

**GRADUATE STUDY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

Updated
10.15.2016

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese accepts only students who wish to pursue a Ph.D. degree in Spanish or in Spanish and Portuguese. All students who enter the program will earn an M.A. degree as a step towards their Ph.D. All students receive 5 years of financial support. The Department offers a wide range of courses in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies. Students are encouraged to pursue a course of study that draws on the many strengths of the University. Close cooperation with Vanderbilt's Center for Latin American Studies and the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities broadens the opportunities for graduate study. First-year students holding only a B.A. or *Licenciatura* are granted one service-free year. Teaching assistants teach one course per semester and are given stipend support in addition to full tuition remission. University topping-up awards are granted to the most competitive applicants.

Our faculty's areas of expertise include:

Colonial Latin American Studies
Latin American literature of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries
Hispanic Caribbean literature
Hispanic Transatlantic literature
Afro-Latin American literature
Brazilian literature
Comparative approaches to Brazilian and Spanish American literature
Latino Caribbean literature in the United States
Inter-American literature (comparative studies of the literatures and cultures of the Americas)
Medieval Spanish literature
Early Modern Spanish literature
Modern and contemporary Spanish literature
Comparative Iberian Studies (comparative studies of the literatures of Spain and Portugal)
Hemispheric Studies
Transatlantic Studies
Spanish, Spanish American, and Brazilian cultural studies
Spanish, Spanish American, and Brazilian film studies
Catalan Studies
Literature and media
Linguistics and philology of all Romance languages of the Iberian Peninsula

Some more specific objects of study and research include:

Autobiography as a genre
 Constructions and images of otherness in Latin America
 Contemporary Spanish drama
 Counter-colonial thought in Latin America
 Issues of subjectivity and gender in early modern literature
 Latin American and inter-American literary theory
 Metafiction in Hispanic literature
 Medieval courtly literature
 The Picaresque tradition
Modernismo and modernity
 Poetics and politics of the body
 Poetry of the Spanish and Latin American Avant-Garde
 Popular culture
 Race in Afro-Spanish American and Brazilian literatures
 Sex, gender, and sexuality in Brazilian literature
 Sexual poetics of the Spanish novel
 Spanish ideological fictions
 Theory and practice of translation
 Travel writing, migration, and Caribbean diaspora

PROGRAMS

I. M.A. Program in Spanish

30 credit hours of course work, one additional foreign language (generally Portuguese), and a Comprehensive Exam. A minimum of 24 of these credit hours must be in 6000- to 9000-level graduate seminars in Spanish. A maximum of 6 hours of graduate-level courses in Portuguese or in another discipline with a Latin American focus may be counted towards the degree.

II. M.A. Program in Portuguese

30 credit hours of course work, one additional foreign language (generally Spanish), and a Comprehensive Exam. A minimum of 24 of these credit hours must be in 6000- to 9000-level graduate seminars in Portuguese. Important Note: For the Portuguese M.A., there are no restrictions on the number of 5000-level literature courses in Portuguese that may be taken; the students may count any course that appears in the Graduate School Catalog (with the exception of 5301, 5302 and 5900), though they are strongly recommended to register for any 7000- to 9000-level Portuguese courses offered.

III. M.A. Program in Spanish and Portuguese (Double M.A.)

45 credit hours of course work in Spanish and Portuguese (see allocation below) and two Comprehensive Exams.

IV. Ph.D. Program in Spanish

63 credit hours of course work. The 63 credit hours include the 30 credit hours of the M.A. in Spanish. Above the 30 M.A. credit hours and toward the completion of the amount necessary for a Ph.D., a minimum of 24 credit hours must be graduate seminars in Spanish. The other 9 credit hours correspond to a minor and may be taken outside the department or in graduate and undergraduate Portuguese courses as they appear in the Graduate School Catalog.

V. Combined Ph.D. Program in Spanish and Portuguese

66 credit hours of course work. The 66 credit hours include the 30 credit hours of the M.A. in Spanish, or the 30 credit hours of the M.A. in Portuguese, or the 45 credit hours of the double M.A. plus an additional 36 credit hours, in the first two cases, or 21 credit hours in the third case. In the first two cases, a minimum of 15 credit hours should be graduate seminars in Spanish and 9 in undergraduate or graduate Portuguese courses as they appear in the Graduate School Catalog, or vice versa; the remaining 12 credit hours are elective. In the third case, a minimum of 9 of these 21 credit hours should be graduate seminars in Spanish and 9 in undergraduate or graduate Portuguese courses as they appear in the Graduate School Catalog. The remaining 3 credit hours are elective. It is highly recommended that students exhaust the selection of graduate seminars in Portuguese before taking a 5000-level course in that language. The same applies to Independent Studies either in Spanish or Portuguese. No minor is required for the Combined Ph.D., although a CLAS certificate is highly recommended.

GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE

MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAMS

Master of Arts in Spanish Master of Arts in Portuguese

Master of Arts in Spanish

Admission Requirements

Basic requirements: 1. An undergraduate B.A., *Licenciatura* or its equivalent in an appropriate field; 2. Oral and written proficiency in Spanish and English.

General requirements: 1. Official transcripts of all undergraduate study; 2. Three letters of recommendation by faculty members; 3. A statement of purpose detailing the applicant's professional objectives; 4. A writing sample in Spanish (preferably an academic paper); 5. GRE scores; 6. TOEFL scores for international students who have not studied in an English-speaking country.

Degree Requirements: 1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the degree; 2. Language requirement; 3. Course work; 4. Successful Comprehensive Exam.

1. Student standing

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Only students in good standing may take the Comprehensive Exam. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support and teaching assistantships.

2. Language requirement

The language requirement may be fulfilled by completing a graduate class in Portuguese with a minimum grade of B+, and it should be satisfied as early as possible. This requirement may be met by taking Port 5203 or a more advanced course taught in the target language. Other possibilities for meeting this requirement will be entertained and reviewed on a case by case basis.

3. Course work

The M.A. program in Spanish requires 30 credit hours of course work.

A. Required courses:

1. SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

B. Core courses:

A minimum of 18 additional credit hours should be graduate seminars in Spanish.

C. Electives:

6 additional hours of graduate-level courses in Spanish, Portuguese or another discipline with a Latin American focus approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. One of these courses would normally be a course taken to meet the language requirement, usually PORT 5203 or another graduate-level Portuguese course that appears in the Graduate School Catalog (with the exception of PORT 5301, 5302, and 5900).

D. Students cannot take an Independent Study towards the 30 credit hours for the M.A.

4. Successful Comprehensive Exam

4a. Preparation

1. All students must take the Comprehensive Exam no later than the end of their fourth semester of residence.
2. The Spanish Comprehensive Exam is based on both the Peninsular and Spanish American literature lists.
3. Optional Comprehensive Research/Reading course: during their fourth semester, students may take an Independent Research/Reading course (Span 9660, Special Studies in Spanish Literature or 9670 Special Studies in Spanish American Literature) for 3 credit hours. The course will not count towards the credit hours needed for completion of the M.A. or Ph.D. degrees. For this course, students will produce, in agreement with their academic advisors, a list of works to be read during the semester. The role of advisors is to help students stay on track and to prepare efficiently for the exam.

4b. Format

1. The Comprehensive Exam is usually taken over two consecutive Saturdays immediately after Spring Break. The first Saturday will be for Peninsular literature and the second for Spanish

American literature. The exam will take place in Furman Hall, on loaner laptops from Arts and Science Computing Services with no Internet access, and will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, with a break for lunch between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm.¹

Part I. From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm:

- Identifications: Answer six out of eight questions involving identifications and analyses of elements from literary works on the lists. These elements may be a character, a quote, the title of a book, a literary phenomenon, trend or school, among other features of works or literary criticism. The answers may run from one to two pages. At least four of the answers should be in Spanish.

Part II. From 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm:

- Literary analysis in English: Answer one of two questions requiring literary analysis. This short essay should be written in English (four to five pages).

- Literary analysis in Spanish: Answer one of two questions with a longer essay written in Spanish (six to eight pages).

2. The Comprehensive Exam committee will be formed by three faculty members: the student's academic advisor (chosen by the student at the end of the first year of study) and two other faculty members chosen by the DGS.

3. Possible outcomes of the Comprehensive Exam:

a) Pass with distinction and admission to the Ph.D. program.

b) Pass with admission to the Ph.D. program.

c) Fail with the possibility of obtaining a terminal M.A. by completing a Master's Thesis. The thesis may be written under the direction of a two-person committee and must be defended by the second week of the semester following the exam.

Restrictions

Time limit: The Department expects students to complete all requirements, including exams, within the second year of residence in the program. Failing to complete the requirements for the M.A. will result in termination of support. The Graduate School of Arts and Science stipulates that a student must complete all requirements for the M.A. degree within a six-year period, calculated from the end of the student's first semester of enrollment in the Graduate School.

¹ For the DGS: Prior to the exam, allow two weeks for arrangements with the Arts and Science Computing Services to set aside a number of computers and deactivate the access to internet.

II. Master of Arts in Portuguese

Admission Requirements

Basic requirements: 1. An undergraduate B.A., *Licenciatura* or its equivalent in an appropriate field; 2. Oral and written proficiency in Portuguese and English.

General requirements: 1. Official transcripts of all undergraduate study; 2. Three letters of recommendation by faculty members; 3. A statement of purpose detailing the applicant's professional objectives; 4. A writing sample in Portuguese (preferably an academic paper); 5. GRE scores; 6. TOEFL scores for international students who have not studied in an English-speaking country.

Degree Requirements: 1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the degree; 2. Language requirement; 3. Course work; 4. Successful Comprehensive Exam.

