

CAREERS

Graduates of the programs in Spanish at UL Lafayette have traditionally gone into **teaching, translation and interpretation, or graduate study in literature and linguistics.** More recent graduates have gone into professional fields such as **social work, community organizing, business and law.** However, graduates in Spanish can find positions in a much greater professional range where fluency in Spanish is required. These positions will require not only Spanish proficiency but also research ability, communication skills, and an understanding of Hispanic cultures and heritage.

EMPLOYERS

Banks • Chambers of Commerce • Department of Defense • Department of Justice • Department of Labor • Department of State • Hospitals • Human Rights Watch • International Development Agencies • Law Firms • Library of Congress • Media • Marketing Firms • Newspapers • Schools • Peace Corps • Radio • Research Foundations • State and Local Government • Television • Transnational Corporations • Travel Agencies • United Nations • United States Information Agency (USIA) • Universities • VISTA • and many more.

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

Students go on to graduate school in fields such as Education and Comparative Literature as well as Spanish and Latin American Studies. They go to professional school in fields such as law, business, social work, and public policy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department of Modern Languages is located in H. L. Griffin Hall, Room 453.

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<http://languages.louisiana.edu/Spanish/>

SPANISH

Hispanic Studies

Department of
Modern Languages



1608 map of Spain by Abraham Ortelius

Map image courtesy of Antique Maps Inc.
www.raremaps.com



THE FIELD

Spanish is a world language, spoken widely throughout the Americas as well as in Spain and its former colonies in Africa and the Philippines. The Hispanic world has long been a major contributor to international culture and intellectual life. The Spanish/Hispanic Studies major at UL Lafayette offers a broad-based education in the humanities, including the consideration of current debates on literacy, decolonization, and globalization, as well as a strong background in the Spanish language, the literatures of the Spanish-speaking world, and Hispanic linguistics.

Our field has affinities with a number of disciplines in the social sciences. A second major in Anthropology, Economics, Geography, History, or Political Science, or a minor in Latin American Studies, makes for a highly competitive degree with strong interdisciplinary foundations. Such degrees are highly useful on the job market, and offer exceptionally good preparation for professional or graduate school.

SPANISH AT UL LAFAYETTE

We offer an undergraduate major and minor in Spanish, and the Spanish faculty participate actively in the interdisciplinary minor in Latin American Studies offered through the College of Liberal Arts. The Department of Modern Languages offers a joint M.A. in Spanish and French.

Our language courses aim to teach students to *communicate* and to *be literate* in Spanish. Our courses in literature emphasize historical and cultural contexts as well as formal textual analysis, and we offer upper level courses in popular culture, media, and translation as well as language and literature.

TEACHING PRACTICUM

Senior majors may take a one-semester teaching practicum for academic credit. These students co-teach a beginning or intermediate language course with an experienced faculty member, and receive training in contemporary teaching methodology and educational technology.

STUDY ABROAD

UL and the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara (UAG) have a broad agreement that provides for cooperation between the two institutions at many levels. UL Lafayette students may study at UAG for UL Lafayette credit, UL Lafayette financial aid is applicable to study at UAG during the academic year, and one fee waiver per regular (spring/fall) term is granted to a UL Lafayette student for study at UAG. UL Lafayette students who study at UAG may enroll in regular courses, and they may also study Spanish at UAG's Centro Internacional de Idiomas (CII), where they become fluent in Spanish and learn about Mexican history, literature, and culture. Students typically earn 3-6 units of credit during the summer term, and 12-15 units during the regular semester.

SALA NETWORK

The Spanish and Latin American (SALA) Network works to foster communication and cultural exchange between Lafayette and the Iberian world, to support communication among Hispanists and Latin Americanists in Louisiana universities, and to facilitate intellectual and cultural collaboration between the programs in Spanish and Latin American Studies at UL Lafayette and Acadiana's Hispanic community. SALA's links page is a popular resource for research and teaching.

STUDENT RESEARCH TEAM

Students on the Research Team gain experience in bibliographic research, project design, evaluation and organization of documents, academic writing, grant writing, web design, and educational technology, while at the same time deepening their knowledge of the topic that is the focus of their group's project. The goals of the Research Team are to produce new research on the Iberian and Ibero-American world, and to make existing research more accessible. The Research Team aims to serve students, the general public, and advanced researchers at UL Lafayette, in the South Louisiana community, and nationwide.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Students may participate in the Spanish Club which organizes a variety of activities, as well as in our chapter of the national Spanish honor society, Sigma Delta Pi. They may also attend the weekly informal Spanish and Portuguese conversation hours as well as the Cineclub, which regularly screens feature films from Spain, Spanish America, and the Spanish-speaking United States.

EXPERIENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Study abroad in Spain and Spanish America, gain hands-on research skills as a member of the Student Research Team, undertake a service learning project in Lafayette's Spanish speaking community, develop an internship in an agency that works with Spain or Latin America.

DOUBLE MAJOR

The Spanish major in Liberal Arts is only six more courses than the minor, and some of this work can be taken abroad.