

MA in Romance Languages with Emphasis in Spanish

Degree Requirements

Students must complete a total of 30 credit hours at the graduate-level to earn their MA degree. At least 15 hours must be in courses at the 8000 level or above. The plan of study for the MA with an emphasis in Spanish must include a minimum of nine hours of course work in Spanish peninsular literature and a minimum of nine hours of course work in Spanish-American literature. The plan of study for an MA with an emphasis in Spanish must also include three credit hours in the history of the Spanish language (completion of or the equivalent). The total number of credit hours in special readings (7960), problems (8085) or any combination of both may not exceed 12. The number of credit hours in special readings (7960) within the student's major field may not exceed three per semester. Graduate Instructors with no pedagogical experience or those who have completed no graduate course in foreign language teaching methodology will be required to take SPAN 7120 Foreign Language Teaching Methodology.

Non-native speakers will be required to complete an online proficiency assessment with the appropriate course coordinator before a decision on their admission status is finalized by the department.

Plan of Study

MA candidates must submit a completed M-1 Plan of Study form to the Graduate School at least one semester before defending their MA thesis.

Funding Through Graduate Instructorships

MA candidates normally receive 4 semesters of financial support from the University while completing their degree. This support will customarily take the form of a graduate instructorship, though it may take the form of either a research or teaching assistantship.

Possible Fifth Semester of Support

In exceptional cases, students in good standing — with no grades of Incomplete and unproblematic teaching — may receive a fifth semester of support, at the discretion of the faculty. Faculty will award a fifth semester of support according to the department's need for instructors. Students must submit all requests for a fifth semester of support in writing to the director of graduate studies. No student will receive more than five semesters of support.

Normal Teaching Load vs. Course Load

The minimum teaching assignment for MA candidates holding instructorships is 1 course per semester, although there may be an opportunity for two. International students may never teach more than 2 courses per semester owing to visa restrictions. All MA candidates must be registered in a minimum of 6 hours of course work for each semester in which they hold an instructorship. Students may enroll in up to 6 hours per semester of 8080 (Readings) if they have completed all their course work and are preparing for their MA thesis.

Annual Review

The faculty and course directors in both major languages meet during the fall and spring semesters to evaluate the teaching and academic performance of all graduate students. The director of graduate studies

informs all students in writing of their status at the end of each semester. Students who fail to remove a grade of Incomplete will be limited to teaching one course per semester for as long that grade of Incomplete remains on their academic record.

Minors

Students may also elect a minor field of study, which requires a minimum of 9 hours of course work completed in another department or other departments. Students interested in such minors should consult the section titled Plan of Study in the Graduate Catalog. These minor fields appear on students' plan of study, but not on their transcript. Students electing minors must complete the standard MA examination in their major field of emphasis.

Thesis

The completion of a thesis is required. A minimum of 4 hours and a maximum of 6 hours of 8090 Research will be allowed for the thesis. Students are urged to obtain the Graduate School guidelines for thesis/dissertation writing as the thesis must conform to the Graduate School formatting and style specifications.

Thesis Committee

Students must name a thesis committee consisting of a minimum of three faculty members, with at least two belonging to the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. The third member may be from outside the SLLC. The thesis advisor must be a regular faculty member of the SLLC, holding a tenured, tenure-track, or ranked non-tenure-track appointment.

Admission Criteria

Fall deadline: January 15

- Minimum GPA: 3.0 in field of major
- Masters applicants must have a bachelor's degree
- English Proficiency test scores (international applicants):

Accepted Tests & Minimum Scores:

1. **TOEFL (iBT):**
 - Minimum overall score: **80**
 - No section below: **20**
2. **IELTS (Academic):**
 - Minimum overall band score: **6.5**
 - No section below: **6.0**
3. **Duolingo English Test (DET):**
 - Minimum score: **115**
 - No section below: **100**
4. **PTE Academic (Pearson):**
 - Minimum score: **59**

Applicants must also demonstrate adequate preparation in advanced language and literature courses. This will require their having completed at least four courses equivalent to a 4000-level course for masters applicants. At a minimum, three of these courses must be in literature. If the faculty determines a deficiency, they will require that the student complete remedial course work in literature during the first year of enrollment. The director of graduate studies will inform students of these additional requirements at the time of their admission.

Required Application Materials

To the Graduate School

- All required Graduate School documents
- Official Transcript
- 10-15 page writing sample in Spanish, must be uploaded to the online application
- 500-word Personal Statement, uploaded to the online application
- 3 letters of recommendation uploaded to the online application
- Résumé or CV

Choosing an Advisor

All graduate students in the Spanish MA program may choose, or the Director of Graduate Studies will assign them, an academic advisor at the start of their first semester of graduate study. The academic advisor does not necessarily serve as the student's thesis or dissertation director.

Admission Contact Information

143 Arts and Science
Columbia, MO 65211
(573) 882-5039
<https://slc.missouri.edu/spanish/graduate-studies/>