1. Student standing

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Only students in good standing may take the Comprehensive Exam. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support and teaching assistantships.

2. Language requirement

Students must enter the program with an appropriate level of competence in Spanish.

3. Course work

The M.A. program in Portuguese requires 30 credit hours of course work.

A. Required courses:

1. SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching;
3. PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature.

B. Core courses: Aside from PORT 5301, 5302, and 5900, there are no restrictions on the number of 5000-level Portuguese courses in literature or culture that may be taken. However, students are strongly advised to register for any 7000- to 9000-level Portuguese course offered.

A maximum of two graduate seminars in Spanish or in another discipline with a Latin American focus (Spanish America or Brazil) may be counted towards the degree.

C. Students cannot take an Independent Study towards the 30 credit hours for the M.A.

4. Successful Comprehensive Exam

4a. Preparation

1. All students must take the Comprehensive Exam no later than the end of their fourth semester of residence.
2. Students pursuing the double M.A. take a Portuguese Comprehensive Exam based on the Luso-Brazilian list. Others take a Comprehensive Exam based on the Combined Reading List for Spanish and Portuguese.
3. Optional Comprehensive Research/Reading course: during their fourth semester, students may take an Independent Research/Reading course (PORT 9670, Special Studies in Brazilian Literature) for 3 credit hours. The course will not count towards the credit hours needed for completion of the M.A. or Ph.D. degree. For this course, students will produce, in agreement with their academic advisors, a list of works to be read during the semester. The role of advisors is to help students stay on track and to prepare efficiently for the exam.

4b. Format

1. The Comprehensive Exam is usually taken over one day immediately after Spring Break. The exam will take place in Furman Hall, on loaner laptops from Arts and Science Computing Services with no Internet access, and will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, with a break for lunch between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm.²

Part I. From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm:

- Identifications: Answer six out of eight questions involving identifications and analyses of elements from literary works on the lists. These elements may be a character, a quote, the title of a book, a literary phenomenon, trend or school, among other features of works or literary criticism. The answers may run from one to two pages. At least four of the answers should be in Portuguese.

Part II. From 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm:

- Literary analysis in English: Answer one of two questions requiring literary analysis. This short essay should be written in English (four to five pages).
- Literary analysis in Portuguese: Answer one of two questions with a longer essay written in Portuguese (six to eight pages).

² For the DGS: Prior to the exam, allow two weeks for arrangements with the Arts and Science Computing Services to set aside a number of computers and deactivate the access to internet.

2. The Comprehensive Exam committee will be formed by three faculty members: the student's academic advisor (chosen by the student at the end of the first year of study) and two other faculty members chosen by the DGS.
3. Possible outcomes of the Comprehensive Exam:
 - a) Pass with distinction and admission to the Ph.D. program.
 - b) Pass with admission to the Ph.D. program.
 - c) Fail with the possibility of obtaining a terminal M.A. by completing a Master's Thesis. The thesis may be written under the direction of a two-person committee and must be defended by the second week of the semester following the exam.

Restrictions

Time limit: The Department expects students to complete all requirements, including exams, within the second year of residence in the program. Failing to complete the requirements for the M.A. will result in termination of support. The Graduate School of Arts and Science stipulates that a student must complete all requirements for the M.A. degree within a six-year period, calculated from the end of the student's first semester of enrollment in the Graduate School.

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III. M.A. in Spanish and M.A. in Portuguese (Double M.A.)

Admission Requirements

Basic requirements: 1. An undergraduate B.A., *Licenciatura* or its equivalent in an appropriate field; 2. Oral and written proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

General requirements: 1. Official transcripts of all undergraduate study; 2. Three letters of recommendation by faculty members; 3. A statement of purpose detailing the applicant's professional objectives; 4. Two writing samples, one in Spanish and one in Portuguese (preferably academic papers); 5. GRE scores; 6. TOEFL scores for international students who have not studied in an English-speaking country.

Degree Requirements: 1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the degree; 2. Language requirement; 3. Course work; 4. Successful Comprehensive Exams.

1. Student standing

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Only students in good standing may take the Comprehensive Exams. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support and teaching assistantships.

2. Language requirement

There is no additional foreign language requirement for the double M.A. No credit hours in language courses count toward the degree.

3. Course work

The double M.A. program in Spanish and Portuguese requires 45 credit hours of course work. A minimum of 36 of these credit hours must be graduate courses in Spanish and Portuguese. Aside from PORT 5301, 5302, and 5900, there are no restrictions on the number of 5000-level Portuguese courses in literature or culture that may be taken. However, students are strongly advised to register for any 7000- to 9000-level Portuguese course offered. Graduate courses in Spanish are 6000- to 9000-level seminars only.

Option 1. Spanish-Portuguese: This double M.A. requires 24 credit hours in Spanish and 12 credit hours in Portuguese. The 9 elective credit hours must be courses included in the Graduate School Catalog and pertinent to the course of study.

