

Spanish Major and Minor, and Portuguese Minorwww.hispanic.pitt.edu

Revised: 10/2013

The undergraduate program in Hispanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pittsburgh is designed to be flexible and diverse in order to meet the needs of students with varying interests and career goals. The major offers a balanced combination of courses designed to strengthen oral and written Spanish language skills and courses that introduce students to the study of Spanish and Latin American literatures and cultures. Majors also have the opportunity to enroll in the minor in Portuguese Language and Luso-Brazilian cultures, thereby opening channels of communication with millions of people around the world, including Brazil, Latin America's largest and most heavily populated country. Students with an interest in Latin American languages and cultures can choose to minor in Spanish. In all cases, we encourage students to include at least one semester of study abroad in a Spanish- or Portuguese-speaking country. Students interested in going to graduate school should consider the honors major; those who want to teach Spanish can obtain a teacher certification through the School of Education. The department offers courses taught in English for non-majors interested in Hispanic, Latin American, Luso-Brazilian, or U.S. Latino cultures. Finally, students can take advantage of the non-curricular activities organized by the department, which include conversation clubs and films series.

Required courses for the Spanish major

The Spanish major requires the completion of a minimum of 38 credits, distributed as follows. Before declaring the major students must complete four courses of Spanish to gain the indispensable skills to effectively read, write and discuss in a foreign language. To enroll in a Spanish language course for the first time, students must take a placement test or request a permission number (see www.hispanic.pitt.edu/placement). Please note that a grade of B+ or higher in SPAN 0004 is required to declare the major.

Basic level courses

SPAN 0020 Conversation
SPAN 0025 Grammar and Composition

Mid level courses

SPAN 1250 or SPAN 0050 Hispanic Civilizations
SPAN 0055 * Introduction to Literature and Cultural Studies
SPAN 1260 ** or SPAN 1600 Spanish Literature
SPAN 1280 ** or SPAN 1400 Latin American Literatures
SPAN 1300-level course
PORT 0001 Elementary Portuguese 1

* SPAN 0055 fulfills the Writing requirement

** SPAN 1260 and SPAN 1280 fulfill the Literature General Education Requirement

Upper level courses

SPAN 1806 Capstone Seminar

And three from the following course or series

SPAN 14XX
SPAN 16XX
SPAN 17XX
PORT 0002 Elementary Portuguese 2

These courses include, for example, Colonial Literatures and Cultures, Latin American Novel, U.S. Latino Literature and Film, African Presence in Hispanic Literature and Culture, Don Quixote, Modern Spanish Novel and Film, etc.

Grade requirements: Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 or higher in departmental courses. No course with a grade below C will count toward the major requirements.

Satisfactory/No Credit option: Students may take one required course on an S/NC basis. The S/NC option is not available for Spanish minors.

Writing (W) requirement: SPAN 0055 satisfies the W-course requirement for the major.

Related area: A minimum of 12 credits is required in any one Arts and Sciences department to fulfill graduation requirements. The completion of an Arts and Sciences minor or an Arts and Sciences or UCIS certificate also satisfies this requirement.

Honors major requirement: Honors in Spanish is granted if in addition to fulfilling all requirements for the major, the student:

- maintained a GPA of 3.5 or above in departmental courses;
- maintained an overall GPA of 3.0 or above; and
- completed a senior thesis of 25-30 pages written under the supervision of a faculty member whose research is related to the topic of the thesis.

At least one semester of study abroad is recommended.

Students should declare their intention to pursue the Honors major no later than at the beginning of their senior year. The thesis will be evaluated by the advisor and two other faculty members in the department. Students may take an independent study with their supervisor that will fulfill the requirement of one upper level course. For further information, consult with the director of undergraduate studies.

Teacher certification: Students who plan to teach Spanish after completing the major should consult with their advisor or the director of undergraduate studies in the department as well as with Kenneth Pawlik the advisor for Pennsylvania Teaching Certification and Masters of Arts in Teaching Programs, in the School of Education (kpawlik@pitt.edu, 5504 WWPH, 412-648-7413).

Double majors, dual degrees, and CLAS certificates: Students who have declared an additional major or pursue a dual degree need to take only three of the four upper-level courses. The same rule applies to students taking the CLAS Field Trip to Latin America. Only one course reduction applies if a student meets more than one of these criteria.

Study abroad: The department offers three summer Study Abroad programs: two in Spanish-speaking countries, and one in Brazil. The program in Santiago de Chile and the one in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, run in alternate years. The program in Porto Alegre, Brazil, runs every year. The department also offers a spring program in Havana, Cuba; starting in 2014 it will offer a program in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

To learn about these study abroad programs, contact alcala@pitt.edu, chile@pitt.edu, and brazilisa@pitt.edu. To learn about other available programs, contact the Study Abroad Office (www.abroad.pitt.edu) at 412-648-7419, 802 WPU, abroad@pitt.edu.

Spanish writing center: This center provides free, individual help to students enrolled in language, grammar and literature courses. Students may also stop by to practice their conversational skills. The Spanish Writing Center is staffed by TAs and/or TFs from the department, and it is located at CL 1302-B. The center will be open from September to May, and schedules are announced at the beginning of each semester.

Spanish and Portuguese clubs: These two clubs will offer activities over the academic year. Check the department's Web site for details about *Mesas de conversación*, *Movie Nights*, and *Brazil Nuts* events.

Contact Us

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Checklist for the Spanish major

Prerequisite courses

(Courses do not count toward the major)

_____ SPAN 0001
_____ SPAN 0002
_____ SPAN 0015 (in lieu of SPAN 0001 and 0002)
_____ SPAN 0003
_____ SPAN 0004

Basic level courses

_____ SPAN 0020
_____ SPAN 0025

Mid level courses

_____ SPAN 1250 or SPAN 0050
_____ SPAN 0055
_____ SPAN 1300-level
_____ SPAN 1280 or SPAN 1400
_____ SPAN 1260 or SPAN 1600
_____ PORT 0001

Upper level courses

_____ SPAN 1806

And three of the following courses or series

_____ SPAN 14_____ (any1400-level course)
_____ SPAN 16_____ (any1600-level course)
_____ SPAN 17_____ (any1700-level course)
_____ PORT 0002

Requirements for the Spanish minor

Before declaring the minor, students must complete SPAN 0001, SPAN 0002, SPAN 0003, and SPAN 0004. Students with previous Spanish experience are strongly encouraged to take a placement exam. Students must earn a grade of B+ or higher in SPAN 0004 to declare this minor.

_____ SPAN 0020
_____ SPAN 0025
_____ SPAN 1250 or SPAN 0050
_____ SPAN 1300-level

Two of the following courses

_____ SPAN 14_____ (except SPAN 1400)
_____ SPAN 16_____ (except SPAN 1600)
_____ SPAN 17_____ (any1700-level course)

Requirements for the Portuguese minor

Before declaring the minor, students must complete PORT 0001 / PORT 1001 Elementary Portuguese 1 or take a placement test.

_____ PORT 0002 / PORT 1002
_____ PORT 0003 / PORT 1003
_____ PORT 0004 / PORT 1004
_____ PORT 0020 / PORT 1020
_____ PORT 0025 / PORT 1025

Note: Students must apply for any official minor they will complete or have completed at the time they apply for graduation. Students must complete at least half of the credits toward these minors while enrolled in the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh.