

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE, GERMAN, RUSSIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Spanish Program

California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Blvd., Academic Services, Third Floor
Long Beach, CA 90840

Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in our MA program in Spanish! I am excited that you are considering CSULB for your post-graduate studies and am looking forward to providing you guidance in this process. I imagine you already consulted [the Spanish program webpage](#). There you will find several documents with information about the program and the areas of study that you will explore in our classes. In the next pages of this guide, we offer you details about the program faculty and a comprehensive description of the program requirements and application process. Should you have any further questions, please contact me via email at the address below or set up a time to visit me during my regular office hours. I will be happy to help you in this process and have you join our thriving intellectual community at CSULB.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jeannette Acevedo Rivera
Associate Professor of Spanish
Graduate Advisor in Spanish
Jeannette.AcevedoRivera@csulb.edu

M.A. PROGRAM IN SPANISH



CSULB

I. PROGRAM FACULTY

Our Spanish Faculty are wholly dedicated to excellence in teaching and research. Their fields of specialization appear below:

- Professor Jeannette Acevedo Rivera, PhD from Duke University
 - *Specialization:* Nineteenth-century Spanish and French Literature
- Professor Alicia Del Campo, PhD from University of California, Irvine
 - *Specialization:* Latin American Literary & Cultural Studies; Latin American and Spanish Theatre & Performance, Theatricality and Politics, Testimonial Literature
- Professor Daniel Herrera Cepero, PhD from University of California, Davis
 - *Specialization:* 20th Century Avant-Garde poetry and film, and urban studies; 20th and 21st Centuries Hispanic Short Narrative
- Professor Bonnie Gasior, PhD from Purdue University
 - Specialization: Transatlantic Studies (16th & 17th Centuries)

II. PREREQUISITES AND REQUIREMENTS

A. Prerequisites for unconditional admittance into the program

18 units of undergraduate core coursework (which must include SPAN 300, 310, 330, 341) in Spanish or its equivalent. 3.0 minimum GPA in the major. Please note that a 3.0 GPA does not guarantee admission. For more on pre-requisites, please see the [Spanish program](#) homepage and visit the [course catalog](#) for more details about **these classes**.

Please note: We do sometimes admit strong students who have not taken all the Spanish pre-requisites. If you are admitted contingent upon taking pre-requisites, note that classes taken at any level below 500 do not count toward graduation and are not figured into the GPA.

B. Program Requirements

1. Courses

- **10 courses (30 units) of 500-600 courses**, distributed as follows:
 - 2 courses in Peninsular/Spanish of student's choosing
 - 2 courses in Latin American of student's choosing
 - 2 courses in Linguistics of students choosing
 - 4 electives
- **Two years of a second foreign language** other than Spanish or English. Must have an A or a B in the final semester or equivalent. All other grades in the second language do not matter. None are factored in to GPA at CSULB. The foreign language requirement may be met at a different university or may have been met before arriving to the program. Transcripts from the **final semester** are required for verification.

Note: The 600-level teaching methodology course (**RGR601**) is an optional class and does not count toward the MA but does allow you to potentially become a Teaching Assistant in the Spanish program.

2. Exams

All students take comprehensive exams in all three areas covered in the program, so we strongly recommend that you take classes across the spectrum:

- Linguistics
- Latin American Literature and Culture
- Peninsular (Spanish) Literature and Culture

Exams are taken after the 30 units are completed. The foreign language requirement does not have to be met for students to be able to take the exams, but students cannot graduate until those courses are completed.

More information about the exams, including reading lists and preparation guides are available on [our website](#).

3. Transfer Credits

We allow up to six units (two classes) to be transferred from other accredited M.A. programs. Syllabi, course descriptions, and coursework must be presented to the Graduate Advisor for consideration of the transfer. Courses need to be in Spanish and need to relate to program of study.

4. Application

Apply to the University via [Cal State Apply](#). You will need to upload the following documents:

- **Application form.** Fill out and upload the [Application Form](#) found on our webpage.
- **Essay.** Ideally, a corrected essay from one of your upper-level Spanish courses. It should have professor's comments and a grade on it. If you do not have a B.A. or minor in Spanish or such a paper, you need to submit a 3–10-page essay related to a topic relevant to the M.A. program courses upon consultation with the Graduate Advisor.
- **Statement of Purpose.** A short (2-3 page) Statement of Purpose in English or Spanish explaining your personal/professional goals and history in a way that makes clear why getting an M.A. in Spanish will help you meet those goals.
- **Official Transcripts.** If you graduated from CSULB, unofficial transcripts will suffice.
- **Letters of recommendation.** Two letters of recommendation to be uploaded directly by the recommender in Cal State Apply. The letters must attest to the candidate's academic performance and ability to succeed in a graduate program, ideally with good evidence.

C. Departmental Deadlines

For **Fall Admission**: apply by **June 1st**.

For **Spring Admission**: apply by **November 1st**.

D. International Students

International students should complete the following application: [Cal State Apply for International Students](#) by April/September 1st (note that this is 2 months earlier). For more information visit the [Center for International Education](#).

E. Admissions Decisions

Decisions are made by the Graduate Admissions Committee, which consists of the graduate faculty in Spanish. We advise students usually within 15 days of the admissions deadline.

You will receive an email with a notification of your official admission, conditional admission, or denial into the program.

F. What to Do if Accepted

If you are accepted, you need to follow the instructions on the memo you receive from the graduate advisor. You will need to accept your admission and contact the graduate advisor regarding your intent to accept or decline your admission.

We have graduate orientation sessions in the Spring and Fall to help students get oriented to the program and to help ensure everyone's successful completion of what we believe to be one of the strongest M.A. programs in Southern California. We invite you to apply and to contact us with questions.

G. How to Take Classes if You Miss the Application Deadline

There is a way for you to take classes in Spanish if you missed the application deadline and still want to start taking classes. Here is what you need to do:

1. Visit the [Open University site](#).
2. Contact the Graduate Advisor in Spanish for input on which course or courses you should take.
3. Remember that taking classes in the program without being admitted yet is a good way to get to know the professors, students, and the program. However, it is not a guarantee that you will be admitted.

Questions? Contact the Graduate Advisor: Dr. Jeannette Acevedo Rivera
Jeannette.AcevedoRivera@csulb.edu