Option 2. Portuguese-Spanish: This double M.A. requires 24 credit hours in Portuguese and 12 credit hours in Spanish. The 9 elective credit hours must be courses included in the Graduate School Catalog and pertinent to the course of study.

Required courses:

1. SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching;
3. PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (this requirement may be waived on the basis of a writing sample produced during a one-hour exam).

4. Successful Comprehensive Exams

Two Comprehensive Exams, one in Spanish and one in Portuguese, are required. Students must take one exam no later than the end of their fourth semester of residence and the other in the fifth. Consult the respective M.A. descriptions for exam details.

Restrictions

Time limit: The Department expects students to complete all requirements, including exams, within the third year of residence in the program. Failing to complete the requirements for the M.A. will result in termination of support. The Graduate School of Arts and Science stipulates that a student must complete all requirements for the M.A. degree within a six-year period, calculated from the end of the student's first semester of enrollment in the Graduate School.

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IV. Ph.D. in Spanish

Admission Requirements

Basic requirements: Candidates to the Ph.D. program should: 1. Earn an M.A. at Vanderbilt University; 2. Demonstrate oral and written proficiency in Spanish and English. If the incoming student has not studied Portuguese, this requirement should be completed by the end of the first year of residence as part of the M.A..

General requirements: 1. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and, if appropriate, graduate study; 2. Three letters of recommendation by faculty members; 3. A statement of purpose detailing the applicant's professional objectives; 4. A writing sample in Spanish (preferably a graduate-level academic paper, if applying to the Ph.D. program from another institution); 5. GRE scores; 6. TOEFL scores for international students who have not studied in an English-speaking country.

Degree Requirements: 1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the degree; 2. Course work; 3. Successful Comprehensive Exam; 4. Successful Qualifying Exam.

1. Student standing

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Only students in good standing may submit a dissertation proposal and take the Qualifying Exam. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support, teaching assistantships, and dissertation fellowships.

2. Course work

The Ph.D. in Spanish requires 63 credit hours of course work, including 30 credit hours earned for the M.A. at Vanderbilt.

A. Required courses:

1. SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SPAN 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology;
3. SPAN 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing (students entering with a B.A. or *Licenciatura* should take SPAN 6040 in the 5th semester of residence; students entering with an M.A. should take 6040 in the 3rd semester of residence);
4. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

B. Core courses:

A minimum of 48 credit hours should be in graduate seminars in Spanish.

C. Required minor: There is a mandatory minor for the Ph.D. in Spanish, which consists of a minimum of 9 credit hours. After the Comprehensive Exam and within the following academic year, students will send their academic advisor in writing their plan to complete the minor. The academic advisor will assess the coherence and relevance of the minor and send the plan for the minor to the DGS. Some minors are pre-established and do not require prior approval; they must simply be declared. These minors are: 1. the Certificate in Latin American Studies issued by the Center for Latin American Studies, 2. the interdisciplinary minor in Philosophy and Literature; and 3. the Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, issued by the Program of Women's and Gender Studies (for details see the Graduate catalogue and contact the director of the program).

D. A maximum of 6 credit hours may be taken as an Independent Study (SPAN 9560, 9660, 9670). Each Independent Study must be approved by the DGS upon the submission of a detailed syllabus prepared by the instructor.

4. Successful Comprehensive Exam

A Comprehensive Exam is mandatory for all students (accepted with or without an M.A. from another institution) and will be completed by the end of the fourth semester of residence. (See details above in the section on the M.A. in Spanish).

5. Successful Qualifying Exam Reading Lists and preparation for the Qualifying Exam

1. There are two reading lists for the Qualifying Exam: the Period List and the Specialized Research List.
2. The Period List consists of primary and secondary works in all genres from a particular period that is directly related to the dissertation topic.
3. The Specialized Research List consists of works based on the dissertation topic. The dissertation and resulting list may be organized around a genre, an issue, a theme, or any combination of these elements, as well as around a particular theoretical problem. The list should include primary works as well as theoretical, historical, and critical works. It may, as deemed necessary by the doctoral committee, include works from different periods, from both sides of the Atlantic, and from Africa, Asia, or any other part of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking world. Accompanying the Specialized Research List should be a two-page statement that explains and justifies it in relation to the dissertation topic and proposal.
4. Each list consists of approximately 30 to 50 books, as well as complementary chapters of books, articles, and specific works of literature, theory, and criticism. Each list should be compiled by the student in consultation with his or her advisor and committee.

5. The final proposal for the dissertation (including bibliography), approved by the student's advisor, should be submitted to the dissertation committee and the DGS one month prior to the Qualifying Exam.
6. The dissertation committee will consist of three faculty members from the department and one outside member chosen by the student in consultation with his or her advisor. The student must appoint the dissertation committee in the semester prior to the Qualifying Exam. After securing the agreement and permission of all parties involved, the student must provide the DGS with a list of the faculty members who will serve on the committee and indicate who will serve as committee chair.

