

Spanish Master of Arts

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND PLAN OF STUDY

Admissions requirements (new requirements, pending approval, for Fall 2009):

Qualifications for regular admission to the Master of Arts in Spanish are the same as those for admission to the Graduate School, except that students entering the program (1) must have earned a minimum 3.00 GPA in an undergraduate major in Spanish; (2) must submit a satisfactory writing sample; and (3) must submit satisfactory scores on the General Test of the GRE. The writing sample must demonstrate advanced proficiency in writing and appropriate critical thinking and analytical skills: it is an essay written specifically for this purpose, according to a prompt provided by the graduate faculty of the department. Please contact the graduate coordinator for information and directions.

Conditional admission may be granted in the case of equivalent prior experience and advanced proficiency, which may be achieved by completing additional undergraduate coursework in Spanish at UCA: please consult the graduate dean, department chair, or departmental graduate advisor. Students who are granted condition admission are eligible to take a limited course load of 3 or 6 hours, determined by the graduate coordinator and faculty upon admission.

Upon admission to graduate study, the student will be evaluated for proficiency (if previous scores have not been submitted) and consult with the graduate coordinator regarding a plan for study abroad if necessary.

Degree Requirements (From Graduate Bulletin)

- Completion of 30 semester hours at the graduate level, including
 - * A minimum of six semester hours abroad in an approved program in a Spanish-speaking country (**may be waived upon demonstration of equivalent experience**)
 - * Fifteen of the 30 hours must be at the 6000 level.
- A passing grade on comprehensive written and oral examinations in Spanish.
- Required Spanish proficiencies in speaking, listening, reading, and writing assessed according to ACTFL standards

STUDY ABROAD REQUIREMENT

1. All students will be assessed by the graduate coordinator upon entering the Spanish MA program and will be exempt from the study abroad requirement if they rate at advanced low or higher in speaking. Students who rate below intermediate high will be required to complete a study abroad experience at the undergraduate level before beginning course work at UCA. Students who rate at the intermediate-high level will be admitted but will be subject to the study abroad requirement after completing their 18th hour of course work, if they have not made sufficient progress toward the required exit proficiency level.

2. An equivalent study abroad experience at the undergraduate level will also exempt students from the MA study abroad requirement provided that they meet the criteria listed in point 1 above.

3. Students who are not exempt because of points one or two above and who complete 18 hours will be assessed by two graduate faculty. Students may choose to pay at their own expense for an official Oral Proficiency Interview to be conducted by an ACTFL certified interviewer. Students rated to be on track to attain the target exit proficiency in speaking of advanced high or who have attained it already will be exempt from the study abroad requirement. Students who have not made adequate progress will be required to complete a study abroad experience before enrolling in further coursework.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

The thirty (30) required hours of graduate work are to be divided as follows:

1. **Nine (9) hours of core courses:** SPAN 5315 (Spanish Literature and Culture), SPAN 5345 (Span. American Literature and Culture), and SPAN 5340 (History of the Spanish Language). These three courses form the basis for the study of contemporary issues in Hispanic Studies and for the Comprehensive Exams.

2. **A minimum of fifteen (15) hours at the 6000-level.**

3. **A maximum of three (3) hours from courses outside the program** may be counted towards the required thirty hours. Depending on the student's interests, these may include courses for the ESL endorsement, such as WLAN 5330 WLAN 5315, and WLAN 5325, as well as graduate courses in English and History.

4. **Study abroad and/or thesis and/or independent study** may make up no more than six (6) hours of the program, according to the approval and discretion of the chair and coordinator.

MODEL PLANS OF STUDY

The following shows an example plan of study that fulfills all requirements for the M.A. without study abroad or summer classes

Semester 1

Core Class 1
5000-level elective
5000-level elective

Semester 2

Core Class 2
6000-level elective
6000-level elective

Semester 3

Core Class 3
6000-level elective
6000-level elective

Semester 4

6000-level elective
*Prepare for and take
comprehensive exams*

The following shows an example plan that fulfills all requirements with summer/study abroad.

Semester 1

Core Class 1
5000-level elective
6000-level elective

Semester 2

Core Class 2
6000-level elective
6000-level elective

Summer/Study Abroad:

*Divide between two summers at UCA
or study abroad in one session*

Semester 3

Core Class 3
6000-level elective

Semester 4

*Prepare for and take
comprehensive exams*

5000-level elective
6000-level elective