

## THE FIELD

The Spanish major is designed to enable students to acquire competence in the Spanish language and attain the linguistic, cultural, and literary knowledge necessary to understand the Spanish-speaking world. Acquaintance with the language and the many cultures of the Spanish-speaking world has become essential in the age of global communications and the internationalization of economic, political, cultural, and social life. Moreover, the study and appreciation of the diverse and dynamic cultural heritage of almost 400 million Spanish speakers in Europe and Central, South, and North America, including various Latino communities in the United States, have intrinsic value and are central to a comprehensive liberal arts education.

A major in Spanish, one of the most widely spoken languages and the second most spoken language in the U.S., provides the student not only with communication skills, but also with an integrative and cross-disciplinary exposure to a wide variety of communicative practices within the Spanish-speaking world. These include the regions of Spain influenced by Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions; the many countries of Latin America where European, African, and Amerindian peoples interacted to form rich and complex cultures; and the Latino communities in the United States with their rapidly growing populations and their increasing prominence in American life. The faculty of the department are fully committed to passing on to students the intellectual benefits to be gained from comprehensive knowledge of a diverse culture that has contributed greatly to the ideas, values, and accomplishments that have profoundly shaped the global community.

### *A minor in Spanish is available.*

Spanish majors may pursue secondary education certification in conjunction with the major. See the education major sheet, website, or the Guide to Undergraduate Programs ([umass.edu/education](http://umass.edu/education); [umass.edu/ug\\_programguide](http://umass.edu/ug_programguide)) for more information.

## THE MAJOR

The Spanish major offers courses in literature, linguistics, culture, and civilization. As a complement to the Spanish major, students are encouraged to obtain certificates or undertake minors as available in areas of related interests, such as Latin American studies, international relations, modern European studies, or women, gender, sexuality studies.

The Spanish major consists of 40 credits (34 for secondary majors who do not take the Junior Writing and Integrative Experience in our program). Entering students who wish to major in Spanish and are at the intermediate level are urged to take SPANISH 246 or the SPANISH 230/240 sequence. Majors then complete advanced language courses. The major's core options include courses in the literature, culture, or civilization of Spain or Spanish America in linguistics, translation, or Spanish for the professions. Students also complete the Junior Year Writing requirement. With advisor approval, they may substitute courses at the 300 level or above in areas related to the major (history, anthropology, art, etc.).

## HONORS

Contact the departmental honors coordinator for information on how to pursue honors opportunities within the major.

## STUDY ABROAD

The department sponsors several programs abroad: a summer program in Salamanca (Spain), a spring semester program in Oviedo (Spain), and fall and spring semester programs in Granada (Spain) and Buenos Aires (Argentina). Students may also participate in other exchange programs in Spain and in several other Spanish-speaking countries. The department works closely with the International Programs Office to facilitate arrangements for foreign study for Spanish majors and strongly encourages students to take advantage of these programs or to participate in other semester or academic-year programs in Spain or Latin America.

## TEACHER PREPARATION

Majors planning to teach Spanish at the secondary level must apply formally to the Secondary Teacher Education Program (STEP) office in the School of Education. The application should be submitted as early as possible in order to plan the program, which includes both the foreign language major and the necessary courses and practice in professional education. Information about the Massachusetts Teacher Test is available on the Massachusetts Department of Education website ([www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu)). Registration forms may be requested online. For further information about the Foreign Language Teacher Training Program, contact the STEP office (413-545-2002, [umass.edu/education/be-teacher](http://umass.edu/education/be-teacher)).

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Many professional and vocational opportunities are open to majors in Spanish. In addition to preparing students for graduate studies in Spanish and other academic fields for which the knowledge of Spanish is necessary or useful, the major provides grounding for careers in teaching, translation and interpretation, diplomacy, health, government, law, banking, insurance, journalism, marketing, public relations, and international affairs, among many others. With these possibilities in mind, students are urged to consult their advisors in the department as soon as possible to plan wise choices of appropriate courses.

## COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS

The humanities focus on human creativity, endeavor, and culture. The imaginative and creative arts—literary and performing—derive from life and teach about human behavior and constructs of social reality. The history of social, political, and economic systems illuminates and shapes the present and future. Students in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts are expected to broaden their perspectives on individual and cultural expression within their own and other societies, to understand the development and evolution of the discipline of study in relation to the culture from which it emanates, and to learn the methods by which knowledge in the discipline is gained.

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