Qualifying Exam format

1. Written portion: The written exam will be designed by the student's academic advisor and agreed upon in advance by the entire committee. It will be divided into two sections: one based on the Period List and the other on the Specialized Research List and the Proposal. The student will answer 3 of the 4 questions in each section. Each essay answer must be from 10 to 15 pages long (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point) and must demonstrate dedicated work and sophisticated thinking, and reflect the student's readiness to begin work on the dissertation. Twelve days will be allotted for this exam. The dissertation advisor will distribute copies of the written exam to each member of the committee and the DGS.
2. Oral portion: Five to fifteen days after the satisfactory completion of the written exam, the student will take an oral exam. During this oral exam, the student will present the dissertation proposal, discuss it with the committee, and answer questions regarding the written exam. The main purpose of the oral exam is: 1) to strengthen the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of the proposal; 2) to discuss the material and content of the proposed dissertation; and 3) to define both a plan and a timetable for the completion of the dissertation.
3. Possible outcomes of the Qualifying Exam:
 - a) Pass with distinction and Candidacy for the Ph.D.
 - b) Pass and Candidacy for the Ph.D.
 - c) Fail. Depending on the nature of the failure, the student may be asked to repeat either part or all of the exam. If the exam shows that the student is unlikely to be successful in future exams, he or she may not be given the option of additional testing.

Restrictions

1. Transfer credit from other institutions may not exceed 15 hours.
2. No undergraduate courses in Spanish may be transferred.

Time limit

- a) The Graduate School requires that the Qualifying Exam be taken within four years of admission to the Ph.D. program.

- b) The Graduate School also requires that the dissertation be completed within four years after the student has been admitted to Candidate status (successful completion of Qualifying Exam).
- c) The Department considers these time limits to be reasonable and will not grant extensions except for compelling reasons related to issues of health.

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V. The Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese

Admission Requirements

Basic requirements: Candidates to the Combined Ph.D. program should: 1. Demonstrate oral and written proficiency in Spanish, Portuguese, and English; 2. Earn a Vanderbilt M.A. in Spanish or Portuguese, in passing, after taking a comprehensive exam based on the combined reading list or complete a double M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese.

All students seeking a combined Spanish/Portuguese Ph.D. will take a comprehensive exam that covers a combined reading list based on the Spanish and Portuguese reading lists. Those who come to Vanderbilt with an M.A. in Spanish will be awarded an M.A. in Portuguese upon successful completion of the combined exam. Those who come to Vanderbilt with an M.A. in Portuguese will be awarded an M.A. in Spanish upon successful completion of the combined exam. Those who come to Vanderbilt with a B.A. will be awarded an M.A. in passing in either Spanish or Portuguese upon successful completion of the combined exam. As an exception to this rule, students coming with a B.A. have the option of taking separate exams in Spanish and Portuguese, in addition to all other requirements for the M.A. in Spanish and M.A. in Portuguese (Double M.A.) outlined above, in order to obtain both M.A. degrees.

Degree Requirements: 1. Maintaining good standing in the progress toward the degree; 2. Language requirement; 3. Course work; 4. Successful Comprehensive Exams; 5. Successful Qualifying Exam.

1. Student standing

Students must maintain a B+ average or better every semester in all graduate courses to remain in good standing. Students may request up to a maximum of two Incompletes (I) while enrolled at Vanderbilt and cannot carry an Incomplete (I) for more than one semester. Students must be conscientious classroom instructors and advance toward their degrees in a timely fashion. Students should participate actively in the academic life of the department, attending lectures, presentations, and other activities sponsored by the department. Only students in good standing may submit a dissertation proposal and take the Qualifying Exam. Good standing is a prerequisite for financial assistance, including summer support, teaching assistantships, and dissertation fellowships.

2. Language requirement

Near-native proficiency in both Spanish and Portuguese is required of all students enrolled in the combined Spanish and Portuguese Ph.D. program (see required courses below). No other language requirement is required for the combined Spanish and Portuguese Ph.D.

3. Course work

The Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese requires 66 credit hours of course work in Spanish and Portuguese. The 66 credit hours include the 30 credit hours of the M.A. in Spanish, or the 30 credit hours of the M.A. in Portuguese, or the 45 credit hours of the double M.A. plus an additional 36 credit hours, in the first two cases, or 21 credit hours in the third case. In the first two cases a minimum of 15 credit hours should be graduate seminars in Spanish and 9 in undergraduate or graduate Portuguese courses as they appear in the Graduate School Catalog, or vice versa; the remaining 12 credit hours are elective. In the third case a minimum of 9 of these 21 credit hours should be graduate seminars in Spanish and 9 in undergraduate or graduate Portuguese courses as they appear in the Graduate School Catalog; the remaining 3 credit hours are elective. It is highly recommended that students exhaust the selection of graduate seminars in Portuguese before taking a 5000-level course in that language. The same applies to Independent Studies either in Spanish or Portuguese. No minor or additional foreign language is required for the Combined Ph.D., although a CLAS certificate is highly recommended.

