniques with the aim of furthering historical and cultural knowledge of the specific field of inquiry.

4. (Literature / Linguistics) Demonstrates breadth within learning experiences.
5. (Literature / Linguistics) Advances contributions of the field of study to society.
6. (Literature / Linguistics) Communicates complex ideas and original arguments clearly and understandably in both Spanish and English and demonstrates reading knowledge of two other languages pertinent to the field of inquiry.
7. (Literature / Linguistics) Develops academic professionalization through scholarly exchange and/or participation in conferences and other extracurricular activities in preparation for a career path related to the field.
8. (Literature / Linguistics) Develops and demonstrates effective teaching skills (for intermediate and advanced classes).

## PEOPLE

## PEOPLE

**Spanish Faculty:** Professors Beilin (modern Spanish literature), Bilbija (modern Spanish American literature), Close (modern Spanish American/trans-Atlantic literature), De Ferrari (modern Spanish American literature), Egea (modern Spanish literature), Hutchinson (Golden Age literature), Medina (modern Spanish American literature), Podestá (colonial Spanish American literature); Associate Professors Alcalá-Galán (Golden Age literature), Ancos-García (medieval Spanish literature), Goldgel-Carballo (colonial Spanish American literature), Hernández (modern Spanish American literature), Pellegrini (modern Spanish American literature), Rao (Spanish linguistics), Stafford (second language acquisition and linguistics), Tejedo-Herrero (Spanish linguistics); Assistant Professors Armstrong (Spanish linguistics), Cerezo Paredes (modern Spanish literature),

**Portuguese Faculty:** Professors Sapega (Portuguese and Luso-African literature and culture) and Sanchez (Portuguese and Brazilian literature and culture).