Required courses:

1. SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
2. SPAN/PORT 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology;
3. SPAN 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing (Students entering with a B.A. or *Licenciatura* should take 6040 in the 5th semester of residence; students entering with an M.A. should take 6040 in the 3rd semester of residence);
4. SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching;
5. PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (this requirement may be waived on the basis of a writing sample produced during a one-hour exam).

The different possible distributions of credit hours for those seeking a Combined Ph.D. with an M.A. in passing are as follows:

1) Students entering with a B.A.

A) M.A. in Spanish in passing

Before the combined comprehensive exam: 24 credit hours in Spanish and 6 in Portuguese.
After these initial 30 credit hours: 9 credit hours in Spanish, 15 in Portuguese, and 12 electives.

B) M.A. in Portuguese in passing

Before the combined comprehensive exam: 24 credit hours in Portuguese and 6 in Spanish.
After these initial 30 credit hours: 9 credit hours in Portuguese, 15 in Spanish, and 12 in electives.

2) Students entering with an M.A. in Spanish or Portuguese

A) M.A. in Spanish in passing (for those students entering with an M.A. in Portuguese)

Before the combined comprehensive exam: 24 credit hours in Spanish and 6 in Portuguese.
After these initial 30 credit hours: 9 credit hours in Spanish, 15 in Portuguese, and 12 in electives. There is a maximum of 15 graduate credit hours that can be transferred from a previous institution.

B) M.A. in Portuguese in passing

Before the combined comprehensive exam: 24 credit hours in Portuguese and 6 in Spanish.
After these initial 30 credit hours: 9 credit hours in Portuguese, 15 in Spanish, and 12 in electives. There is a maximum of 15 graduate credit hours that can be transferred from a previous institution.

4. Successful Comprehensive Exams

Students not seeking the double M.A. in Spanish and Portuguese must take the combined comprehensive exam no later than the end of their fifth semester of residence.

The combined comprehensive exam list is based both on the Peninsular/Spanish American literature list and on the Brazilian/Portuguese list.

Optional Comprehensive Research/Reading course: during their fifth semester, students may take an Independent Research/Reading course (SPAN 9660 Special Studies in Spanish Literature or SPAN 9670 Special Studies in Spanish American Literature or PORT 9670 Special Studies in Brazilian Literature) for 3 credit hours. The course will not count towards the credit hours needed for completion of the M.A. or Ph.D. degrees. For this course, students will produce, in agreement with their academic advisors, a list of works to be read during the semester. The role of advisors is to help students stay on track and to prepare efficiently for the exam.

4b. Format

1. The combined comprehensive exam is usually taken over two consecutive Saturdays. The first Saturday will be for Peninsular/Spanish American literature and the second for Brazilian/Portuguese literature although some of the questions in each session can be of a comparative nature. The exam will take place in Furman Hall, on loaner laptops from Arts and Science Computing Services with no Internet access, and will run from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, with a break for lunch between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm.

Part I. From 9:00 am to 1:00 pm:

- Identifications: Answer six out of eight questions (four in Peninsular and 4 in Spanish American, in the Spanish section) involving identifications and analyses of elements from literary works on the lists. These elements may be a character, a quote, the title of a book, a literary phenomenon, trend or school, among other features of works or literary criticism. The answers may run from one to two pages. At least four of the answers should be in Spanish/Portuguese.

Part II. From 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm:

- Literary analysis in English: Answer one of two questions requiring literary analysis. This short essay should be written in English (four to five pages).
- Literary analysis in Spanish/Portuguese: Answer one of two questions with a longer essay written in Spanish/Portuguese (six to eight pages).

In the Spanish section the two essays chosen by the student cannot be in the same area, that is, in Spanish American literature or Spanish literature.

2. The Comprehensive Exam committee will be formed by three faculty members: the student's academic advisor (chosen by the student at the end of the first year of study) and two other faculty members chosen by the DGS.

3. Possible outcomes of the Comprehensive Exam:

- a) Pass with distinction and admission to the Ph.D. program.
- b) Pass with admission to the Ph.D. program.
- c) Fail with the possibility of obtaining a terminal M.A. by completing a Master's Thesis. The thesis may be written under the direction of a two-person committee and must be defended by the second week of the semester following the exam.

5. Successful Qualifying Exam Reading Lists and preparation for the Qualifying Exam

1. There are two reading lists for the Qualifying Exam: the Period List and the Specialized Research List.

2. The Period List consists of primary and secondary works in all genres from a particular period that is directly related to the dissertation topic.

3. The Specialized Research List consists of works based on the dissertation topic. The dissertation and resulting list may be organized around a genre, an issue, a theme, or any combination of these elements, as well as around a particular theoretical problem. The list should include primary works as well as theoretical, historical, and critical works. It may, as deemed necessary by the doctoral committee, include works from different periods, from both sides of the Atlantic, and from Africa, Asia, or any other part of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking world. Accompanying the Specialized Research List should be a two-page statement that explains and justifies it in relation to the dissertation topic and proposal.

4. Each list consists of approximately 30 to 50 books, as well as complementary chapters of books, articles, and specific works of literature, theory, and criticism. Each list should be compiled by the student in consultation with his or her advisor and committee.

5. The final proposal for the dissertation (including bibliography), approved by the student's advisor, should be submitted to the dissertation committee and the DGS one month prior to the Qualifying Exam.

6. The dissertation committee will consist of three faculty members from the department and one outside member chosen by the student in consultation with his or her advisor. The student must appoint the dissertation committee in the semester prior to the Qualifying Exam. After securing the agreement and permission of all parties involved, the student must provide the DGS with a list of the faculty members who will serve on the committee and indicate who will serve as committee chair.

Qualifying Exam format

1. Written portion: The written exam will be designed by the student's academic advisor and agreed upon in advance by the entire committee. It will be divided into two sections: one based on the Period List and the other on the Specialized Research List and the Proposal. The student will answer 3 of the 4 questions in each section. Each essay answer must be from 10 to 15 pages long (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point) and must demonstrate dedicated work and sophisticated thinking, and reflect the student's readiness to begin work on the dissertation. Twelve days will be allotted for this exam. The dissertation advisor will distribute copies of the written exam to each member of the committee and the DGS.
2. Oral portion: Five to fifteen days after the satisfactory completion of the written exam, the student will take an oral exam. During this oral exam, the student will present the dissertation proposal, discuss it with the committee, and answer questions regarding the written exam. The main purpose of the oral exam is: 1) to strengthen the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of the proposal; 2) to discuss the material and content of the proposed dissertation; and 3) to define both a plan and a timetable for the completion of the dissertation.
3. Possible outcomes of the Qualifying Exam:
 - a) Pass with distinction and Candidacy for the Ph.D.
 - b) Pass and Candidacy for the Ph.D.
 - c) Fail. Depending on the nature of the failure, the student may be asked to repeat either part or all of the exam. If the exam shows that the student is unlikely to be successful in future exams, he or she may not be given the option of additional testing.

Restrictions

1. Transfer credit from other institutions may not exceed 15 hours.
2. Transfer students will take the combined Spanish and Portuguese Comprehensive Exam.
3. Aside from PORT 5301, 5302, and 5900, all 5000-level Portuguese courses in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese that appear in the Graduate School Catalog may be counted towards the Portuguese component of the combined Spanish and Portuguese Ph.D.

Time limit

- a) The Graduate School requires that the Qualifying Exam be taken within four years of admission to the Ph.D. program.
- b) The Graduate School also requires that the dissertation be completed within four years after the student has been admitted to Candidate status (successful completion of Qualifying Exam).

c) The Department considers these time limits to be reasonable and will not grant extensions except for compelling reasons related to issues of health.

Timetable for Graduate Studies

Ph.D. in Spanish

A. Students entering the program with a B.A. or *Licenciatura*

1st year

Fall semester:

4 courses, including:
SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;
SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

Spring semester:

4 courses.
Fulfill language requirement.

2nd year

Fall semester:

3 courses.
Selection of academic advisor.³

Spring semester:

3 courses or 2 courses and SPAN 9660 or 9670 (this course does not count towards the degree).
Take Comprehensive Exam.

3rd year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:
SPAN 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;
SPAN 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.

Spring semester:

3 courses.
Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

³ The functions of the advisor are: a. to help students design their plan of study; b. to promote advanced research work leading towards the dissertation, publications, conferences, grants and fellowships; and c. to review students' progress as they work towards the degree.

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor by the end of the semester.

4th year

Fall semester:

Complete remaining course work (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier) and register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN 8999).

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

Spring semester:

Register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN 8999) or Dissertation Research (SPAN 9999) if Qualifying Exam was taken in the fall. All students must complete the Qualifying Exam by the end of the fourth year.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN 9999.

5th year

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN 9999.

Dissertation.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.

B. Students entering the program with an M.A. in a field that may allow transfer credit hours for the Spanish Ph.D. (up to 15 transferred credit hours).

1st year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

Spring semester:

3 courses.

Fulfill M.A. language requirement by the end of the year, if not fulfilled at previous institution.

A decision about transfer credit hours (up to 15) will be made at the end of the year.

2nd year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;

SPAN 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.

Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:

3 courses or 2 courses and SPAN 9660 or 9670 (this course does not count towards the degree).

Take Comprehensive Exam.

3rd year

Fall semester:

3 courses (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier)

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor.

Spring semester:

1 or 2 courses (assuming 15 transfer hours).

SPAN 8999 for 3.0 or 6.0 hours.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

4th and 5th years

Complete Qualifying Exam.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships and research grants.

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN 9999.

Dissertation.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.

**Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese
with one M.A. (Spanish or Portuguese) in passing**

A. Students entering the program with a B.A. or *Licenciatura*

1st year

Fall semester:

4 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

Register for Port 1103 as an official audit (for non-native speakers of Portuguese).

Although graduate credit cannot be given for this course, it is crucial for the student's ability to eventually master both spoken and written Portuguese, which is an essential part of our program.

Spring semester:

4 courses.

Students should take PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (if applicable) in their first year.

2nd year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;

SPAN/PORT 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.

Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:

3 courses

3rd year

Fall semester:

3 courses or 2 courses (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier) and SPAN 9660 or 9670 or PORT 9670 (this course does not count towards the degree).

Take Combined Comprehensive Exam.

Spring semester:

3 courses.

Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor by the end of the semester.

4th year

Fall semester:

Complete remaining course work and, if needed, register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999).

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

Spring semester:

Register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999) for 6.0 hours or for enough hours to reach 72 credit hours.

Complete Qualifying Exam.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships or research grants.

5th year

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN/PORT 9999.

Dissertation.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.

B. Students entering the program with an M.A. in a field that may allow transfer credit hours for the Combined Ph.D. (up to 15 transferred credit hours).

1st year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

Spring semester:

3 courses.

A decision about transfer credit hours (up to 15) will be made at the end of the year.

Students should take PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (if applicable) and Comparative Methodology (if offered) in their first year.

2nd year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;

SPAN/PORT 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.

Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:

3 courses.

Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

3rd year

Fall semester:

3 courses (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier) or 2 courses and SPAN 9660 or 9670 (this course does not count towards the degree).

Take Combined Comprehensive Exam.

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor by the end of the semester.

Spring semester:

Complete remaining course work and, if needed, register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999).

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

4th and 5th years

Complete Qualifying Exam.

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN/PORT 9999.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships and research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.

Double M.A. and Combined Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese

A. Students entering the program with a B.A. or *Licenciatura*

1st year

Fall semester:

4 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

Register for Port 1103 or 5203 as an official audit (for non-native speakers of Portuguese). Although graduate credit cannot be given for this course, it is crucial for the student's ability to eventually master both spoken and written Portuguese, which is an essential part of our program.

Spring semester:

4 courses.

Students should take PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (if applicable) in their first year.

2nd year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;

SPAN/PORT 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.

Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:

3 courses or 2 courses and SPAN 9660 or 9670 or PORT 9670 (this course does not count towards the degree).

Take first Comprehensive Exam.

3rd year

Fall semester:

3 courses (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier).

Spring semester:

3 courses.

Take second Comprehensive Exam.

Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor by the end of the semester.

4th year

Fall semester:

Complete remaining course work and, if needed, register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999).

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

Spring semester:

Register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999) for 6.0 hours or for enough hours to reach 72 credit hours.

Complete Qualifying Exam.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships or research grants.

5th year

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN/PORT 9999.

Dissertation.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships or research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.

B. Students entering the program with an M.A. in a field that may allow transfer credit hours for the Combined Ph.D. (up to 15 transferred credit hours).

1st year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6010 Literary Analysis and Theory;

SLS/SPAN 6030 Foreign Language Learning and Teaching.

Spring semester:

3 courses.

A decision about transfer credit hours (up to 15) will be made at the end of the year.

Students should take PORT 5303 Introduction to Luso-Brazilian Literature (if applicable) and Comparative Methodology (if offered) in their first year.

2nd year

Fall semester:

3 courses, including:

SPAN/PORT 6020 Ibero-Romance Philology, if offered;

SPAN/PORT 6040 Research and Grant Proposal Writing, if offered.

Selection of academic advisor.

Spring semester:

3 courses or 2 courses and SPAN 8999 (this course does not count towards the degree).

Take first Comprehensive Exam.

Formation of the Ph.D. committee: a chair, two members from the department, and one outside member.

3rd year

Fall semester:

3 courses (including 6020 or 6040 if not taken earlier).

Submit the first draft of the reading lists and the two-page statement of the thesis of the dissertation to the advisor by the end of the semester.

Spring semester:

Take second Comprehensive Exam.

Submit complete first draft of dissertation proposal and final draft of reading lists to advisor.

Submit final dissertation proposal.

Schedule Qualifying Exam.

4th and 5th years

Complete remaining course work and, if needed, register for Non-candidate Research (SPAN/PORT 8999).

Complete Qualifying Exam.

Students must continue to register for credit hours until they reach 72. Afterwards they must register for 0.0 hours of SPAN/PORT 9999.

Apply for Dissertation Enhancement Grant and other dissertation scholarships and research grants.

Dissertation defense and granting of Ph.D. degree.